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# This isn't sport, it's disgusting

## Olympics plunged into gender row

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The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

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# Starmer blames riots on far-Right plotters

## PM vows 'no breakdown in law and order' after violence following Southport killings

*By* **Charles Hymas** *and* **Cameron Henderson**

SIR KEIR STARMER has blamed the far-Right for violent protests that have broken out across the country following the Southport stabbings.

The Prime Minister said that he would not "permit, under any circumstances, a breakdown in law and order on our streets" amid warnings that the country faces a summer of riots.

It follows disorder in Southport, London and Hartlepool in the wake of the killing of three young girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class on Monday.

Yesterday, the 17-year-old accused of murder was named as Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, who was born in Cardiff to Rwandan parents before moving to Banks in Lancashire.

The protests had been fuelled by speculation online about the attacker and his motives, including inaccurate claims that he was an asylum seeker.

Police are understood to have intelligence that the far-Right and unaligned hooligans intent on violence were planning to stir up more public disorder, including this weekend and for most of the summer.

Announcing a new violent disorder unit at a press conference in Downing Street, the Prime Minister said the Government would ensure the threat was met with "the most robust response in the coming days and weeks".

Asked whether the country faced a summer of riots, Sir Keir said: "It's obvious to me, and I think anybody looking in, that as far as the far-Right is concerned, this is co-ordinated. This is deliberate. This is not a protest that has got out of hand. It is a group of individuals who are absolutely bent on violence." He added: "I've just held a meeting with senior police and law enforcement leaders, where we resolved to show we are a country that will not allow understandable fear to curdle into division and hate in our communities, and that will not permit, under any circumstances, a breakdown in law and order on our streets.

"Because, let's be very clear about this, it's not protest, it's not legitimate. It's crime, violent disorder, an assault on the rule of law and the execution of justice. And so on behalf of the British people who expect their values and their security to be upheld, we will put a stop to it."

A police source said: "We have intelligence that they are planning to do more, for this weekend and for most of the summer. It is co-ordinated. It is not spontaneous at all. Some are EDL, some are more extreme far-Right. Then you have a cohort of people who are just obsessed with violence."

The national violent disorder unit was agreed after a Downing Street summit with police chiefs and ministers. The unit will make it easier for all 43 police forces in England and Wales to share intelligence on potential protest hot spots, so officers specially trained in public order can be dispatched there.

The British Transport Police will monitor passenger flows to identify unusual surges in travellers, with such information being used as an early warning sign for forces to prepare for an influx of potentially violent protesters.

Mobile facial recognition cameras, which are currently only used in London and by a handful of other forces, will be deployed at protests to identify troublemakers who may be wanted for other offences or have previous convictions. Police forces are to be issued with

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Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, 17, has been charged with three counts of murder and 10 counts of attempted murder

# BBC accused of sitting on internal report about Edwards

*By* **Craig Simpson**

THE BBC has been accused of sitting on the conclusions of an internal inquiry into alleged misconduct by Huw Edwards.

Whistleblowers who raised concerns about the presenter's behaviour said they had been given no information about what happened to their evidence and called for the report to be published.

Edwards on Wednesday admitted possessing indecent images of children, and the BBC has faced questions about why he continued to be employed and was paid more than £200,000 following his arrest. The broadcaster is also under pressure to explain whether it was aware of any other allegations against the former news anchor.

An internal investigation was launched at the BBC in July 2023 following reports that Edwards paid £35,000 to a man in exchange for sexually explicit images. The man was 17 when the alleged relationship began.

Speaking for the first time since Edwards was convicted, Tim Davie, the BBC director-general, insisted that the corporation was not "sitting on" any information relevant to the police inquiry. However, one anonymous BBC insider said they told the internal inquiry that they had received flirtatious messages from Edwards which they found inappropriate, and had never "heard anything of substance about how the investigation went".

Another whistleblower said they had raised concerns about Edwards being "pushy" in trying to arrange a meeting, and inviting them to share a hotel suite while covering Prince Philip's funeral.

This insider told the BBC that they felt "things have been swept under the carpet", and another said that the corporation should "publish and be transparent".

Philippa Childs, the head of the Bectu media and entertainment union, said: "Given that this high-profile presenter had very clearly brought the BBC's reputation into disrepute, it is regrettable that the internal investigation was not concluded in a more timely manner."

She added: "My question is why had the investigation gone on for so long that the BBC's processes were not complete by the time he was arrested?... What were they waiting for?"

The BBC has refused to be drawn on the details of the internal inquiry. However, Mr Davie yesterday said the corporation was "not sitting on anything that I think we need to share with the police, or is of a serious nature that would make me feel that we hadn't followed up properly".

He continued: "I can categorically say that when it comes to the offences we've seen, which are truly horrendous, any evidence that is out there is not in the hands of the BBC. If I saw evidence of that, that is not a complicated decision."

The frustration of whistleblowers

*Continued on Page 7*

NEWS

### Historic East-West prisoner exchange

The American journalist Evan Gershkovich has been freed from Russian jail in the largest East-West prisoner exchange since the Cold War. Joe Biden, the US president, said yesterday that a "feat of diplomacy" had secured the release of the reporter and 15 other "wrongfully detained" prisoners in Russia after months of negotiations with the Kremlin. The prisoners were handed over in Turkey, in a first-of-its-kind deal that involved five Western countries and Russia.

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NEWS

### 'Bellfield law' will stop lifers from marrying

Prisoners serving life sentences will be banned from marrying by the Justice Secretary under a new law fast-tracked to stop serial killer Levi Bellfield's wedding. Murderers serving whole life sentences will no longer have the right to get married behind bars under the law that comes into force today. Shabana Mahmood is understood to have fast-tracked the legislation after Bellfield submitted an application two weeks ago to have a civil partnership to tie the knot with his girlfriend.

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NEWS

### GPs start first union action in 60 years

GPs have voted overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action. The British Medical Association said 98.3 per cent of its 8,500 GPs voting were in favour of the measures, which will take effect immediately. Doctors have been told they can "pick and choose" from measures designed to wreak chaos across the health service. They include a cap on the number of appointments, meaning practices could turn away record numbers of patients, heaping pressures on 111 and A&E.

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WORLD

### Trump attacked over 'racist' language

Donald Trump is under fire for a "overtly racist" interview in which he claimed Kamala Harris "only recently turned black". Trump said Ms Harris, whose mother was Indian-American and father is black, was "Indian all the way" until recently. "All of a sudden she made a turn and she became a black person," he said in an interview at the National Association of Black Journalists in Chicago. Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, said it showed he was unfit for office.

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BUSINESS

### Tax rises loom despite interest rate cut

Rachel Reeves has indicated she might still raise taxes after the Bank of England cut interest rates for the first time in four years. The Chancellor warned of "difficult decisions" ahead despite the lower cost of borrowing and substantial upgrade to Britain's economic prospects – both of which will improve the outlook for public finances. Threadneedle Street policymakers voted by a majority of 5-4 to lower rates to 5 per cent from 5.25 per cent.

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# Social workers quit over 'isolating' work from home

*By* **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

SOCIAL workers are quitting the profession because they are being forced to work from home, research has found.

Working from home was one of the top four reasons cited by social workers who said they were planning to leave the profession in the next three years.

It was the highest-ranked concern behind well-known challenges such as the demands of paperwork, staff shortages and the pressures of heavy workloads.

After Covid regulations required working from home, the practice has continued for many social workers.

Many authorities have closed local offices as part of cost-saving cuts, forcing more staff to work from home and "hot desk" when in the office.

Social workers told the researchers they felt increased isolation as a result, as well as reporting difficulties in reaching colleagues or managers for support, and an absence of team camaraderie. They also warned that working from home was damaging for junior staff or new recruits who would benefit from working with experienced colleagues.

"Because of the emotionally demanding nature of their work, newly qualified social workers need a supportive, team environment which can be hard to create in a virtual setting," said Dr Andy Pulman, a researcher at Bournemouth University.

"During our research we heard about a lack of mentorship among some new entrants who might be left to fend for themselves."

> 'Social workers to have support from peers and a safe space for reflection with their supervisors'

Prof Lee-Ann Fenge, the study's lead researcher, said: "Social workers have to deal with difficult and demanding situations. It is extremely important to have support from their peers and a safe space for reflection with their supervisors. The fragmented nature of hot-desking and hybrid working can make this difficult."

One social worker said: "When I worked in the office, I could drive home and leave the work behind. When you're working from home, the memories are within your home environment of what you're discussing with people, and actually it's contaminating."

# Boy, 17, faces court charged with murder of three girls

## Stabbing accused named after judge lifts reporting restrictions 'to stop spread of misinformation'

*By* **Martin Evans, Neil Johnston** *and* **Connor Stringer**

THE 17-year-old charged with murdering three young girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport was named as Axel Muganwa Rudakubana after reporting restrictions were lifted to stop "the spread of misinformation".

The teenager appeared at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday morning charged with three counts of murder and 10 counts of attempted murder. He was remanded in custody.

Earlier, Axel, from Banks, in Lancashire, appeared in the dock at Liverpool magistrates' court for a preliminary hearing. Axel, who turns 18 on Aug 7, was born to Rwandan parents in Cardiff before moving to Banks. He was charged with the murders of Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar, nine; 10 counts of attempted murder; and possession of a bladed article, a "kitchen knife with a curved blade" after the attack. The three children died after being stabbed while they were attending a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga workshop.

Eight other children suffered stab wounds, with five in stable condition. Two children have been discharged from hospital.

Dozens of officers stood watch outside the courtroom after another night of violent protests across the country.

Judge Andrew Menary KC, the Recorder of Liverpool, said: "Continuing to prevent the full reporting has the disadvantage of allowing others to spread misinformation in a vacuum.

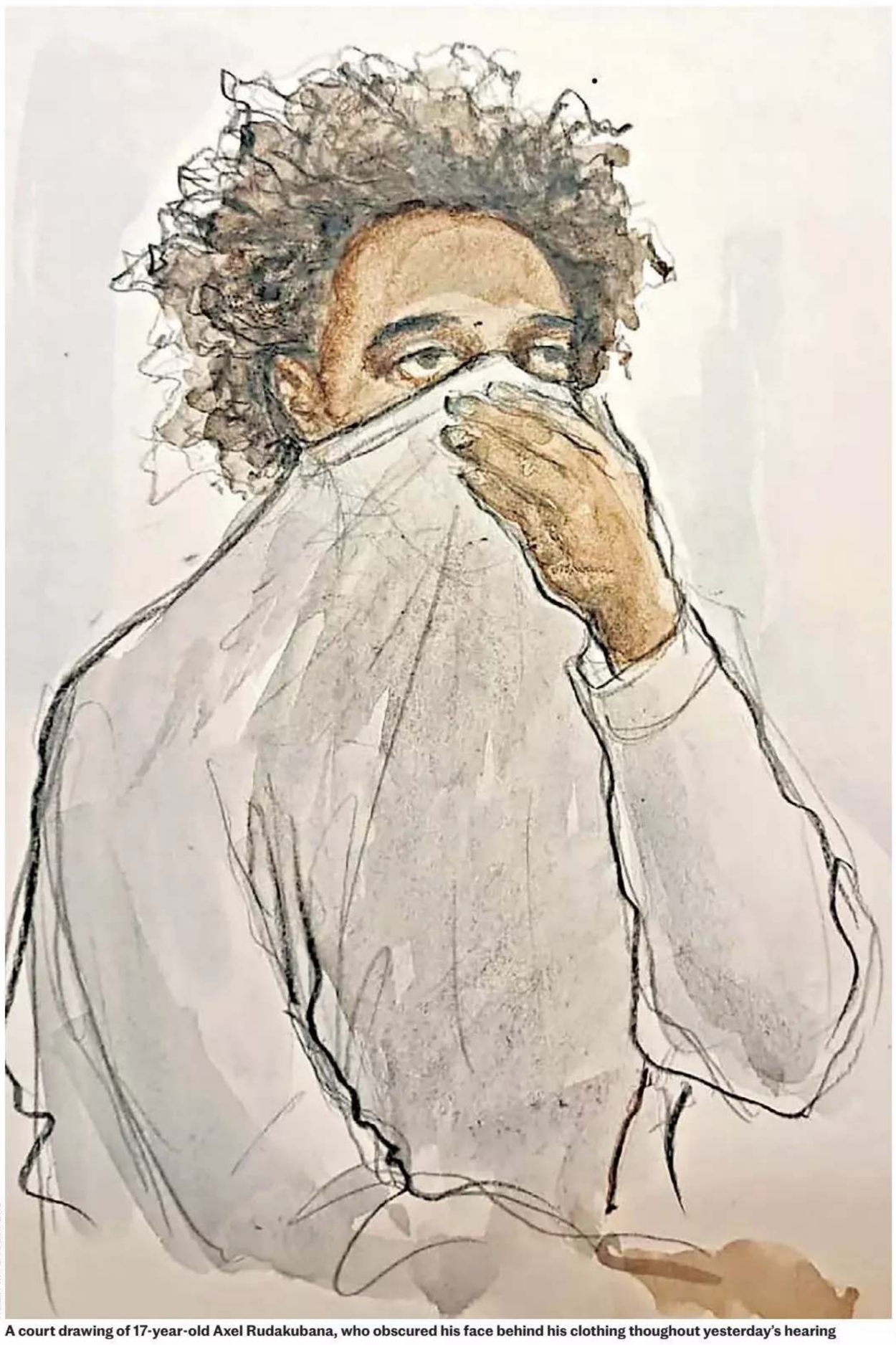
"Whilst I accept it is exceptional given his age, principally because he is 18 in six days' time, I do not make an order under section 45."

Previously, the teenager could not be named because of his age, but his anonymity would have fallen away next Wednesday when he turns 18.

Judge Menary heard arguments from the prosecution and defence and representations from the media about whether reporting of the defendant's identity should be restricted until his 18th birthday. Arguing against naming him, the prosecution said he had an "autism spectrum disorder diagnosis" and had been "unwilling to leave the house and communicate with family for a period of time".

Axel, who spent the 55 minutes of the hearing covering his face, with his grey sweatshirt pulled up, will next appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Oct 25. A provisional trial date, lasting six weeks, was scheduled for Jan 20 next year.

Judge Menary told the defendant: "You are remanded to youth detention accommodation until these proceedings have been completed. That position might change when you achieve your majority in a short while."



HELEN TIPPER/BBC NEWS

**A court drawing of 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana, who obscured his face behind his clothing thoughout yesterday's hearing**

**Fanning flames** Fake news part of Putin's 'grey warfare'

Russia's fake news about the Southport stabbings is part of Vladimir Putin's "grey warfare" against the West, a former head of MI6 has said.

Russian state media were among those that falsely identified the suspect as an asylum seeker who arrived in the UK in a small boat. The claims helped to prompt disorder on the streets in which dozens of police officers were injured in clashes with far-Right protesters. Sir Richard Dearlove said fake news was a "fundamental tactic" used by Putin's regime against the UK and other Western nations. He told LBC's Nick Ferrari: "We're in a state of grey warfare with Russia – we may not feel that we are, but they certainly think they are."

# Police will pool intelligence to prevent violent demonstrators organising riots

*Continued from Page 1*

new guidance specifically on violent disorder which will advise them to use criminal behaviour orders on protesters convicted of disorder.

These can impose travel bans with breaches carrying a penalty of up to five years in jail. They may be applied retrospectively to those already convicted.

The guidance will set out officers' current powers and range of public order offences that can be used to arrest and prosecute troublemakers including protesters who use masks to hide their identities.

Officers will be deployed at stations to exploit railway bylaws that will enable them to stop anyone suspected of being drunk or disruptive from travelling to a protest.

Sir Keir said: "These thugs are mobile, they move from community to community. We must have a policing response that can do the same."

Nearly all of the 16 people so far arrested for disorder at the protests in Southport and Hartlepool are from the local or nearby areas, despite claims that many of the demonstrators were outsiders. One of those arrested in Hartlepool was an 11-year-old boy, it emerged late yesterday. The child was arrested on suspicion of arson after a police vehicle was set alight on Wednesday.

Police believe they have enough officers trained in public order and with sufficient powers but do not have the coordinated intelligence picture to deploy them at hot spots.

"We have to wean ourselves off the idea that the only response is to pass more legislation every time we have a challenge in front of us," said Sir Keir.

"It is about using the existing powers that we've got, pulling together intelligence, the data, making sure that that is being shared across police forces."

The Prime Minister also warned social media companies to take action following the sharing of misinformation about the Southport suspect. Tech firms are expected to take down any illegal content.

"Let me also say to large social media companies and those who run them: violent disorder, clearly whipped up online, that is also a crime, it's happening on your premises, and the law must be upheld everywhere," said Sir Keir.

NEWS BULLETIN

## Care worker tried to kill BA steward in flat row

A care home worker who tried to murder a British Airways steward after he reported him for "bad behaviour and drunkenness" has been jailed for 13 years.

Peter Lindley, 61, broke into Marvie Orbiso's room and stabbed him up to nine times with a kitchen knife on Jan 31. The pair lived at shared accommodation provided by Charing Cross Hospital at Cliff House in Hammersmith. Lindley faced being kicked out of his flat after Mr Orbiso reported him for drunkenness. Mr Orbiso, originally from the Philippines, worked as a cabin crew member for British Airways. Judge Justin Cole said Lindley's "vicious" attack was the result of a "simmering grudge".

## Nephew swindled aunt of £600k to live high life

A nephew stole £600,000 from his elderly aunt to "live the high life", using it to buy cars, holidays and a Bitcoin machine, a court has heard.

David Eggleton, 71, was given power of attorney for Lilian Eggleton, 93, but transferred large sums from her account into his personal bank account.

The fraud, from 2018 until 2020, was only discovered when Ms Eggleton's care home fees were unpaid due to insufficient funds in her account, Swindon Crown Court heard Eggleton, from Calne, Wiltshire, was jailed for five years and six months after he was convicted of fraud and perverting the course of justice.

## Swan numbers on the Thames almost halved

The number of swans on the River Thames has dropped by 45 per cent over the last two years, a census has found.

The annual census of the King's swan population on the river between London and Oxfordshire found only 86 young swans during a five-day search. It is the lowest number of swans recorded since 2016.

David Barber, the King's Swan Marker, blamed the ongoing impact of avian flu, as well as catapults and air gun shootings, "which definitely has not helped the situation."

He said: "I can't say that it was a good year... the poor swan has rather a lot to contend with these days."

## An Englishman's castle is usually his cottage

The most popular house name in the UK is The Cottage, a survey has found.

"Cottage" appeared six times among the top 20 most popular names of homes, with one expert saying it reflected rural nostalgia.

In all, 373 properties have the name The Cottage, followed by Rose Cottage, which appears 352 times. Other popular house names using "cottage" include Ivy Cottage, Garden Cottage, Orchard Cottage and Yew Tree Cottage.

The survey, by Admiral Home Insurance, was based on data from more than 80,000 named properties.

*Editorial Comment: Page 15*

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# DNA finally busts 200-year-old conspiracy of 'Hauser the enigma'

*By* **Sarah Knapton** SCIENCE EDITOR

WHEN teenage orphan Kaspar Hauser was discovered wandering around a public square in Nuremberg, Germany in 1828, it sparked an enduring 200-year mystery.

Unable to read or write, Hauser claimed to have spent his entire life in a small, dark dungeon-like room where he slept on straw and was fed by unseen hands. Some believed he was the Crown Prince of Baden and had been secreted away because he was the rightful heir to the Bavarian throne, but British scientists have now laid that conspiracy theory to rest.

Prof Turi King, of Bath University, who previously led analysis on the DNA of Richard III, carried out advanced genetic tests on blood samples from Hauser and found he has no link to the royal line of the House of Baden.

But, he added: "Sadly, our data still can't tell us who he was. His mitochondrial DNA type is one that's West Eurasian but we can't narrow it down to a geographical region. So, he still remains an enigma in terms of his origins."

In the 19th century, Hauser was one of the most well-known figures in Europe. He arrived in Nuremberg aged around 16, wearing tattered clothes and clutching letters saying he had been kept in isolation since he was a baby and requesting that he join the military.

Although he knew his name, Hauser had no idea where he had come from and had no civilised manners, preferring to eat bread and water to meat and vegetables. Public attention increased when Ludwig I, the King of Bavaria, ordered that he be guarded day and night for his protection, fuelling speculation he could be a descendant of the House of Baden. It was suggested he was the son of the Grand Duke Carl, which would have made him the rightful heir to the throne.

After learning to read and write in record time, Hauser published a sensational autobiography claiming he was kept in a cell measuring 6.5ft long and 3ft wide where his food was sometimes drugged. Shortly before his release, he said, a masked man had visited him and taught him to learn how to write his name and say the phrase, "I want to be a cavalryman as my father was".

Hauser was eventually adopted by the town of Nuremberg and left in the care of schoolmaster Friedrich Daumer, during which time he claimed that an assassin attempted to kill him. In 1931 Lord Stanhope, the British nobleman, gained custody of Hauser and set about trying to trace his origins without success.

Hauser had said that he remembered some Hungarian words and claimed Countess Maytheny was his mother.

Feeling he had been deceived, Lord Stanhope sent Hauser to live with a schoolmaster in Ansbach but in 1833, aged 21, the orphan said he had been lured to the Ansbach Court Garden and stabbed. He later died from his wounds. Police officers found a purse near the scene containing a cryptic note written in mirror writing. Many believed Hauser had stabbed himself and invented a tale about being attacked, planting the note at the scene to cast guilt elsewhere.

The new study analysed traces of mitochondrial DNA taken from blood on Hauser's clothing displayed at the Kaspar Hauser museum in Ansbach. The team were able to prove unambiguously that Hauser's type did not match that of members of the House of Baden.

The study is published as a pre-print in the journal *iScience*.

# Sussexes will tour Colombia after branding Britain unsafe

## Despite fears of knife or acid attack in the UK, Duke is happy to visit nation with 'widespread violent crime'

*By* **Hannah Furness** ROYAL EDITOR

THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex are going on tour to Colombia, it has been announced, days after Prince Harry said it was too dangerous to bring his wife to Britain.

The Sussexes, who visited Nigeria earlier this year, are to travel to the South American country this summer at the invitation of its vice-president.

They are said to be planning to "engage with leaders, youth, and women who embody the aspirations and voices of Colombians committed to progress" as well as enjoying the "vibrant locations" of Bogotá, Cartagena and Cali.

Francia Marquez, the vice president of Colombia, said in a statement: "I am pleased to announce that Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have kindly accepted my invitation to visit our beautiful country."

The trip follows the Sussexes' trip to Nigeria, which was linked to Prince Harry's Invictus Games. Colombia has also entered a team to the tournament for sick and wounded veterans.

The Duke is not known to have previously visited Colombia during his official royal duties, and it is not part of the Commonwealth.

Their 2024 trip will come ahead of the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, which takes place on Nov 7 and 8.

The trip was announced via the vice president's office, shortly after Prince Harry said he would not bring his wife to Britain because of the security threat to his family. Last week, in an ITV interview about tabloid phone hacking, he said of the UK: "All it takes is for one lone actor who reads this stuff to act on what they've read.

"Whether it's a knife or acid, whatever it is, and these are things that are of genuine concern for me.

"It's one of the reasons why I won't bring my wife back to this country."

The Duke of Sussex has a long-running dispute with the Home Office and Royal family over his security in the UK, and has lost a case demanding its review.

He is currently required to give 28 days notice of visiting his country of birth if he is seeking Met Police protection, with decisions being made by Royal and VIP Executive Committee. In America and overseas, the Sussexes use a private armed protection firm, with the countries they visit sometimes providing additional official security.

Colombia is described by the US government as a "Level 3" or "orange" risk, with advice stating: "Reconsider travel due to crime and terrorism. Exercise increased caution due to civil unrest and kidnapping."

In the country summary published by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, it says: "Violent crime, such as homicide, assault, and armed robbery, is widespread. Organised criminal activities, such as extortion, robbery, and kidnapping, are common in some areas."

The UK government advice for the country suggests only essential travel to some regions of the country, but all three areas the Sussexes plan to visit are considered safer, marked "green".

Ms Marquez said that the visit would be at a particularly significant time as it will precede the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children.

**The Duke and Duchess will visit South America in the coming months**

ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA WIRE

**It takes all sorts** A racegoer chooses a sweet confection of headwear for Ladies' Day yesterday, the third day of the event, at the Qatar Goodwood Festival in Chichester.

# St Andrews rector ousted from key roles after Israel genocide claim

*By* **Daniel Sanderson**
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE rector at one of Britain's top universities has been dismissed from its ruling body after "inflaming tensions" on campus by accusing Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians.

Stella Maris has been stripped of key positions at the University of St Andrews after she repeatedly refused to accept the findings of an independent report highly critical of her conduct in the wake of Israel launching its offensive against Hamas.

Ms Maris, who became rector in November, issued a message to thousands of students that month denouncing "weeks of genocidal attacks by the Israeli government against Gaza" and referring to "apartheid". She went on to accuse Israel of committing war crimes against Palestinians and included links to "stridently anti-Israeli" websites. These included conspiracy theories about the Hamas attacks.

Yesterday, the University Court, its governing body, stripped Ms Maris of her role as its president and as a charity trustee, in what it admitted was a "difficult and unusual" move.

It said it had been left with no choice after Ms Maris refused to accept the findings of an investigation, which found that her statement and "combative and hostile" social media activity created division. Ms Maris vowed to appeal the judgment and repeated her claim that there was a "genocide", a position she said was supported by a majority of students.

Ray Perman, the senior lay member and chairman of the University Court, said that there had been "extensive attempts at dialogue over three months" with Ms Maris. However, he said court members concluded that she was guilty of a "serious and persistent breach of her responsibilities and can no longer sit as president". Mr Perman added: "We wish to stress most explicitly that the rector has never been asked to diminish or change her support of the Palestinian cause, only to acknowledge... she caused distress and fear to some students."

The investigation found that for some St Andrews students, the rector's words had been an "important source of comfort". However, they provoked a backlash among others, with an open letter calling for a retraction being signed by hundreds of students and alumni. It was reported that some Jewish students "were very distressed and angry, with feelings of fear for their safety".

Ms Maris, who will remain rector until 2026, said she was "disappointed" by the decision. She claimed it "shows a lack of respect for the role of the rector in speaking independently for students" and "sets a dangerous precedent for freedom of speech in higher education".

# Stalker harassed bus driver for nearly 60 years because he thought he was Johnnie Ray

*By* **Cameron Henderson**

A MAN who stalked a bus driver for nearly 60 years in the belief he was the 1950s pop star Johnnie Ray has been jailed for three years.

Kenneth Furnival, 75, bombarded John Ray, 78, with an "avalanche" of love letters and unwanted gifts over a six decade-long campaign in what is believed to be one of the longest cases of stalking ever recorded.

Furnival's obsession with his victim began in 1964 when Mr Ray, then 18, checked his bus ticket, Chester Crown Court heard. Aged 15 at the time, Furnival would send multi-coloured notes to Mr Ray in which he referred to him as Johnnie Ray, complimenting him on his "blonde hair and blue eyes" and asking for signed pictures.

When Mr Ray ignored the letters, Furnival began secretly taking pictures of the father-of-two and his family. One letter from Furnival referred to a date Mr Ray took his wife Jean on at a restaurant and his jealousy at seeing them kissing. He also sent him Johnnie Ray CDs and DVDs.

Mr and Mrs Ray knew nothing about Furnival or what he looked like. They repeatedly tried to report him to police but officers took no action.

In 1979 they hired a lawyer to take civil action against their tormentor, which did result in him being jailed for flouting a court order, but Furnival still refused to give up his obsession.

During their ordeal, the Rays never let their sons play outside as they had their father's looks and they feared Furnival would target them. They moved house and even changed surnames in an attempt to be free of him but he would catch up with them and the letters and gifts would start again.

Furnival, from Runcorn, Cheshire, was finally arrested last year after the Rays captured him on security camera when he was forced to hand deliver letters owing to a postal strike.

He had earlier sent them a Christmas card containing a letter that read: "In 2023, I will burn £100, in 2024, I will burn £200, in 2025, I will burn £300, and stick it down your letterbox until it gets to £1,000. Money is no good to me unless I can buy photos of you, John Ray."

He signed off: "Kenneth Furnival, the man who knew too much."

Furnival was sentenced to three years in jail and made subject of an indefinite restraining order prohibiting him from contacting the Rays.

**Kenneth Furnival, 75, started his stalking campaign when he was 15**

HARRY KERR/BIPS/GETTY IMAGES

**Bus driver John Ray, the stalker's victim, shares his name with Johnnie Ray, the 1950s singer, above**

**Biden's dating advice** Joe Biden broke from his speech on the historic Russian prisoner swap yesterday to pull the 12-year-old daughter of one of the hostages aside and tell her "no serious guys until you're 30". The president also said to Miriam Butorin, the daughter of Aslu Kurmasheva, "we have a tradition in the Biden family. We sing *Happy Birthday*", before making the room of journalists perform the song for the child, who turns 13 today.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

# Gershkovich freed in historic prisoner swap

## Biden hails largest inmate exchange since the Cold War – but Trump says he would have done it better

*By* **Tony Diver** US EDITOR

THE American journalist Evan Gershkovich has been freed from a Russian jail in the largest East-West prisoner exchange since the Cold War.

Joe Biden, the US president, said yesterday that a "feat of diplomacy" had secured the release of the reporter and 15 other "wrongfully detained" prisoners in Russia after months of negotiations with the Kremlin.

The prisoners were handed over to US officials in Turkey, in a first-of-its-kind deal that involved five Western countries and Russia.

Mr Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter, had been in Russian custody since March 2023, when he was arrested on a reporting trip and accused of spying for the American government.

As he left Russian custody, the journalist asked for a sit-down interview with Vladimir Putin on an official form.

Paul Whelan, a British-American former US Marine, Vladimir Kara-Murza, a British-Russian activist and the Russian-American reporter Alsu Kurmasheva, were also released on Thursday.

Mr Biden hailed the deal in a press conference surrounded by the prisoners' families, highlighting his record on prisoner negotiations and pointing out he had "inherited" several cases from the Trump administration.

Russia received eight of its own prisoners in exchange for the 16 Westerners, including the "bicycle assassin" intelligence agent Vadim Krasikov, and the spy couple Artem and Anna Dultsev.

Donald Trump, who earlier this year said only he could secure the release of Mr Gershkovich, criticised the deal.

"Are we releasing murderers, killers, or thugs?" he wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Just curious because we never make good deals, at anything, but especially hostage swaps.

"Our 'negotiators' are always an embarrassment to us! I got back many hostages, and gave the opposing Country NOTHING – and never any cash. To do so is bad precedent for the future."

Andrei Kozyrev, a former Russian foreign minister, warned that Putin's regime now "sees a pattern of doing business with the West: take people and foreign countries hostage and gain criminals... in a swap of 'good will'".

The deal, struck by the CIA, State Department and White House national security team, involved more Western countries than any other prisoner swap in history, and saw the release of Russian prisoners in Germany, Poland, Slovenia and Norway.

The swap took place at Ankara airport in Turkey on Thursday afternoon and was "carried out" by Turkey's MIT intelligence service, the country said.

The families of the Americans released gathered at the White House with Mr Biden to await their return.

In his remarks to the country, Mr Biden said that prisoner negotiations "come with tough calls" but that "it says a lot about the United States that we work relentlessly to free Americans".

"The deal that made this possible was a feat of diplomacy and friendship. Multiple countries helped get this done," he added.

"They joined a difficult, complex negotiation at my request. And I personally thank them all again." US officials said Mr Biden worked personally on the agreement, and was finalising arrangements with his counterparts in Slovenia one hour before his announcement that he would step back from the presidential election last month.

**Evan Gershkovich, Alsu Kurmasheva and Paul Whelan pose with a flag after their release**

He also convinced Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, to release Krasikov from prison to complete the deal, during Mr Scholz's visit to the White House in February.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said the "historic" prisoner swap had required months of negotiation with Russia and coordination between Western allies to pull off.

"Today's exchange will be historic," he said in advance of the exchange yesterday morning.

"Not since the Cold War has there been a similar number of individuals exchanged in this way, and there has never, so far as we know, been an exchange involving so many countries so many close US partners and allies – working together."

He said the deal was "vintage Joe Biden rallying American allies to save American citizens".

"If you had not had Joe Biden sitting in the Oval Office, I don't think this would've happened," he said.

A senior US administration official said the deal did not signal a cooling of relations between the Biden administration and Russia, and condemned Putin's war in Ukraine and partnerships with Iran and China.

"I would counsel anyone to be cautious in surmising from this that it's some sort of breakthrough in the relationship or that it portends some detente with Russia or easing in our relationships," the official said. "That's not going to be the case."

The official described Krasikov, who assassinated a Georgian national in Berlin's Tiergarten park in 2019, as a "bad dude" but said his release was necessary to secure the freedom of Mr Gershkovich and others.

"They obviously considered [Krasikov] a key asset and wanted him back, and it was no small thing for the German government to agree to let him go," the official said.

Mr Gershkovich's release follows months of lobbying by the Wall Street Journal and other Western media outlets, coordinated under a "Free Evan" campaign.

> 'The deal that made this possible was a feat of diplomacy. Multiple countries helped get this done'

His release is the most politically significant of the prisoners released by Russia, after a months-long legal battle condemned as a sham trial by Western politicians.

Mr Gershkovich was handed a 16-year prison sentence on espionage charges on July 19. Russian officials said they would not consider a prisoner swap until after his trial had concluded.

At the bottom of a form he was required to submit to the Russian authorities on his release, he asked Putin for an interview.

Mr Kara-Murza, a Russian opposition figure, activist and Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, has been in prison in Russia since April 2023, when he received a 25-year sentence for criticising Putin's decision to invade Ukraine.

MPs in the UK have been lobbying the Foreign Office to request his release as part of the prisoner deal.

David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary, said he was "particularly relieved that British nationals Vladimir Kara-Murza and Paul Whelan will soon be reunited with their families".

Mr Whelan, a former US marine who holds British, American, Canadian and Irish citizenship, was arrested in 2018 by FSB agents and accused of spying for the West. He denied the charges.

The other Westerners released by Russia are Dieter Voronin, Kevin Lick, Rico Krieger, Patrick Schoebel, Herman Moyzhes, Ilya Yashin, Liliya Chanysheva, Kseniya Fadeyeva, Vadim Ostanin, Andrey Pivovarov, Oleg Orlov and Sasha Skochilenko.

Many are associates of Alexei Navalny, a Russian opposition leader who died in a Russian prison in the Arctic in February. US officials said Mr Navalny's death, which was condemned by Western leaders, had complicated the swap negotiations with the Kremlin.

*Editorial Comment: Page 15*

# State hostage-taking will only get worse now Putin knows it is a 'get out of jail free' card

**Commentary**

*By* **Bob Seely**

I AM delighted for Yevgenia Kara-Murza, the vivacious and charismatic wife of Vladimir Kara-Murza. Vladimir Putin had not only imprisoned her brave husband, but twice tried to murder him. Yesterday's prisoner swap, the largest for decades, means that Yevgenia will have her husband back to nurse to health. Their friends in our Parliament will be delighted, and frankly relieved that he is still alive to taste freedom once more.

But there is a more troubling side to this story, from the way that Putin will milk this event at home, to the dark reality that the Russian leader will now see state hostage taking as – quite literally – a 'get out of jail free' card for the assassins, saboteurs and spies that his regime sends around the world, to murder, steal or cause chaos.

Putin's priority was to reassure his secret agencies that do Russia's overseas espionage work, primarily the SVR and the thuggish Military Intelligence – the GRU, that he would get their people back, no matter what. Above all, the FSB wanted Vadim Krasikov, organised-crime killer turned state assassin. The SVR and the GRU would have wanted their "illegals" – spies living permanently in a country with fake IDs and backstories – in Slovenia and Norway too.

Others freed appeared to have overlapped organised crime and espionage, showing the deep connection between the two in Russia.

The swap will play big in the Russian media. Russian society, especially older citizens, will be reminded about the "glory days" of the Soviet Union when it was the equal of the USA. Implicitly, by reviving this kind of trade, Putin is showing himself to be the leader who stands up to the West and forces the US to listen.

But yesterday's prisoner swap only threatens to make state hostage taking by our enemies worse.

Evan Gershkovich, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter, was an innocent man arrested, imprisoned, charged and found guilty by a Russian state that considers itself in conflict with the West. Krasikov was a hit man imprisoned for murder. Putin will learn from this that his ruthlessness pays off. He will reckon he can always get his people out of Western prisons.

If Britain had captured, tried and imprisoned the Skrypal poisoners from GRU unit 29155, I fear that, at very least, they too would have been on Putin's list. UK citizens might have been seized in Moscow or elsewhere as leverage.

Russia is not the only adversary to blatantly use state hostage taking as a bargaining chip. Iran took Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe whilst China seized Canadians, as well as staging Jimmy Lai's despicable show trial.

If this deal had been done earlier, might it have included Alexi Navalny, a man who could have conceivably been a rival for power to Putin? Or was Putin always determined to murder Navalny, someone he hated so much he refused to use his name until he was dead?

In Vladimir Kara-Murza's case, he was a British subject, so we could justifiably argue harder for him. David Cameron and the FCDO pushed his case with the US, as did other good people such as Putin critique Bill Browder, and parliamentarians from all sides.

It is a good thing that there are a few fewer political prisoners in Russian jails. As Navalny's wife Yulia tweeted on hearing the news, "No one should be held hostage by Putin, subjected to torture, or left to die in his prisons."

Yet the reality of today is that Putin has – again – taken innocent people as hostages to get his spies and crooks home. Balancing our desire to see our people protected, whilst refusing to give into the kind of blackmail on offer today, is a continuing conundrum for law-governed Western states.

> 'No one should be held hostage by Putin, subjected to torture, or left to die in his prisons'

*Dr Robert Seely was MP for the Isle of Wight 2017-2024. His book, 'Total War, a Guide to Russia War in Ukraine and Across the Globe', will be published by Biteback Publishing in February 2025*

# How Biden brought 491 days of pain to an end

## International push for freedom finally pays off as detainee issues parting shot to his captor Putin

*By* **James Rothwell, Anna Conkling** *and* **Tony Diver**

AS he was released from his Russian jail cell, Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich had a dazzling parting shot for Vladimir Putin.

Prison regulations required him to write a letter to Putin requesting clemency as one last formality. He was happy to do so, relying on the past 16 months he had spent honing his Russian language skills in custody.

A journalist to the last moment of his confinement, he scribbled a cheeky proposal at the bottom of the form: would Putin be willing to sit down for an interview after his release?

Mr Gershkovich, 32, became a free man yesterday as part of a historic prisoner swap in which eight Russian criminals were exchanged for a group of 16 comprising German nationals, Russian political prisoners and US citizens.

The breakthrough that secured the deal appears to have come in April 2024 when President Joe Biden made a phone call to Olaf Scholz, his German counterpart.

At that time Germany was working to release a group of citizens languishing in Russian prisons on dubious espionage and criminal charges.

Berlin also held the key to a deal for Mr Gershkovich: Vadim Krasikov, a notorious hitman whom Putin keenly wanted to free, was serving a life sentence in a German prison for gunning down a Chechen dissident in Tiergarten in Berlin. Sources in the White House said the moment had come to bring Mr Scholz deeper into the negotiations - without his assent to release Krasikov, the deal risked collapsing.

During their call, the two leaders discussed an earlier written proposal which fleshed out the key details of a prisoner swap. It envisaged trading Mr Gershkovich, the ex-US marine Paul Whelan and some German citizens and Russian dissidents for Krasikov, plus some other notorious Russian prisoners.

"Basically, Chancellor Scholz responded to the president, saying 'for you, I will do this'," a US administration official said. "The president then turned to Jake [Sullivan, US national security adviser] and said 'get it done'."

The official added: "It became clear that the Russians would not agree to the release of these individuals without an exchange that included Vadim Krasikov, a Russian criminal who was in German custody. [He was] not someone we could offer ourselves."

Another key figure was Mr Gershkovich's mother, Ella, who tirelessly lobbied US officials for his release. She even confronted Mr Biden at the 2023 White House Correspondents' Dinner, imploring him: "You are the only one who can bring my boy home."

**Vladimir Putin welcomes former prisoners at an airport in Moscow after they were freed in a swap deal**

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, she finally learnt that a deal had been done on the 491st day of Mr Gershkovich's detention, at a meeting in the White House with Mr Biden. "Tell no one," she was warned.

A third important figure was Mr Biden's chief hostage negotiator Roger Carstens, who goes by the nickname of "Captain America" due to his maverick tendencies, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Poland, Slovenia, Norway and Turkey also played a role, according to Mr Biden, who hailed the prisoners' release as a "feat of diplomacy".

All those efforts led to what US officials called a "package of eight individuals of interest to Russia for the 16 individuals including German nationals, Russian political prisoners and US citizens" being agreed upon.

Prior to this, there had been serious bumps in the road during late 2023 and early 2024. At that time, US efforts had partly been focused on setting free Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader, as part of the swap – but he was killed in a penal colony, plunging the negotiations into turmoil.

According to *The Insider*, an investigative news website, Annalena Baerbock, the German foreign minister, had also felt deeply uncomfortable about releasing Krasikov, a notorious contract killer serving a life sentence for the Tiergarten murder.

Ms Baerbock reportedly felt that releasing Krasikov would signal weakness in Berlin, a view shared by some other figures in Germany's coalition. However, they were all eventually brought around to support the deal by the autumn of 2023.

In April 2024 another breakthrough was secured, around the same time that Mr Biden made his phone call to Mr Scholz. Germany felt it needed Putin to offer much more than just US prisoners in order to fully justify the release of Krasikov, and suggested the idea that Moscow also set free a number of political prisoners of Russian nationality.

> 'Basically, Chancellor Scholz said to the president: for you, I will do this'

The BND, the German equivalent of MI6, was brought on to shepherd the deal through to its final stages. Putin's replacement of Sergei Beseda, a top FSB official, with a new foreign relations chief, Alexei Komkov, may also have removed some outstanding hurdles.

Once the deal was done, Krasikov was among the Russian list of prisoners flown to Ankara, where Russian officials picked him up. Turkish television footage captured the moment that both sides exchanged their hostages, passing each other as they crossed the tarmac.

Another video of the prisoners' release showed a stoic Mr Gershkovich being led out of a prison bus by a masked Russian guard, who gripped his elbow.

Last night, Mr Gershkovich was due to land back in America at Andrews Air Force Base, where his family was waiting to greet him.

Meanwhile, a group of Russian journalists and dissidents had also gathered at Berlin airport, hoping to celebrate the former prisoners' freedom.

As all the concerned families and friends waited for proof of their loved ones' release, there was, at last, a flash of joy. A US government photo was released showing a beaming Mr Gershkovich on a plane home with Mr Whelan and Russian-American journalist Alsu Kurmashava: they were free.

## Bike assassins and teenagers: the full list of freed prisoners

RUSSIA has agreed the largest exchange of prisoners since the end of the Cold War. The deal has released numerous Russian spies and prisoners including Vadim Krasikov, a pro-Putin assassin who was jailed for an attack in Germany. Here is the list of the captives released on either side under the terms of a deal.

### Heading west

**Evan Gershkovich, 32**
An American journalist for the *Wall Street* Journal who specialised in covering Russia. The Russian federal security service arrested Gershkovich during a reporting trip to Yekaterinburg, accusing him of holding intelligence for the CIA. Both the Journal and the US government have strongly denied this.

**Paul Whelan, 54**
A former US marine with British, Canadian, Irish and US citizenship. Whelan was arrested by Russia in 2018 on spying charges and jailed for 16 years in June 2020. At the time of his arrest, he had been working as head of security for BorgWarner, a car parts manufacturer.

**Vladimir Kara-Murza, 42**
A Russian-British political activist who was arrested in April 2022, shortly after the invasion of Ukraine, initially on the charge of discrediting the army. Kara-Murza was then charged with treason the following October. After being sentenced to 23 years in prison he continued to write articles from his cell, earning himself a Pulitzer prize.

**Kevin Lik, 19**
German-Russian citizen thrown in jail for supposedly emailing pictures to a foreign state on the eve of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Lik was convicted of treason, the youngest ever person to be prosecuted for that crime in Russia.

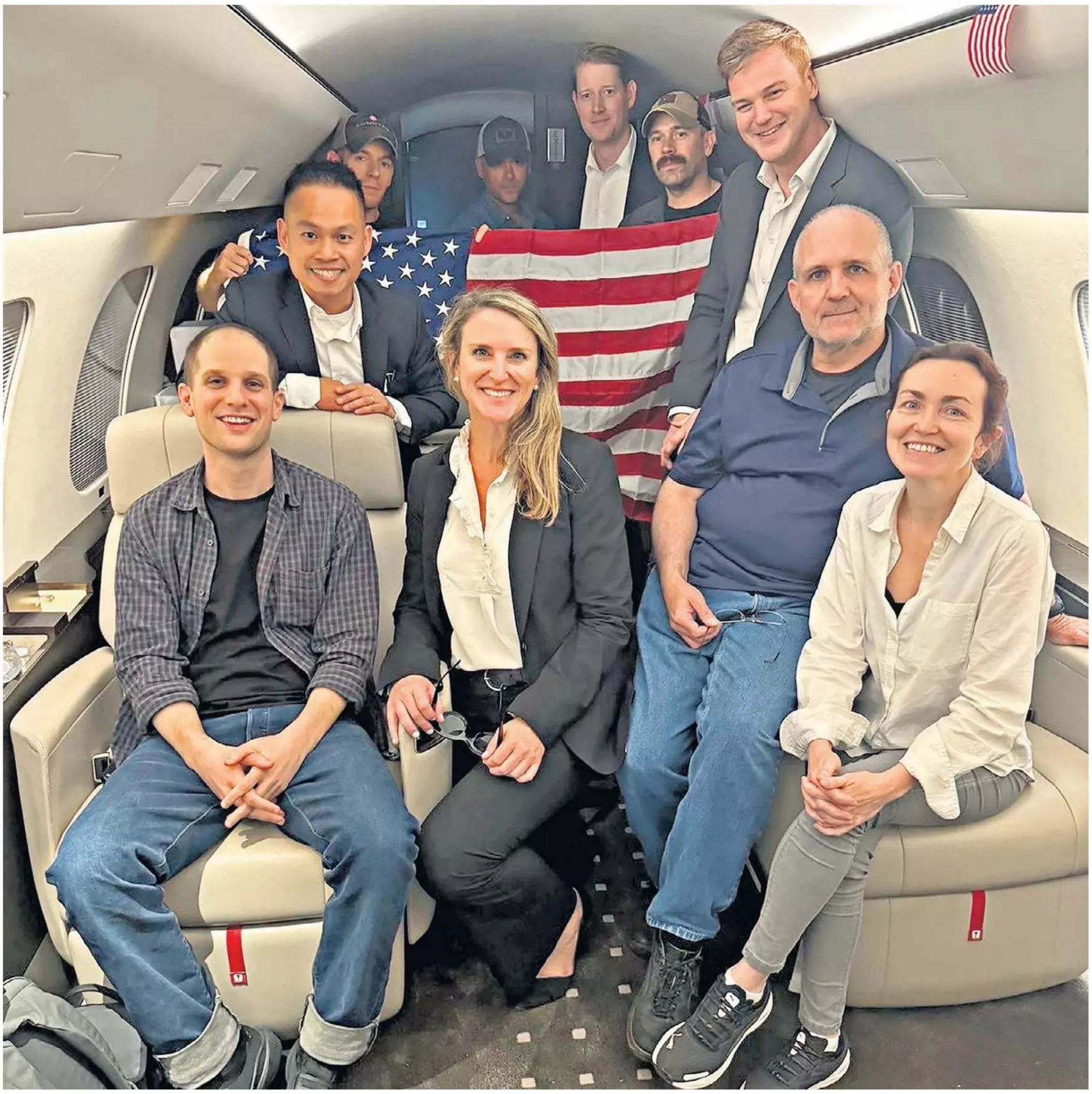
**Oleg Orlov, 71**
A Russian human rights activist from the organisation Memorial. Orlov has been an opponent of Soviet Union repression for decades, but most recently was arrested for criticising the invasion of Ukraine and for the charge of discrediting the army. He was jailed for two years in February 2024.

**Lilia Chanysheva, 42**
Russian and a close associate of Alexei Navalny, the late opposition leader. Chanysheva was sentenced to seven and a half years imprisonment in June 2023 on extremism charges. Before her arrest, she ran one of Navalny's regional anti-corruption organisations.

**Ilya Yashin, 41**
A prominent Kremlin critic who was jailed for eight years over his criticism of the war in Ukraine. Yashin was also charged with spreading false information about the Russian army.

**Alsu Kurmasheva, 47**
A Russian-American journalist who works for Radio Free Europe. Kurmasheva was arrested in October 2023 on charges of failing to register with the authorities as a foreign agent – the term Moscow now uses for anyone deemed to receive funding from abroad. She was facing a jail sentence of up to five years prior to the prisoner exchange deal.

**Dieter Voronin, 45**
A Russian-German citizen who was sentenced by a court in Moscow in 2023 to 13 years in prison. He was accused of passing intelligence to the BND, the German equivalent of MI6. However both the BND and Voronin himself denied this.



**The released prisoners on the flight to the US, including Evan Gershkovich, front left, Alsu Kurmasheva, front right, and Paul Whelan, second from right**

**Rico Krieger, 30**
A German citizen who was sentenced to death in Belarus for allegedly acting for Ukrainian intelligence services. But in a surprise twist in his case, he received a pardon from the authorities. Belarus is the last remaining country in Europe to impose the death sentence, which it carries out by shooting.

**Patrick Schoebel, 38**
A German tourist who travelled to Russia for a holiday – but was found carrying cannabis gummy bears, which meant he fell foul of Russian drug laws. He was imprisoned and pictures of his gummy bears were paraded on Russian media outlets by the authorities.

**Herman Moyzhes, age unknown**
A Russian-German lawyer who was arrested in May 2024 for assisting Russians to acquire EU residency permits. He was being held prior to the exchange deal in Lefortovo, a prison with a dark history of Stalinist torture.

**Ksenia Fadeyeva, 31**
A close Russian ally of Navalny, Fadeyeva was sentenced to nine years in a penal colony on charges of organising the activities of an extremist group. She was arrested in 2021 and initially released, only to be placed back in custody some time later. The latter stages of her trial were held behind closed doors.

**Vadim Ostanin, 47**
Another Navalny ally, Ostanin was sentenced to nine years in prison for membership of an "extremist community," a reference to Navalny's group. He was jailed despite only carrying out legal and political work.

**Andrey Pivovarov, 42**
A Russian activist who was sent to a penal colony on charges of assisting an "undesirable" organisation, the campaign group Open Russia. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment in July 2022 and then transferred to Penal Colony 7 in February 2023.

**Sasha Skochilenko, 33**
A Russian artist and poet, Skochilenko was arrested in April 2022 after she handed out anti-war leaflets in a grocery shop in Russia.

### Heading east

**Vadim Krasikov, 58**
A notorious pro-Putin hitman who gunned down a Chechen dissident while speeding through Berlin's Tiergarten on a bicycle, earning him the moniker of the Berlin bicycle killer.

**Artem Dultsev and Anna Dultseva**
Two Russian deep-cover spies who were arrested in Slovenia, where they pleaded guilty to espionage during a swift trial. They posed as an Argentine couple and had two children together as part of their cover identities.

**Mikhail Mikushin, age unknown**
A Russian spy who entered Norway under a Brazilian identity and took up work as a lecturer in Norway.

**Prisoners being sent back to Russia include Vadim Krasikov, 58, top; and Vladislav Klyushin, 43, above**

**Pavel Rubtsov, 42**
A Russian GRU operative who worked under the cover of a Spanish journalist.

**Roman Seleznev, 40**
A Russian computer hacker who worked under the alias "Tracker2". He was indicted in the US in 2011 for causing $169 million in damages to various financial institutions.

**Vladislav Klyushin, 43**
A Russian businessman with ties to the Kremlin. Klyushin has been serving a nine-year sentence in the US for his role in a $100 million stock market scam involving funds stolen by computer hacking.

**Roman Seleznev, 40**
A colonel and Russian FSB operative who was arrested in Estonia on charges of procuring advanced military equipment for the Russian war effort against Ukraine. He was extradited to the US after being arrested.

GUY SMALLMAN/GETTY IMAGES

# JSO funds linked to Clinton-backed group

## Environmental stunts being bankrolled by cash from US non-profit group supported by ex-First Lady

*By* **Tony Diver** US EDITOR
*and* **Gareth Corfield**

JUST Stop Oil's stunts are partly funded by a controversial non-profit organisation which is supported by a campaign organisation founded by Hillary Clinton, US financial disclosures reveal.

A group founded by Mrs Clinton from the ashes of her failed presidential bid has donated $500,000 (£391,500) in the last three years to the protest group's California-based financiers.

US voters who have bought tote bags decorated with pictures of Mrs Clinton or sweatshirts promoting abortion rights have inadvertently funded disruption in the UK.

Just Stop Oil's largest financial backer is a controversial Californian non-profit, the Climate Emergency Fund (CEF), which pays for stunts by environmental groups across the world, including Extinction Rebellion. A paper trail of transparency disclosures, seen by *The Telegraph*, shows that one of the CEF's major supporters is Onward Together, a campaign organisation founded by Mrs Clinton after her 2016 presidential campaign against Donald Trump. Onward Together gave $300,000 to the CEF in 2021, and a further $200,000 in 2022. The money donated by her group was placed into a fund that was used to pay for Just Stop Oil's protests in the UK.

The donations are the largest contribution by Mrs Clinton's organisation to a non-profit in the last three years, and are funded by public contributions and the sale of merchandise.

However, although the Onward Together website lists a number of "partners" supported by her group, it makes no reference to the CEF or Just Stop Oil, who are the ultimate recipients of some of the money it has donated. A separate arm of Onward Together contributes to candidates in US elections.

Organisations like Just Stop Oil are not required to disclose their funding in the UK, but it has said it has received millions of pounds from the CEF. The group has previously been criticised for accepting money from foreign donors to fund its stunts, which have recently included the vandalism of Stonehenge and paint sprayed at Heathrow airport.

THOMAS BOWLES PHOTOGRAPHY

**JSO protesters, top, at Heathrow Terminal 5 Departures; above, police remove a JSO activist**

Some MPs have called for the group to be designated as a terror organisation. The total cost of policing Just Stop Oil by the Metropolitan Police alone was almost £20 million by the end of last year, and is now likely to be much higher.

The CEF was established in 2019 by Aileen Getty, the granddaughter of the oil tycoon J. Paul Getty, and campaigns for governments to adopt climate-friendly policies. It is backed by several Hollywood celebrities, including Jeremy Strong, the *Succession* star, who sits on its board. Other major donors, other than Mrs Clinton, include a fund run by Susie Tompkins Buell, the co-founder of the North Face clothing brand.

Mrs Clinton's support for the group, and indirectly for the protests of Just Stop Oil, is likely to come as a surprise to her own donors, who are told only that Onward Together is "committed to lifting up emerging organisations and leaders who are fighting for our shared progressive values and defending our democracy".

It comes as Just Stop Oil protesters have been removed from Heathrow airport following another failed protest. Several activists sat or stood by the gates to departures in the London airport's Terminal 5, before some of them were physically removed by police.

> 'Unlawful and irresponsible protest activity is not the way forward and will not be tolerated'

It follows several other damp squib demonstrations at airports this week. On Monday, holidaymakers at Gatwick stepped over activists who had attempted to block security gates, while on Tuesday two Just Stop Oil members reportedly sprayed information boards, windows and the floor in Heathrow Terminal 5's departures area with orange paint.

A Heathrow spokesman said: "Earlier this morning a protest incident in Terminal 5 was swiftly resolved and all involved were immediately removed from the airport. Our priority will always be to maintain the safety of passengers and colleagues, and we'll continue to work closely with our partners and the police in taking proportionate action to protect travel plans this summer. Unlawful and irresponsible protest activity is not the way forward and will not be tolerated."

# Landowner facing £1,000 fine over cars donated for Ukraine

*By* **Gareth Corfield**
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A COUNCIL has threatened an 80-year-old man with a £1,000 fine for storing surplus cars being donated to Ukraine.

William Lewis was sent a legal notice by his local council after letting a Transport for London (TfL)-backed scheme for sending scrap cars to Ukraine use his field.

Mole Valley council, in Surrey, claimed he was breaking planning permission laws by allowing his land to be used for temporarily storing donated vehicles.

Mr Lewis branded the council "ludicrous" while TfL hailed his "incredible contribution".

It comes a week after Gen Valerii Zaluzhny, Ukraine's ambassador to the UK, called for the Ulez scrappage donation scheme to be extended across the country. Older vehicles that do not meet London's Ulez emissions rules can be scrapped in return for a £2,000 grant. Owners can tick a box on the scrappage form giving permission for their vehicles to be donated to Ukraine. This does not reduce how much owners receive from the grant.

Battlefield medics and humanitarian groups in Ukraine are in desperate need of vehicles to transport the wounded to hospitals and medical aid posts.

Mr Lewis is letting the charity that runs the scheme, British Ukrainian Aid, use his field, near Dorking in the Surrey Hills, to store donated vehicles that are collected from Londoners and awaiting drivers to take them to Ukraine. He was sent a letter on July 3 threatening him with a £1,000 fine unless he formally notified the council how he was using his field to store cars for the officially-endorsed donation scheme.

> 'I'm not going to go through the process of a full-blown planning application. It's ludicrous'

Officials then demanded he make a full planning application for a change of use of the land, repeating their threat of a £1,000 fine unless the field was cleared by the end of August. Mr Lewis told *The Telegraph*: "I'm not going to go through the process of making a full-blown planning application. It's ludicrous.

"I certainly don't guarantee the vehicles will be removed by Aug 31. And I never said they would be.

"We've been trying to make Londoners more aware of the fact that we are taking [old cars] into Ukraine and they need to donate them rather than [let them] go for scrappage," he added.

Cllr Margaret Cooksey, Mole Valley's cabinet member for planning, claimed that "several complaints" had been received from residents "about an excessive number of cars being stored in a field in Coldharbour".

She said: "Given that the land is designated for agricultural use and lies within an Area of Great Landscape Value, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Metropolitan Green Belt, this storage represents a material change in land use.

"As such, planning permission is required. Failure to provide the requested notice may result in a £1,000 fine."

# Hague and Mandelson consider standing for Oxford chancellor

*By* **Poppy Wood** EDUCATION EDITOR

LORD HAGUE and Lord Mandelson have confirmed they are considering entering the race to become Oxford University's next chancellor.

Lord Hague, the former Conservative leader, is understood to be taking soundings after being approached by senior Oxford figures, and will make a decision over the next fortnight.

He told *The Telegraph*: "I have been approached by many people about standing for chancellor of Oxford and am seriously considering it."

Lord Mandelson, who was a minister during Sir Tony Blair's premiership, is also on the list of potential candidates.

The Labour peer, who will step down as chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University at the end of the year, said he wanted to support Oxford because it is "a huge asset for the UK and leads the university sector in its global status".

Lord Patten of Barnes will retire as Oxford's chancellor this year after two decades in the job.

Nominations to become Oxford chancellor opened last week, with more than 250,000 Oxford alumni set to vote in an online ballot later this year. A largely ceremonial position, the head of the university is considered one of the most venerable posts in British public life.

**Lords Hague and Mandelson are listed as potential candidates**

Chancellors are "usually an eminent public figure elected for life" and "preside over all major ceremonies", according to the university's website.

*The Telegraph* revealed on Wednesday that Theresa May has ruled herself out of the race. The former prime minister was previously thought to be considering the role after stepping down from Parliament earlier this year following 27 years as the Conservative MP for Maidenhead.

Insiders suggested Mrs May and Lord Hague may have reached an agreement for her to bow out in order to avoid splitting the Tory vote.

Victory for either Lord Hague or Lord Mandelson could mean being forced to give up their peerages, as serving politicians will be barred from standing to be Oxford's next chancellor.

# Brussels slaps down Prime Minister's plan for quick security deal with European Union

*By* **Ben Riley-Smith, Joe Barnes**
*and* **James Crisp**

SIR KEIR STARMER'S plans for a speedy defence and security pact with the EU have suffered a blow from senior figures in Brussels.

Nick Thomas-Symonds, the Cabinet Office minister leading the drive for Sir Keir, briefed EU ambassadors last week that he wanted substantive talks lasting into spring 2025. But *The Telegraph* has talked to figures both at the EU end and inside the UK Government who fear the proposed timeline is too optimistic if a significant deal is to be secured.

Senior positions in the European Commission and European Council will only be finalised later this year, potentially making it difficult to make progress before then. The EU is also understood to be unclear about what the UK wants. Emmanuel Macron, the French president, is believed to have sought answers when he saw Sir Keir in July 2024.

It is also unclear if wider security issues, involving energy and immigration, will be discussed alongside the proposed deal or separated from it. These challenges have led to cautionary comments from EU figures about whether negotiations intensifying in March, April and May 2024 are really deliverable or whether longer is needed for the talks.

An EU diplomat said: "It's an ambitious timeline and stuffing all kinds of things into a security pact isn't going to make it easier. From the EU side, taking this step by step on areas of common interest is the way to go. There is still a lot of Brexit-PTSD going around here. Let's not overburden ourselves and ruin the good thing we got going since the Windsor Agreement [on Northern Ireland]." An EU official said "if there is a will there is a way" but cautioned that given the timings for commission appointments, progress can only begin to be made from November.

A UK government source monitoring developments sounded downbeat: "You go into a negotiation with very clear aims, what we want out of it, what we are willing to give up and what our red lines are. We don't have any of those things. The wider you go, the more difficult it is." Three broad areas are emerging in what the pact could include, according to discussions with figures involved from both sides. The first is some form of regular dialogue. Mr Thomas-Symonds has said publicly he wants a UK-EU summit, as Labour attempts to build on its "reset" in relations since taking office.

David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary, will attend a meeting of EU foreign affairs ministers in October – only the second UK minister to do so since Brexit.

The second area is more complicated. The UK wants to see improved defence industrial cooperation, which would allow UK and EU defence companies to work closer together.

Brussels is working on a "defence union" to create an air defence network through EU firms. Britain could seek to join the scheme but would have a difficult time in convincing Mr Macron to endorse the move.

A third area is broader security issues, which remains ill-defined. This could include topics like energy, with Ed Miliband, the Energy Security Secretary, said to be keen for scoping out a deal here with the EU.

# CPS and Met deny delay in revealing Edwards charges

## Presenter's mental health was a factor in delaying news of impending trial, Telegraph understands

*By* **Martin Evans** CRIME EDITOR

THE decision to charge Huw Edwards with child sex offences was not publicised by the police or prosecutors amid concerns over his mental health, *The Telegraph* understands.

The former BBC presenter was arrested in November last year on suspicion of receiving indecent images of children as part of a WhatsApp exchange with a 25-year-old convicted paedophile and was charged on June 26.

But despite the huge public interest in the case, details of the charges and his pending magistrates' court appearance were not made public at the time.

Instead, news of the case only emerged on Monday when a media organisation spotted that he was due to appear at Westminster magistrates' court on Wednesday and demanded details from Scotland Yard.

Both the Met and Crown Prosecution Service have denied suppressing information or giving Edwards preferential treatment but one former attorney general has questioned the decision not to release the information earlier. Sources have now told *The Telegraph* concern over Edwards' vulnerability and mental health played a part in the decision to withhold information until the last minute.

The source said: "In a situation like this, where there is so much public interest, it would be standard practice for the police or CPS to inform the public as soon as the person was charged.

"But concern over Mr Edwards' mental health was certainly a factor in deciding not to release all the details immediately. The intention was to release details of the charges the day before he was due in court.

"This was not an attempt to cover it up, but simply to manage the inevitable frenzy that would follow the news being made public. The important thing was that justice was seen to be done."

Stephen Parkinson, the head of the CPS as Director of Public Prosecutions, is now expected to face pressure to explain why the prosecutors took the approach they did in Edwards' case.

Edwards' mental health struggles had been well publicised after he was suspended by the BBC last July when it emerged that he was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a young man. His wife revealed he was being treated for serious mental health issues in hospital and in April he resigned on "medical advice".

In 2022 Caroline Flack, the TV presenter, took her own life after she was charged with assaulting her boyfriend.

The police and CPS came under fire at the time for pursuing the case after Flack's boyfriend said he did not support the prosecution.

One former attorney general said they found it "very puzzling" that the CPS had not released details of Edwards' charge earlier. They said: "It is very puzzling that the CPS did not release the charge details to the media. Normally, with high-profile cases an announcement is made that charges have been brought. This notifies members of the media that a first court appearance is imminent to allow them to report on it, in accordance with the principles of open justice. I'm therefore puzzled that the CPS did not announce charges when they were brought in June, as at that point it became a public matter."

A CPS spokesman said: "Decisions on charging announcements are based on operational factors and no defendant receives preferential treatment."

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "The approach taken in this case isn't unusual. The purpose of us releasing the details is to allow media to cover the court proceedings so providing it is prior to that date we have met that requirement."

Meanwhile, a mural of Huw Edwards's face has been painted over in his hometown.

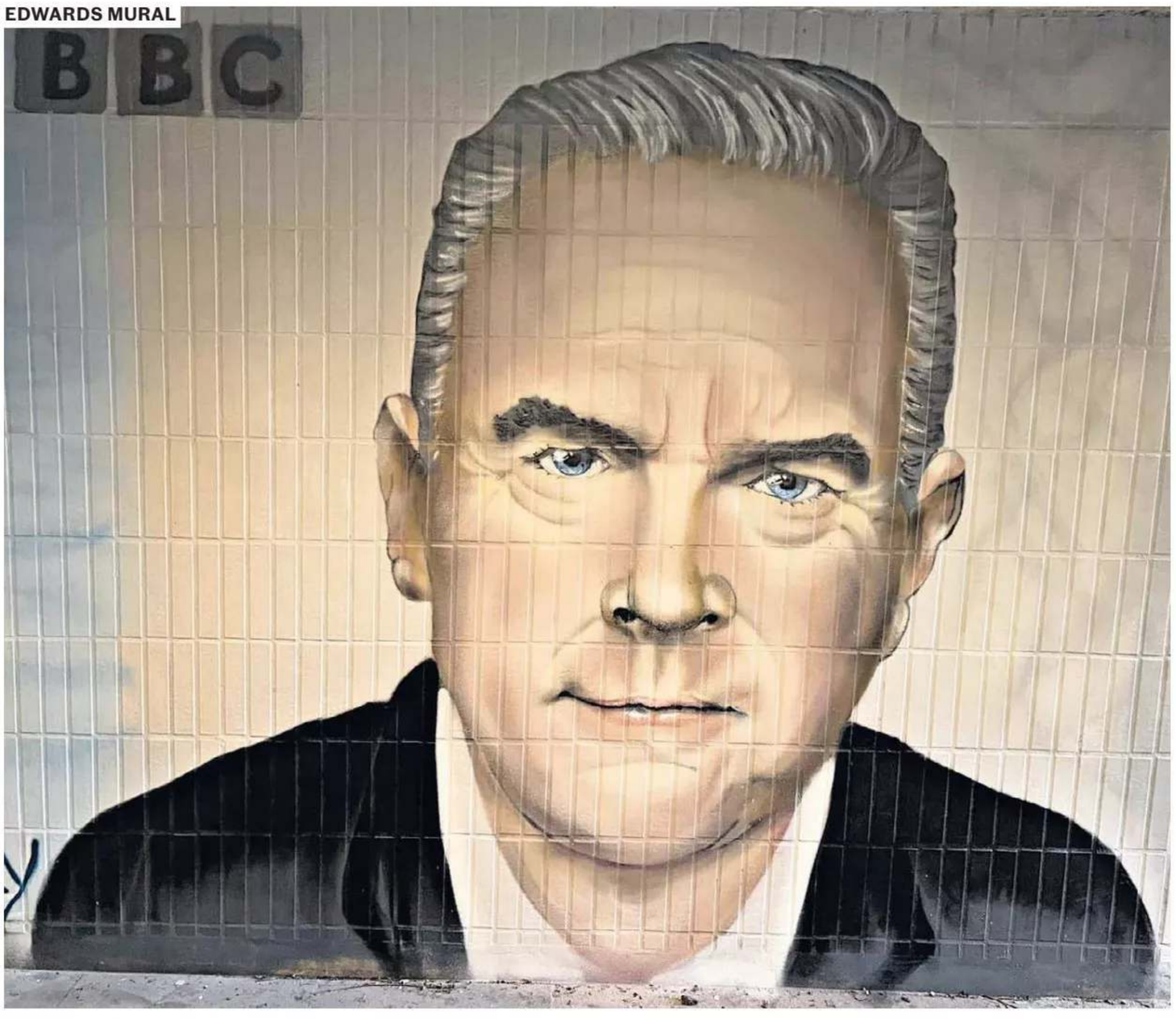
An underpass in the village of Llangennech in Llanelli had featured a portrait of the former BBC presenter, who grew up in the village, since 2023.

But now the artist behind the mural, Steve "Jenks" Jenkins, said Edwards's face had been removed in the wake of his offences, saying it was "the right thing to do".

**The artist that painted the mural of Edwards, right, in his home town said removing the disgraced star's face was 'the right thing to do', below right**

'Concern over Edwards' mental health was certainly a factor in deciding not to release all the details'

**EDWARDS MURAL**

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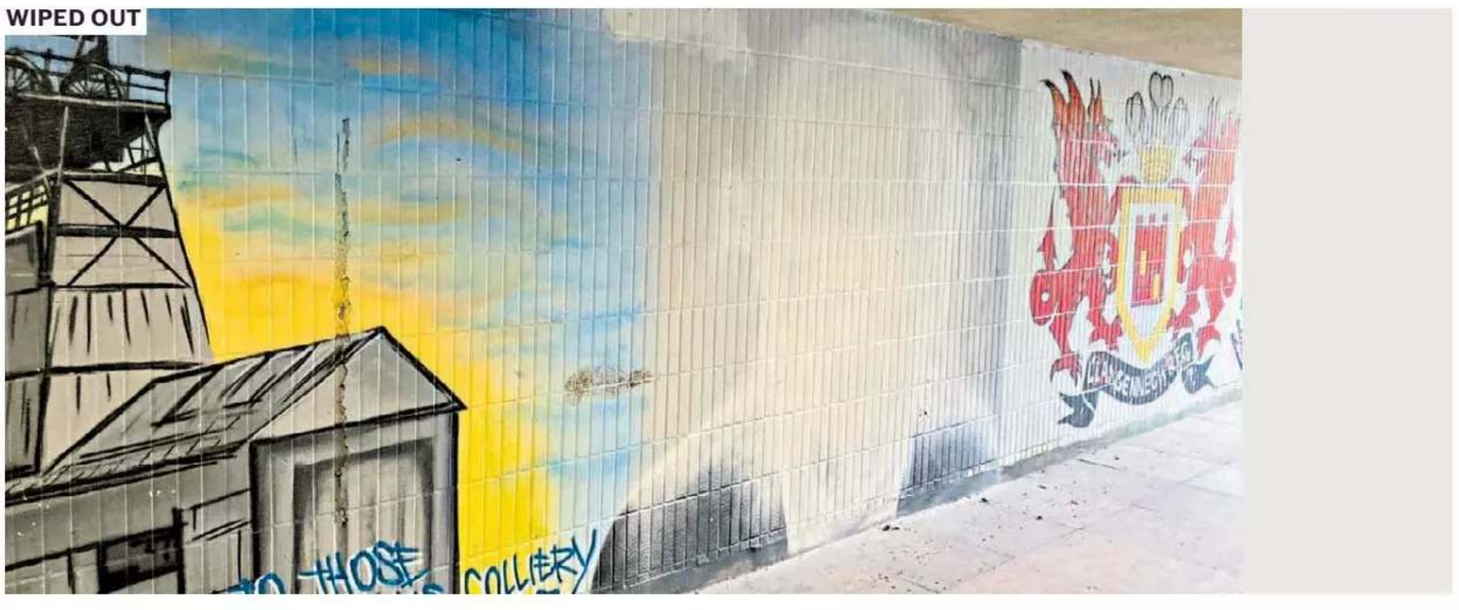

WALESONLINE/MEDIA WALES

# Vine demands his bosses reveal what they knew about scandal

*Continued from Page 1*

comes amid mounting disquiet among staff at the corporation. There is understood to be "a lot of anger towards Davie" and the senior leadership among staff at the broadcaster following the latest scandal, according to sources, some of whom said that "the whole culture needs changing".

Mr Davie's refusal to appear on the BBC's *Today* programme yesterday to answer questions about Edwards raised eyebrows within the broadcaster.

High-profile presenters have asked questions about how the scandal has been handled by BBC leadership, with Jeremy Vine demanding to know what management knew and when.

The Radio 2 presenter asked whether the BBC had questioned Edwards about his guilt in November 2023 following his arrest, before allowing him to remain on the payroll until April 2024. He said: "You can't justify paying him beyond November if you know he's guilty."

It has emerged that Met Police did inform the corporation in November that Edwards had been arrested. Police also relayed to the BBC the specifics of the charges: that they related to incident images of children.

Edwards, who was suspended from TV duties at the time of his arrest over the alleged inappropriate relationship with a young man, remained on the BBC payroll until April 22, when he quit the broadcaster on "medical advice".

Edwards, 62, was charged on June 26, without this being publicised by the police or CPS. He attended Westminster magistrates' court on Wednesday and pleaded guilty to possessing 41 indecent images, including one in category A, the most severe. Among the children featured in the images was one as young as seven years old.

In an interview with the BBC, Mr Davie admitted that police informed the BBC that Edwards was suspected of possessing category A images, but that the broadcaster was not told the ages of the victims. Mr Davie defended not sacking Edwards, and said he sought to ensure processes were followed "in a fair and judicious manner". He added: "I think it was right for us to say, 'Look, we'll let the police do their business, and then when charges happen, we will act'."

Mr Davie said he would explore "all options" to claw back some pay, but conceded that recouping Edwards' rumoured £300,000 a year pension would be "nigh on impossible".

The BBC has been contacted for comment.

## Degree of evil
### WhatsApp contact named

The paedophile who shared indecent images of children with Huw Edwards has been pictured. Alex Williams was photographed at his graduation in Cardiff two years ago, shortly before police began investigating him. His family has spoken of their shock, saying they had no idea that he had been charged and convicted of child sex abuse offences.

Williams was convicted of seven counts of distributing and possessing indecent images, including one of possessing prohibited images of children.

In March 2024 he got a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years. Three weeks later Edwards resigned from the BBC.

Other photographs of Williams show him celebrating the graduation of one of his siblings and climbing Pen Y Fan, the highest peak in South Wales, with his mother.

Two female members of Williams' extended family who were contacted by *The Telegraph* said neither of them were informed about his offences. One of the two women said she rarely saw Williams and spoke to him only fleetingly.

"I've known Alex for 15 years. He was always very quiet. I thought it was because of his studies and that was the kind of person he was," she said. They said that they would now refuse to allow Williams to set foot in their homes.

"The whole thing is shocking. Really shocking," said one. "It's just horrible to think about what he was doing."

*Patrick Sawer and Max Stephens*

**Williams was photographed at his graduation in Cardiff two years ago**

# Nandy asks if star's pension can be recouped

*By* **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Culture Secretary has told the BBC to examine whether it can recoup money from Huw Edwards' pension.

Lisa Nandy spoke to the BBC's director general, Tim Davie, after Edwards pleaded guilty in Westminster magistrates' court on Wednesday to possessing indecent images of children.

The BBC has admitted that it knew Edwards, 62, had been arrested in November, and was made aware of reasons for the arrest, but continued to pay his salary until he resigned in April. It emerged that Edwards had been paid £200,000 by the corporation after they knew of the allegations against him.

*The Telegraph* understands that Ms Nandy asked Mr Davie whether it would be possible to claw back any licence fee payers' money paid into his pension scheme. After the meeting, she is understood to remain concerned about the BBC's whistleblowing processes and some of the decisions made.

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said: "The Culture Secretary is, like the whole nation, shocked by Huw Edwards' abhorrent actions. It is now for the judiciary to decide on an appropriate sentence.

"The BBC is operationally and editorially independent, but given the incredibly serious nature of this issue, the Secretary of State has spoken to the BBC to raise concerns on a number of points regarding the handling of their own investigations into Huw Edwards, what safeguards and processes had been followed in this case, and additionally, what further action may be taken, especially with regard to the handling of licence fee payers' money."

The spokesman added: "She sought assurance that the BBC has robust processes in place regarding non-editorial complaints, and the handling of complex contractual matters, so that in future it can act at pace and be transparent with the public at the earliest opportunity to ensure trust is maintained.

"She has asked to be kept updated by the BBC on future developments in this particular case."

# BBC radio's share of listeners' time falls to post-Covid low despite some shows' success

*By* **Daily Telegraph Reporters**

THE BBC's share of the time people spend listening to radio in the UK has fallen to a post-pandemic low, despite some of its flagship stations seeing an increase in audiences, figures show.

The corporation's stations accounted for 42.6 per cent of radio listening in April to June, down from 43.4 per cent the previous quarter, according to data from research body Rajar. The figure was 50.9 per cent in July to September 2021 when the reporting of radio listening figures resumed after a break at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The downward trend for the BBC looks to have been driven mainly by a slow decline in the number of people listening to local and regional services.

The average weekly audience for these stations was 7.0 million in April to June, down from 7.7 million 12 months earlier and a drop of more than two million since July-September 2021, when the figure was 9.2 million. BBC local and regional stations accounted for 4.3 per cent of total radio listening in the latest quarter, compared with 5.7 per cent a year earlier. In its annual report for 2023/24, the BBC said efforts to increase the depth and volume of local news stories online had seen an "increase in the size of audiences consuming local news online" but this had "necessarily resulted in schedule changes for audiences across local radio, with more sharing of programmes, off-peak and at weekends".

Proposals to reorganise its local radio stations to share more content and transmit fewer programmes unique to their areas resulted last year in BBC local journalists going on strike, as well as long-running work-to-rule action, with the dispute formally resolved in November.

**42.6pc**

**Percentage of listener share from April to June, down from 43.4 per cent the previous quarter**

Several of the BBC's flagship stations fared far better in the last quarter, with Radio 1 up by 11 per cent, taking its average weekly audience to 8.1 million.

Radio 5 Live enjoyed an increase of 10 per cent on the quarter, bringing its average to 5.4 million, thanks to coverage of major sporting events including the Euro 2024.

After facing turbulence over the departure of veteran presenter Ken Bruce, Radio 2 listenership appears to be holding more steady with an average weekly audience of 13.3 million, similar to its 13.2 million level during the previous quarter and 13.5 million a year ago.

Bruce left the station in March 2023 after more than three decades hosting the mid-morning show, to join Greatest Hits Radio, taking his PopMaster quiz with him. The commercial station, which is also now home to former BBC DJ Simon Mayo, had been enjoying an increase in listener numbers for the past two years but its rise seems to have slowed as this is the first quarter since June 2022 that its average audience has not increased.

Despite the 2 per cent dip to 7.5 million compared with 7.7 million last quarter, Greatest Hits Radio has still had a 30 per cent increase from the 5.8 million average a year ago.

While some stations across the spectrum have seen drops, the total average weekly radio audience in UK passed 50 million people for the first time since post-pandemic records began.

# Jews don't count here, say staff as chairman accused of dismissing anti-Semitism claims

*By* **Hayley Dixon**
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"JEWS don't count" at the BBC, staff have warned as part of a complaint about "systemic anti-Semitism".

More than 200 staff, contractors, suppliers and contributors wrote to the board and Samir Shah, the BBC chairman, demanding "an urgent formal investigation" into "anti-Jewish racism".

The letter includes details of when Jewish staff have experienced "prejudice and racism at work" and says that there is "a loss of faith in the BBC within our community and a widespread opinion that, when it comes to racism and discrimination, 'Jews don't count'".

If other minorities were treated in the same way the corporation would "show zero tolerance", the letter alleges.

The calls for an investigation have been "dismissed" by Mr Shah, who in response praised the "inclusive" culture at the corporation and pointed to the whistleblower process.

His response has led to claims of "gaslighting", with signatory Neil Grant, a Bafta-award-winning executive producer, noting: "When Jews tell you they feel anti-Semitism, don't question it or define it for us." After Mr Shah's letter an employee, speaking anonymously, noted: "Every week it gets a little harder being a Jew at the BBC.

"Harder to sit in the office and listen to colleagues discussing their very personal views about the war in Gaza and attacks by Hezbollah on northern Israel, harder listening, watching and reading the loaded output about events in the Middle East and colleagues' partial and often offensive social media posts, and harder to go home at night and speak to friends and family who hold me responsible for the BBC contributing to the rise in anti-Semitism in the UK because I am an employee and so guilty by association."

'It gets a little harder to sit in the office and listen to colleagues discussing the war in Gaza'

The row emerged just days after the Board of Deputies of British Jews wrote to Sky News accusing correspondent Alex Crawford of a "disgraceful lack of professionalism" over a piece in which she said Israel has a "lust for revenge".

The BBC letter "raising serious concerns about anti-Jewish racism" was sent to the board and Mr Shah in July 2024. It included a dossier of evidence alleging breaches of the social media guidelines by stars including Gary Lineker, providing examples of "inaccuracy" and "bias" in the BBC's coverage of the war in Gaza and testimony from Jewish employees.

It came after dissatisfaction with the response to previous complaints to senior management which alleged "monumental double standard" on racism.

The 208 signatories included Danny Cohen, the former director of BBC Television, and Claudia Rosencrantz, formerly the controller of entertainment for ITV. A further 112, many of whom are BBC staff, "feel it necessary to remain anonymous".

A BBC spokesman said: "The BBC chairman has responded to this letter directly. It is a great concern to us if anyone does not feel supported at work and we have well-established and robust processes in place to handle any concerns or complaints raised with us confidentially. We have highlighted these to the signatories of the letter."

# Lawrences to bring body of Stephen 'home'

*By* **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

STEPHEN LAWRENCE'S body will be returned to the UK from Jamaica 31 years after his murder, his mother, Baroness Lawrence, has said.

Lady Lawrence said the family had decided to "bring Stephen home to be closer to us" after originally burying him on the Caribbean island because they felt "he would not be at peace in this country".

She added that images of her son's grave had appeared on social media after his body had been exhumed, which had caused the family "distress".

Stephen was murdered by a gang of racists in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993 as he went to catch a bus with his friend Duwayne Brooks, and only two of his five or six killers have been brought to justice.

The original police investigation into the 18-year-old's death was marred by institutional racism in the Met, incompetence and alleged corruption.

In a statement issued through her lawyer, Lady Lawrence said: "My family and I have been made aware of the recent images of my son's grave that have been circulated on social media.

"Following Stephen's passing, we made the decision to have him laid to rest in Jamaica, as we felt he would not be at peace in this country.

"After 31 years, we have decided as a family that we would like to bring Stephen home to be closer to us. The images... circulating were taken after the funeral home exhumed Stephen's body. We would like to express our distress at the funeral home's lack of regard for our feelings and privacy, as evidenced by the decision to leave Stephen's grave open to the public, rather than closed off."

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

**What a card** RAF veteran Richard "Dick" Skepper thanks well wishers from across the world who sent hundreds of cards following an appeal by the RAF Association to mark his 100th birthday at Kinton Manor Nursing Home in Warwickshire. His son David said his father had been "overwhelmed".

# 'Bellfield law' will stop lifers marrying in jail

## Justice Secretary Mahmood fast-tracks legislation after Milly Dowler's killer applies for leave to wed girlfriend

*By* **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

PRISONERS serving life sentences will be banned from marrying by the Justice Secretary under a new law fast-tracked to stop serial killer Levi Bellfield's wedding.

Murderers serving whole life sentences will no longer have the right to get married behind bars under the law that comes into force today.

Shabana Mahmood is understood to have fast-tracked the legislation after Bellfield submitted an application two weeks ago to have a civil partnership to tie the knot with his girlfriend.

The 56-year-old is serving two whole-life orders for the murders of Marsha McDonnell, Amelie Delagrange and Milly Dowler. The legislation was drawn up after he applied to marry his girlfriend and for legal aid to challenge a decision to block the marriage. He won a bid to receive up to £30,000 in legal aid after his lawyers cited the European Convention on Human Rights and the 1983 Marriage Act.

Before the legislation was proposed as part of the Victims and Prisoners Act, there were no legal routes to block his marriage. Prisoners could make an application for marriage or a civil partnership and could only be refused if authorities could show there were security concerns.

Ms Mahmood said: "Victims should not be tormented by seeing those who commit the most depraved crimes enjoy the moments in life that were stolen from their loved ones. That is why I have acted as soon as possible to stop these marriages and give victims the support they deserve."

Under the legislation, the Lord Chancellor retains the right to permit ceremonies in the most exceptional circumstances. Whole life orders are reserved for exceptionally serious offences, such as serial or child murders which involved a substantial degree of premeditation or sexual or sadistic conduct. Bellfield received a whole-life sentence for the murder of Ms McDonnell, 19, in 2003, Ms Delagrange, 22, and the attempted murder of Kate Sheedy, 18, in 2004. He was already serving his sentence when he went on trial for killing schoolgirl Ms Dowler, 13. He was found guilty and sentenced to another whole-life term in 2011. In 2022, when news emerged Bellfield was engaged and had applied to marry in prison, the then prime minister Boris Johnson was said to be "sickened and appalled" by the request.

The legal change blocking such weddings was introduced by then justice secretary, Dominic Raab, who said: "There is a history of vulnerable women who have become pen pals with serial killers... who get into relationships and then there is an issue around marriage."

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# Ross fights housebuilding near his £2m farm

## TV presenter says mooted 93-home scheme would face the bedrooms of his 16th-century property

*By* **Cameron Henderson**

JONATHAN ROSS is embroiled in a privacy row after plans were unveiled for 93 new homes to be built next to his £2 million farmhouse.

The 63-year-old chat show host said the development would cause a "distressing loss of privacy" as the homes would look straight into the bedrooms of his 16th-Century property near Swanage, Dorset.

Ross and his wife Jane, a screenwriter and producer, have owned Grade II-listed Cauldron Barn Farm, which has a swimming pool, tennis court and horse riding grounds, since 2005.

But developers now want to convert a disused former school next door to the 16th Century former barn into a major housing project.

Westcoast Developments have drawn up plans to turn Harrow House International College, which closed in 2021 after 52 years, into a mixture of flats and homes to help meet the area's planning targets.

Properties in the Victorian seaside town sold for an average of £440,000 last year, prompting fears that locals were being priced out of the market by second home owners.

This week the Government said it would make it easier for developers to build in rural areas, to help deliver its promise of 1.5 million new homes by 2029.

In his letter of objection to Dorset Council planners, Ross, inset right, said: "Building up the height of the current buildings would mean that our property would be directly overlooked.

"We have bedrooms that face towards the proposed development and the loss of privacy would be very distressing and cause a great deal of stress.

"We are also concerned about the change to the fabric of local life caused by so many new dwellings in the area, and the direct impact on traffic and amenities.

"We've been approached many times by developers asking to buy our land for the same purpose and refuse because we are conscious of the impact it would have on the entire community.

"Building work on this scale would have a negative impact on wildlife."

The proposals are for 14 apartments in the existing school building, 38 one-to-three bedroom flats in three apartment blocks, and 41 two-to-four bedroom homes.

The maximum height of the buildings will be three or four storeys.

Ross's concerns about privacy were echoed by fellow resident Malcolm Jenkins, who said there would be a "clear view into existing properties and gardens". Mr Jenkins said: "Being an elevated site, this will allow the new residents a clear view down into the existing properties and gardens meaning a complete loss of privacy. It will also mean blocking sunlight.

"The proposal is an example of over development in an unsuitable location.

"I do not oppose development on the site but it should be carried out in a way sympathetic to existing neighbours to produce quality homes away from the site boundary, not a profit-driven exercise forced on local people.

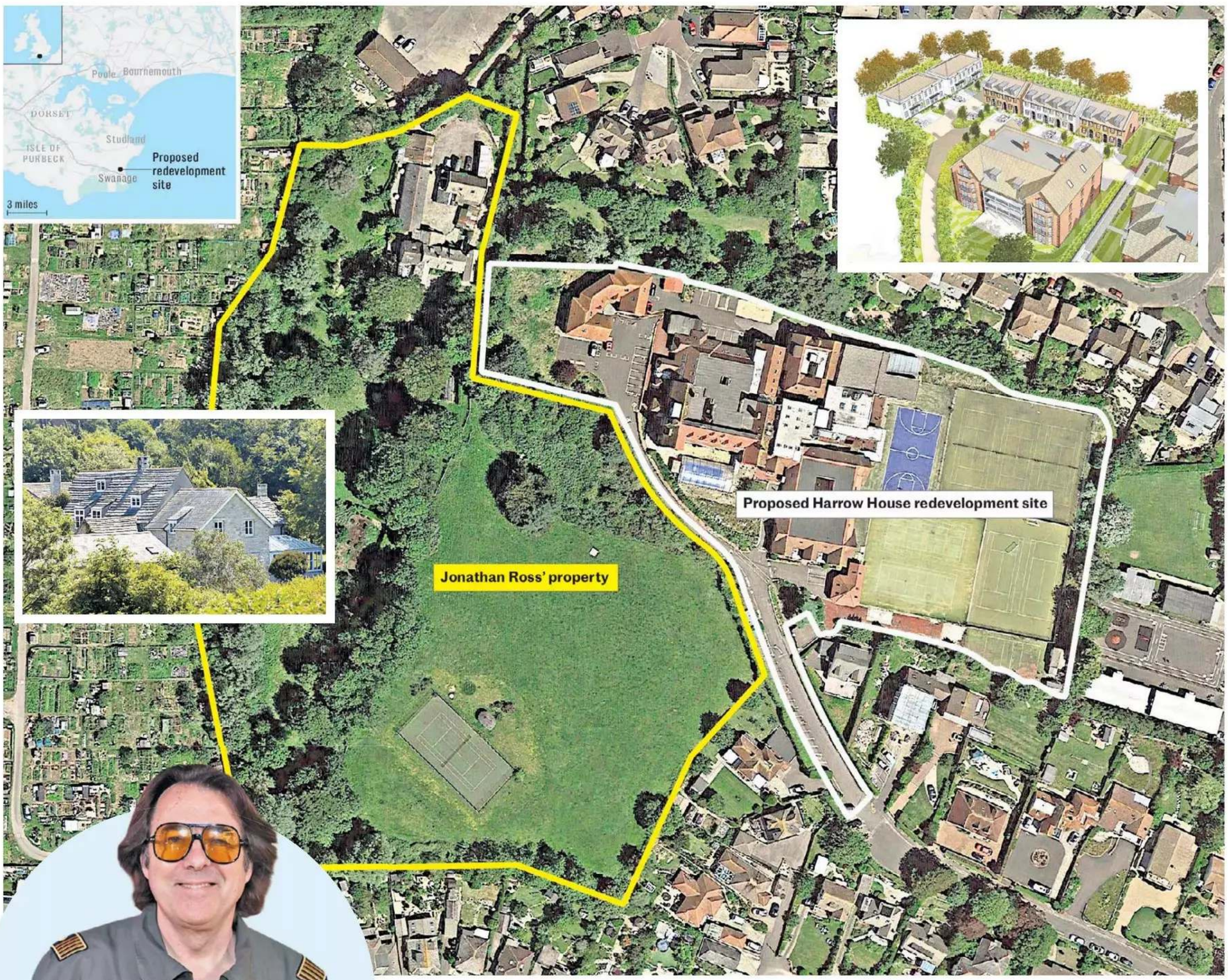
"I'm sure the agents will dress this proposal up to represent the best thing ever for Swanage. However, the current proposal is not acceptable."

Chapman Lily Planning, working for Westcoast Developments, said 10 per cent of the homes would be affordable, contributing to the council's housing target.

'The loss of privacy would be very distressing'

It added: "This site has the potential to deliver a highly successful and sustainable housing development of 93 new homes.

"The master plan provides a vision for a high-quality development with the potential for net zero carbon operational performance aspirations."




# Official watchdog finds that fire services bully whistleblowers who raise concerns

*By* **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

FIRE SERVICES are covering up "abhorrent" abuse of staff by bullying whistleblowers who raise concerns, the official watchdog has found.

Victims are failing to report bullying, sexism and racism for fear of reprisals from managers, said HM Inspectorate of Police and Fire Services.

Some who did report misconduct said that an ally of the perpetrator was then appointed to investigate their allegations, in what amounted to a "cover up," inspectors revealed in a report yesterday.

Writing for *The Telegraph* website, Roy Wilsher, the chief fire service inspector, said the "widespread and often deep mistrust" of the misconduct process was one of the most worrying findings in his report. It meant there were still "pockets of abhorrent behaviour" across fire services in England including bullying, harassment, intimidation, abuse of power and racist, sexist and homophobic language, said Mr Wilsher. And women were more likely to fear reprisals for blowing the whistle than men, he said.

"A lack of faith in the confidentiality of the process means they fear repercussions if they report an issue. Tellingly, we found women were more likely than men to express a fear of reporting. This begs the question; how can we root out misconduct if people are scared to report it?" he asked.

'A lack of faith in the confidentiality means they fear repercussions if they report an issue'

More than one third of nearly 4,500 firefighters surveyed by the inspectorate said they had suffered bullying, harassment, abuse of power and racist, sexist and homophobic language. More than 40 per cent said they had witnessed such misconduct in the last year.

The report was commissioned after an investigation last year uncovered bullying, harassment and discrimination in every fire and rescue service in England. Cases included a male firefighter telling a colleague he would rape her and a senior officer using a racial slur.

The inspectorate said there had been an improvement in the culture since then but it still found "compelling evidence" of a "widespread fear" among firefighters to report the behaviour, in case reprisals damaged their career prospects. Some whistleblowers told the inspectors they had been singled out and overlooked for promotion, which they felt was a direct result of reporting misconduct.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The findings from the Inspectorate's report are deeply concerning. There is no space for misconduct in our Fire and Rescue Services, and we expect it to be addressed at the earliest opportunity."

# Festival goers should take their rubbish home, Edinburgh council leader says

*By* **Daniel Sanderson**
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

EDINBURGH festivalgoers have been told to take their rubbish home with them during bin strikes.

Cammy Day, the Labour leader of City of Edinburgh Council, said taking food and drink containers back to residences or hotels would ease pressure during the world's biggest performing arts festival.

GMB, Unison and Unite members have voted to take industrial action in 26 of Scotland's 32 councils, including Edinburgh, after rejecting a pay deal.

Refuse workers will down tools for eight days from August 14, unless a last minute deal is struck.

"I absolutely accept the impact over the festival will not be pleasant, as it was in 2022 [when there were also bin strikes]", Mr Day told the BBC. "We've found that a lot of the waste build-up was particularly from coffee cups and takeaway boxes. So we're encouraging businesses to ask customers to take the waste home to their own properties or their hotels. A lot of the people in the city are tourists as well who stay in accommodation that has private waste collectors."

Mr Day urged John Swinney, the First Minister, to personally step in to strike a deal with unions, amid fears that Scotland's reputation will be damaged on the global stage. Over four million people visit the city for the Edinburgh festivals every year.

'We've found that a lot of the waste build-up was particularly from coffee cups and takeaway boxes'

Workers have rejected a 3.2 per cent pay rise and councils say they cannot afford a higher offer without inflicting cuts to public services. In previous disputes, the SNP government has found extra cash to strike public sector pay deals despite previously claiming coffers were empty. Union leaders have warned that the country faces a "stinking Scottish summer" unless more money is found to meet their demands.

They have also been emboldened by public sector pay rises agreed in England by the UK Labour government.

Mr Day added: "I absolutely accept the members right to take action. They've seen the national settlement higher in England and I can see the argument for a little more.

"We want the Scottish government and Cosla to get around that table and find that little more to avert strike action."

Talks took place on Tuesday involving Finance Secretary Shona Robison, Cosla leaders and the unions.

While no deal was agreed, Ms Robison said afterwards that her officials would work with town halls to "understand what an improved negotiating envelope may look like".

# Screaming mummy probably died in agony, Egyptologists decide

*By* **Sarah Knapton** SCIENCE EDITOR

AN EGYPTIAN mummy that appears to be screaming probably died an agonising death, experts have concluded.

In 1935, the body of a mysterious woman was discovered underneath a tomb at Deir Elbahari near Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes. She was found in a burial chamber beneath that of Senmut, the architect and overseer of royal works, and reportedly the lover of the queen Hatschepsut, who lived from 1479-1458 BCE.

When the mummy was unwrapped, her mouth was found to be wide open, giving the appearance that she was screaming.

It was initially thought the expression was the result of a sloppy embalming process which occurred because the woman had not been important. Usually embalmers would close the jaw and seal it with bandages.

Initial examinations also showed that her organs had not been removed, which, coupled with the open mouth, led experts to the conclusion she had not been worthy of full embalming. However, a new analysis by Cairo University found that she had been embalmed in expensive imported oils of frankincense and juniper, while her wig had been treated with quartz, magnetite and albite crystals, suggesting she was of high status. "The mummy's screaming facial expression in this study could be read as a cadaveric spasm, implying that the woman died screaming from agony or pain," said Dr Sahar Saleem, a professor of radiology at Kasr Al Ainy Hospital of Cairo University.

SAHAR SALEEM/SWNS

**The body of the mysterious woman was discovered in 1935 underneath a tomb at Deir Elbahari near Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes**

'The mummy's facial expression could imply that she died screaming in pain'

Cadaveric spasm is a rare form of muscular stiffening, typically associated with violent deaths under extreme physical conditions and intense emotion.

Experts believe the woman was mummified quickly after death before her jaw relaxed, leaving embalmers unable to close her mouth as usual.

"The Screaming Woman is a true 'time capsule' of the way that she died and was mummified," added Dr Saleem. "Here we show that she was embalmed with costly, imported embalming material. This, and the mummy's well-preserved appearance, contradicts the traditional belief that a failure to remove her inner organs implied poor mummification."

Experts believe it is likely she was an important relative of Senmut, whose fate is unknown. He left public life abruptly during Hatchepsut's reign and despite planning two elaborate tombs for himself, was not buried in either. In the new study, radiographers used CT scans to "virtually dissect" the screaming mummy and estimate her age, health and state of preservation.

The tests showed that she was around 48 years old when she died and just over 5ft tall. There was no obvious cause of death.

The presence of osteophytes, or bone spurs, on her vertebrae indicated she had mild arthritis of the spin.

She also lacked several teeth, which were probably lost before death as there was evidence of bone resorption, which occurs when a tooth comes out and the socket is left to heal. Other teeth were broken.

The mummy showed no embalming incision, which was consistent with the discovery that the brain, diaphragm, heart, lungs, liver, spleen, kidneys, and intestine were still present.

The classic method of mummification in the New Kingdom (1550–1069 BCE) included the removal of all such organs except the heart.

The woman was buried in a painted wooden coffin and wore two scarab rings in silver and gold.

The research was published in *Frontiers in Medicine*.

# GPs to halt NHS with first union action in 60 years

## Practices vote massively in favour of slowing services immediately, but insist they are not punishing patients

*By* **Laura Donnelly** HEALTH EDITOR

GPs have voted overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action.

The British Medical Association (BMA) said 98.3 per cent of its 8,500 GPs voting were in favour of the measures, which will take effect immediately.

Doctors have been told they can "pick and choose" from measures designed to wreak chaos across the health service. They include a cap on the number of appointments, meaning practices could turn away record numbers of patients, heaping pressures on 111 and A&E.

Health chiefs have warned that such a move could be "catastrophic", with pharmacists expecting a "significant surge" of patients who have been refused help by their GP.

Two in three GP members of the BMA voted in favour of the action.

The union said the impact of the measures would be a "slow burn" rather than a "big bang", as different surgeries will embark on different actions.

Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, chairman of BMA's GP committee for England, said: "We had a huge response to this ballot, and the results are clear – GPs are at the end of their tether. This is an act of desperation. For too long, we've been unable to provide the care we want to. We are witnessing general practice being broken. The era of the family doctor has been wiped out by recent consecutive Governments and our patients are suffering as a result."

She added: "This will not be a 'big bang'. It will be a slow burn. It's likely that impact may not be felt for some time. We hope this will give the new Government time to consider our proposed solutions including fixing our contract once and for all."

However, she insisted: "It is industrial action, but the target isn't patients. The target is NHS England [and the] Department of Health."

Health chiefs urged the public to come forward for care as usual. NHS England said the "indefinite" action might cause some disruption to services, but said practices would be open, and patients could make requests by phone, online or walking in.

During collective action, practices are still required to be open between 8am and 6.30pm on weekdays

Officials said it was vital that patients attend their appointments unless they are told otherwise, and practices should inform them of any changes to services.

Patients should continue to use 111 for urgent medical help when their GP practice is unavailable and if it is a serious or life-threatening emergency call 999, they said.

Malcolm Harrison, chief executive of the Company Chemists' Association, said pharmacists are braced to see "significantly more patients" as the action takes effect.

GPs have not staged action since 1964 when family doctors collectively handed in undated resignations to the Wilson government.

Patients' groups called the plans "selfish" and said GPs risked losing the support of the public in an attempt to argue against contracts which are already generous. The majority of GPs are partners, with average annual earnings of £153,000, while most work a three-day week.

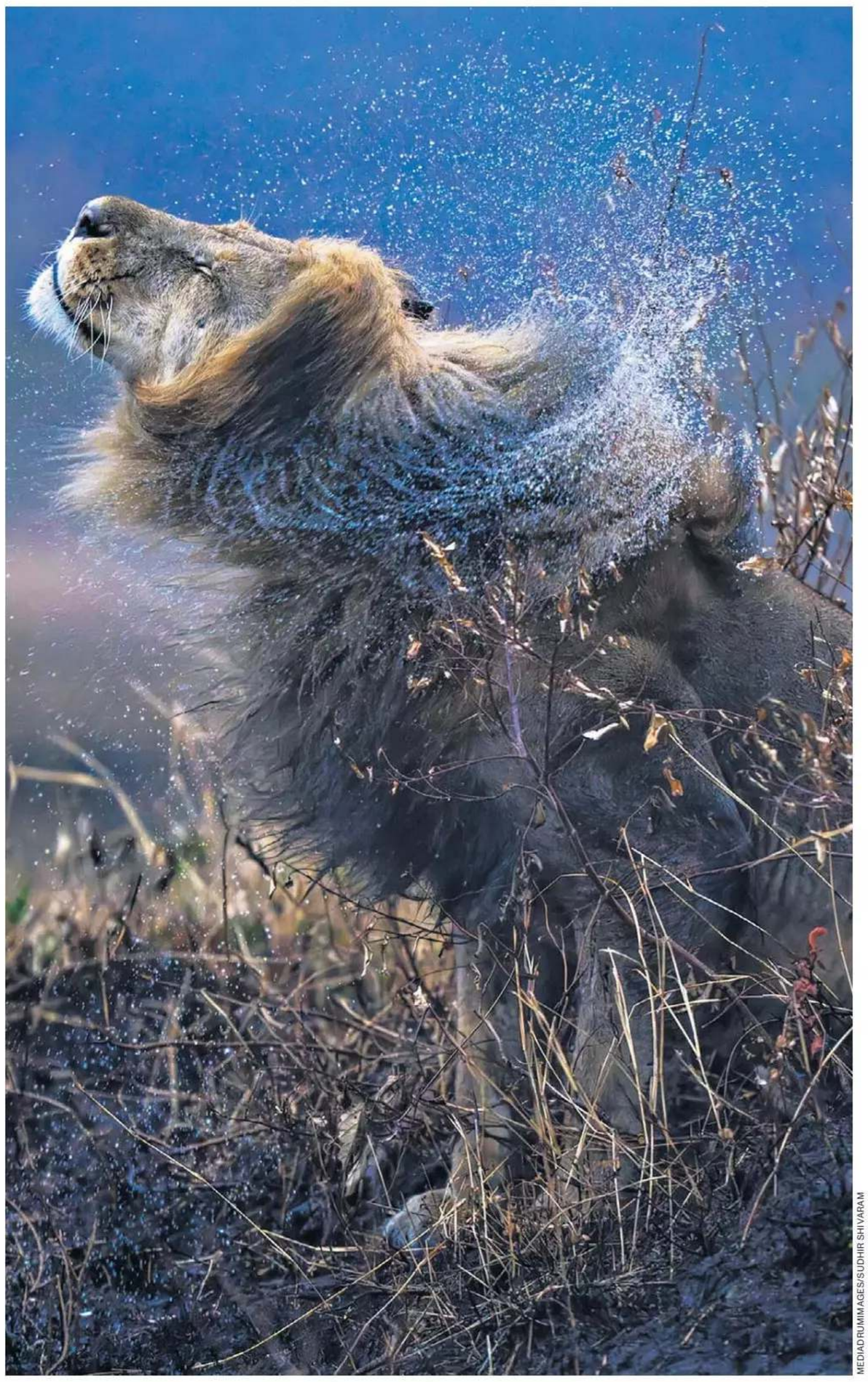
The vote came despite a 6 per cent pay rise for GPs announced by the Chancellor on Monday, and "emergency measures" announced by the Health Secretary yesterday morning to boost the GP workforce by 1,000.

Wes Streeting has pledged to divert billions of pounds to general practice over the course of the next term in Government to "fix the front door of the NHS".

Currently, general practices get only 6 per cent of guaranteed funding.

The BMA's GP committee for England has said this should increase by 1 per cent a year, up to 15 per cent, without any cuts from elsewhere.

The announcement came hours after Mr Streeting appealed to GPs not to take part in the action, pledging to slash red tape to bring an extra 1,000 GPs into work this year and to strip out many "box-ticking" targets.



MEDIADRUMIMAGES/SUDHIR SHIVARAM

**Rainy mane** Wildlife photographer Sudhir Shivaram braved the pouring rain in Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve to capture this image of a lion shaking its fur dry.

# Judge forced to rule on whether couple's twin children exist

*By* **Charles Hymas**

A JUDGE has had to rule on whether two children exist in a "perplexing" High Court case over custody.

Mrs Justice Arbuthnot had to decide whether a mother or father was lying about the existence of their two children. The mother claimed they had never been born, which, if true, would have denied the father right of access.

The father, known only as AA for legal reasons, claimed the mother, known as ZZ, was lying and that he had evidence to support his contention.

In a ruling on Wednesday, Mrs Justice Arbuthnot called the case "perplexing" and "unusual", stating she had a "sense of having stumbled into an alternative reality" during proceedings.

She ruled that there was "strong evidence" the woman was previously pregnant and that she "wanted to cover [it] up", deeming there to be "some evidence that at least one child was born".

But the judge said there was "insufficient evidence" to say the woman gave birth to twins, and that she "cannot say" where the child is currently.

She said: "This is an unusual case because either [AA] or [ZZ] had lied about the pregnancy and the birth of these children for more than three years."

She continued: "The lies one of them had told had been complicated, persistent and very well planned."

Across several hearings in London between November 2023 and May 2024, the man claimed that he was the father of twin sons who were living with their mother or her family, but that she had hidden the birth from doctors.

The births of the two children, alleged to have occurred in February 2021, were never registered but the man claimed that over two years the woman told him that she was pregnant, had seen a midwife, the weight of the babies once they were born and that they looked like him.

But the woman told the court that she was never pregnant and that her ex-partner had doctored evidence of pregnancy as "revenge" for her reporting one of his family members to the police.

The judge ruled that some of the evidence for AA's claims was "probably forged" to substantiate his claims. ZZ's GP had no record of a pregnancy. However, she ruled that a birth had happened.

While the hospital said no twins were born there in February 2021, the judge found that ZZ later contacted the hospital asking for none of her medical records to be stored or shared with the NHS. This, the judge ruled, was part of efforts by the woman to cover up a pregnancy, although it remained "unclear" where the child was born.




morrisons.com For your nearest Morrisons store please visit www.morrisons.com or telephone 0345 611 6111. w/c 29/07/24 Available in majority of stores. Subject to availability. Offers/prices may vary online and at Morrisons Daily. the Best Prosecco Valdobbiadene DOCG 75cl, offer ends Sunday 1st September. Shawarma Chicken Thighs 750g, £4.25, 56p/100g. Sweet Chilli Pork Koftas 340g, £4.25, £1.25/100g. the Best Steak Burgers 340g, £3.75, £1.10/100g. the Best Gluten Free 6 Pork Sausages 400g, £3.25, 81p/100g. Serving suggestion.

# Forces get a 21st-century flying squad with drone responders

*By* **Gareth Corfield**
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

**The unmanned drones are being sent to emergency calls and relaying footage back to a police incident room**

POLICE are trialling the use of drones as first responders to emergency calls.

A demonstration this week of the so-called "drone as first responder", or DFR technology, showed how a drone could be speedily deployed to find a missing person.

Norfolk Constabulary are running the trial with unmanned aircraft, which will be sent to emergency incidents if trials are successful, a force spokesman confirmed.

The trial was part of a £230 million scheme announced by Jeremy Hunt, the Conservative former chancellor, in his final Budget speech. Mr Hunt said in March: "Police officers waste around eight hours a week on unnecessary admin – with higher productivity, we could free up time equivalent to 20,000 officers over a year.

"So we will spend £230 million rolling out time and money saving technology which speeds up police response time by allowing people to report crimes by video call and where appropriate use drones as first responders."

During a demonstration this week, a simulated emergency call from the University of East Anglia's campus prompted police drone operators to scramble their craft over the campus, hunting for a missing person reported nearby.

Supt Taryn Evans, the National Police Chiefs' Council's strategic lead on drones, said: "The Norfolk trial is an important showcase of just how effective DFR can be at supporting our response to 999 calls, arriving on scene quickly and giving invaluable 'eyes in the sky'.

"Each trial enables us to test how DFR could work in different environments and support different operational purposes, enhancing both public and officer safety."

A spokesman for the policing body added: "By getting to the scene of any incident in an urban or rural fringe environment within minutes and providing a bird's eye view directly into a force's incident room, the emergency response can be much better tailored."

Drones have taken over a number of tasks that used to be carried out by police helicopters, which cost thousands of pounds per hour to fly.

The Norfolk trial is part of four such schemes across the country.

Thames Valley Police tested drone responders at the Isle of Wight Festival this year. A police spokesman said this would be repeated in further trials at a range of events over the summer.

Last year Devon and Cornwall Police used its drones to track dangerous drivers, using on-board cameras to record footage of inappropriate motoring from as far as four miles away.

Around 400 drones in total are flown by the UK's 45 police forces.

# Old cars blamed for increase in breakdowns

*By* **Gareth Corfield**

THE increasing age of Britain's cars has been blamed for an increase in breakdowns.

Breakdown rescue service Green Flag said analysis of Government data found the average age of cars on Britain's roads has risen by 42 per cent over the past 20 years, from 6.6 years in 2003 to 9.4 years in 2023.

The insurer attributed this to an improvement in the quality of vehicles, a jump in the cost of motoring and delays in the production of new models.

Meanwhile, National Highways' figures show the number of breakdowns recorded on motorways and major A roads in England has increased by nearly a fifth from around 229,600 in 2019 to 274,600 last year. The company's figures also show the level of breakdowns between June and August last year was 9 per cent higher than the average for the entire year.

Green Flag's own call-out statistics show older cars are more likely to suffer a breakdown than newer models.

> 'Cars are lasting longer, which is a good thing, but cars do tend to have more breakdowns as they age'

One in five cars that are nine-years-old will malfunction in a year, compared with one in seven vehicles that are six-years-old.

Green Flag has urged motorists to maintain their vehicles properly to reduce the chances of becoming stranded on the side of the road.

Green Flag managing director Katie Lomas said: "Generally cars are lasting longer, which is a good thing. However, cars do tend to have more breakdowns as they age and this is reflected both in our own call out rates and the rising number of breakdowns."

Car maintenance tasks that can be done at home include checking oil, coolant, and tyre treads and pressures.

Mandatory MoT safety inspections are required for all cars older than three years. The Government decided in 2018 not to extend the three-year MoT test requirement to four years, saying that although modern cars are much safer than in 1967, "there has been a clear public concern that any further changes don't put people's lives at risk."

# Don't push me out to Reform, says Braverman

## Former home secretary's advocated policies said to be '99 per cent match' for those of Farage's party

*By* **Tim Sigsworth**

SUELLA BRAVERMAN said she hopes she is not "driven out" of the Conservative Party by Tory MPs as she insisted she had no intention of defecting to Reform UK.

The former home secretary denied speculation she could switch to Nigel Farage's party, but suggested she may feel forced to leave the Tories and join his ranks in the future.

Mrs Braverman last week announced her decision to withdraw from the Conservative leadership contest because she said the party did not want to hear the truth about why it had lost the general election.

Speaking to GB News's Chopper's Political Podcast, Mrs Braverman said: "I'm not going to defect to Reform. And I hope I'm not driven out to Reform by my colleagues."

She added: "We talk about a broad church. We should not be hounding out conservatives, Right-wingers, Eurosceptics, people who want to stand up for our flag and our faith."

> 'We should not be hounding out people who want to stand up for our flag and our faith'

Speculation has run rife in recent months that Mrs Braverman could defect to Reform.

Lee Anderson, who became a Reform MP after leaving the Tories, said earlier this week that she would be welcome to join the party and would "probably take half the membership with her" if she defected.

"Suella knows where the true Conservatives sit in the chamber, and she is quite welcome to join us," she said.

He said there was a 99 per cent match between Reform'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."

Mr Farage has also offered overtures to Mrs Braverman.

In June, he said: "I do like her, I do admire her, but I'm afraid at the moment all marriage plans are off."

He added: "She can join Reform after the election."

Mrs Braverman, the MP for Fareham and Waterlooville, has called for Britain to leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which Reform also supports.

She has previously said the Conservative Party should embrace Reform and its four million voters.

In 2022, Mrs Braverman came fourth in the Tory leadership contest behind Penny Mordaunt, Rishi Sunak and eventual winner Liz Truss.

But she has now said she believes "that will be it for me I think" after not receiving support from enough MPs to run again this time around.

"I won't put myself forward again," she said. "I am very happy. I have had a go."

The ex-home secretary went on to say that the Tories had "no chance of winning" another election if Reform remains a "viable alternative" for Right-wing voters.

> 'There is not enough room in British politics for two conservative parties'

"There is not enough room in British politics for two conservative parties," she said. "Reform and the Conservatives cannot co-exist in the way that they are.

"We will have no chance of winning the next general election as long as Reform is a viable alternative."

As she bowed out of the leadership race on Sunday, Mrs Braverman said the threat of Reform to the Tories would not be neutralised by comparing it to the Nazis.

"Nigel Farage destroyed us," she said. "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."

ASADOUR GUZELIAN

**Taken as red** The York Guard, wearing the city's livery, lead this year's Yorkshire Day parade from the Guildhall to York Minster. About 200 mayors, civic dignitaries and mace bearers from across Yorkshire take part in the event – thought to be one of the world's biggest gatherings of civic leaders – which is hosted on Aug 1 by a different town or city each year.

# Rayner rebukes Khan for 'falling well short' on housebuilding

*By* **Nick Gutteridge**

ANGELA RAYNER has rebuked Sadiq Khan over low levels of housebuilding in London.

The Housing Secretary's department says delivery of new homes has "fallen well short" of what is required under Mr Khan's watch as mayor. The statement is the first sign of tension between the pair following Ms Rayner's move to overhaul planning rules and reintroduce mandatory housing targets.

It follows criticism of her decision to water down the capital's target, shaving 20,000 off the number of new homes that need to be built.

Ms Rayner has reversed an "urban uplift" policy introduced by the previous Tory government that allocated more new homes to London and other big cities. In doing so, she reduced the number of extra houses the capital will have to deliver from 100,000 to 80,000 in a major boost for the mayor.

But that figure is still more than double the 35,000 new-builds a year that have been delivered recently. The Ministry for Housing defended the move to reduce London's target, saying the level the Tories set it at was "divorced from reality".

It added: "More important than setting a deeply ambitious but credible target is of course meeting it. The Government is clear that recent delivery in London has fallen well short of what is needed."

The department pledged to "work in partnership" with Mr Khan and the Greater London Authority "to turn this around, including by optimising density and through Green Belt review". Ms Rayner's decision to reduce London's housing target and redirect more new housing to shire areas has sparked a Tory backlash.

> 'Labour have shredded housing targets in London, where we need homes the most'

Analysis by *The Telegraph* revealed that targets in Conservative council areas have been increased by six times more than in Labour ones. Robert Jenrick, a Tory leadership contender, accused the Housing Secretary of playing politics by sparing her own MPs from new developments.

"Labour have shredded housing targets in London, where we need homes the most and the potential productivity gains are greatest," he said.

"Starmer's plan might work for London Labour, but it is bad for Britain. Milk lasts longer than Starmer's 'country first, party second' pledge has." The latest development comes despite the fact that Sir Keir Starmer praised Mr Khan's record on housing when he was seeking re-election as mayor earlier this year.

In an article for *The Guardian*, the then leader of the opposition said Mr Khan had "transformed the mayoralty from a laughing stock to showing leadership". He said: "Overall housing completions recently hit their highest level in London since the 1930s and more new council homes are being built now than at any time since the 1970s."

# Reeves will break manifesto pledge on taxes, warns Jenrick

*By* **Ben Riley-Smith** POLITICAL EDITOR

ROBERT JENRICK will accuse Labour of preparing to break its election promise not to raise taxes in his first speech as a Conservative leadership candidate.

Addressing a rally in the East Midlands today, Mr Jenrick will admit that the Tories have a "mountain to climb" if they are to regain power at the next general election. But he will argue that it is possible.

Mr Jenrick is vying with Kemi Badenoch as the bookmakers' favourite in the Tory leadership contest, with William Hill changing its odds yesterday to put him in first place.

In his speech, Mr Jenrick will take the fight to Sir Keir Starmer. He will say: "For a government so fresh, their solutions are so tired. Already, just a few weeks in, Labour have misled Parliament about public spending and in the autumn they will break their election promises not to raise taxes. They won't commit to a timetable to raise the defence budget. They've scrapped the ambition to build homes in the places where we need them most. They've released dangerous criminals early. They've sacrificed the North Sea oil and gas industry at the high altar of net zero zealotry. They've scrapped the only credible plan to secure our borders."

Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, this week said explicitly that she would have to "increase" tax in her autumn Budget. Labour promised not to raise tax on "working families" throughout the election campaign and repeatedly played down the idea that further tax rises would be needed. Ms Reeves has said she will not increase income tax, VAT or National Insurance.

Elsewhere in the speech, Mr Jenrick will argue his party has to be honest about where it went wrong in office if it wants to regain power in 2029. Mr Jenrick will say: "If the party learns the hard lessons, listens to the country and shows the party has changed... I know we can win again. Not in two terms. Not in a decade. But at the next general election."

# Patel: Threats to MPs must be treated as terrorist offences

*By* **Dominic Penna**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREATS to MPs should be treated as terrorist offences, Dame Priti Patel has said.

Dame Priti, a Conservative leadership candidate and former home secretary, condemned abuse targeted at parliamentarians as an "attack on democracy".

Her remarks came after Jonathan Hall KC, the reviewer of terror legislation, said police must be "open" to launching terrorism investigations into threats of violence to MPs.

Dame Priti said: "I agree. Threats towards MPs are an attack on democracy, and should be treated in the same way as terrorism. I have seen too many friends and colleagues from all parties both afraid and physically hurt, and not a day goes by where I don't think about my dear friend Sir David Amess.

"As leader of the opposition, I would continue to work with Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Government, and the police and security services to ensure that the safety of our public servants is paramount. We cannot let anyone undermine our freedoms and democracy."

**Dame Priti Patel said abuse of MPs amounted to attacks on democracy**

In an interview with *The House* magazine, Mr Hall said terrorism was "absolutely what's in play" when politicians receive threats of violence.

"The police should be open to carrying out terrorism investigations if they find concerted and organised threats - not use of violence – but threats of violence to MPs," he said.

# Labour's inheritance tax stance made me feel guilty, says Skinner

*By* **Cameron Henderson**

FRANK SKINNER has said he has been put off Labour by its threats to raise inheritance tax.

The comedian, 67, said he has always voted for Labour but is "made to feel a bit guilty" by the party's rhetoric on the controversial tax.

"When I hear Labour talking about people who earn this [much]...I think, but I had nothing, I worked really hard," he told the BBC's *The Today* Podcast.

"I thought you'd like me. I thought I'd be a poster boy...[showing] working class people can actually get on and compete and can do well, but now you're lumping me with all those people who inherited a load of money."

Skinner added: "I just think when it's things like inheritance tax and stuff like that, you should be in a special section if you crawled up from nothing. I shouldn't be in the same section as the Rees-Mogg children."

His comments came amid concern that Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, is paving the way towards raising inheritance tax after unveiling a £22 billion fiscal black hole in the government finances.

Ms Reeves accused the Tories of "covering up" the true state of the public finances and warned that following a series of cuts there would be more "difficult decisions" in the months ahead.

With Labour having ruled out raising National Insurance, the basic, higher or additional rates of income tax, or VAT as part of its manifesto, inheritance tax, pensions reliefs and capital gains, appear likely targets as Ms Reeves seeks to raise more than £10 billion.

Skinner grew up on a council estate in Oldbury and has previously said he votes Labour, "but only because of some vague sense of working-class duty".

Speaking to the BBC podcast, Skinner also said he feels "educated" by cancel culture.

"All this recent woke politics of the last 10 years has had an effect on me," he said.

# Hamas leader 'killed by Mossad bomb'

## Iran considering revenge attack on Tel Aviv after the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Telegraph told

*By* **Jotam Confino**

MOSSAD agents in Iran detonated an explosive device in the bedroom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh which had been planted months earlier, it has been reported.

The bomb was put in place eight weeks ago in the house run and protected by the IRGC, according to the *New York Times*, which cited seven Middle Eastern officials, including two Iranians, and an American.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the report to *The Telegraph*.

The bomb was detonated remotely when it was confirmed that the Hamas leader was inside the property. Haniyeh had apparently stayed in the guesthouse several times in the past.

Two IRGC officials said the explosion shook the building, and shattered some windows.

The security breach was described as "catastrophic" and a "tremendous embarrassment" for the IRGC, according to the three Iranian officials.

US outlet Axios reported that Mossad was behind the assassination and planted the explosive device in Haniyeh's bedroom.

The bomb was reportedly a "high-tech device that used artificial intelligence".

While Israel has not taken responsibility for the assassination, five Middle Eastern officials said the US and Western governments were briefed by Israeli intelligence in the aftermath of the blast.

The planning of the attack took months and required extensive surveillance of the compound, the officials added.

Israel was bracing itself for Iran to respond with one official telling *The Telegraph* "sensitive sites" were being protected across the country.

While Hamas said that the response will be harsh, the terror group said neither it nor Iran are interested in a regional war.

Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, said that Israel "crossed a line" with its killing of a senior commander in Beirut on Tuesday and that Israel will not know where the response will come from.

Israel should expect "rage and revenge on all the fronts supporting Gaza", Nasrallah said.

Benjamin Netanyhau, the prime minister, said Israel is "prepared for what may come".

"Israel is in a state of very high readiness for any scenario – on both defence and offence. We will exact a very high price for any act of aggression against us from any quarter whatsoever," he said.

An official within the IRGC told *The Telegraph* that Iran is considering targeting Tel Aviv in revenge for Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran.

"Top commanders were awake all night evaluating the options. Now that Mr Haniyeh's funeral has concluded, they are discussing practical responses," said the IRGC official who attended the funeral.

"The first step is to determine the country from which the attack originated, that will be our initial target. Targeting Tel Aviv directly is under consideration but has not been approved yet. The commanders need to review our options.

VAHID SALEMI/AP

**Iranians mourn the passing of late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh during a funeral procession in Tehran yesterday**

"There are also discussions about co-ordinating a missile attack with Hezbollah, but first, they must pinpoint the exact launch site.

"The response will come from Sepah [the IRGC] in co-ordination with other military forces."

Yesterday, Israel confirmed the death of Mohammed Deif, the Hamas chief-of-staff, more than two weeks after it launched a deadly airstrike in Gaza to kill him.

"Deif was responsible for the terrible massacre of October 7 as well as for many murderous terrorist attacks against the citizens of Israel. He was Israel's most wanted fugitive for many years," Mr Netanyhau said.

The IDF said fighter jets conducted a "precise, targeted strike on a compound in which Mohammed Deif and Rafa'a Salameh, the Commander of Hamas' Khan Yunis Brigade, were located".

Haniyeh's body was brought to Qatar yestersday following a public funeral in Tehran.

He will be buried in Doha today after prayers at the Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque. The Hamas leader lived in Qatar along with other senior exiled members of the terror group.

The burial, Hamas said, will be held "with popular and factional attendance and the participation of Arab and Islamic leaders."

Thousands of people gathered on the streets of Tehran yesterday to pay their respects to the terror leader, following a ceremony attended by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and top IRGC leaders.

Both Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for the assassination of Haniyeh.

Israel has not taken responsibility for the assassination, but when IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari was asked about it during a press briefing yesterday, he said: "There was no additional airstrike in the Middle East that night, nor was there any missile or UAV," referring to an Israeli airstrike the same night that killed a top Hezbollah commander in Beirut. Hezbollah did not clear sensitive sites or evacuate top officials in Beirut ahead of the Israeli strike as the group believed that the US would convince Israel not to strike the capitol, Reuters reported citing diplomats and security sources close to Hezbollah.

> 'Now that Mr Haniyeh's funeral has concluded, they are discussing practical responses'

"We were not expecting them to hit Beirut and they hit Beirut," Lebanon's foreign minister Abdallah Bou Habib told Reuters.

Several of the diplomats told Reuters that there was a "clear message sent" to Lebanon that Israel would not attack big cities.

"Israelis do not listen to a word that we tell them. They are following their plan and don't listen to us," a European diplomat told Reuters.

# Survivor of Israeli poison plot tipped as new terror group chief

*By* **Our Foreign Staff**

KHALED MESHAAL has been tipped as one of several possible candidates to become Hamas's new political leader after the assassination of Ismael Haniyeh.

Khaled Meshaal became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a botched attempt to kill hm outside his office in Amman, Jordan.

The hit against the senior figure of the Palestinian militant group, which was ordered by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, so enraged Jordan's then-King Hussein that he spoke of hanging the would-be killers and scrapping Jordan's peace treaty with Israel unless the antidote was handed over. Israel did so and also agreed to free Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was then the Hamas leader, only to assassinate him seven years later.

For Israelis and Western states, the Iran-backed Hamas, which has directed suicide bombings in Israel and fought frequent wars against it, is a terrorist group bent on Israel's destruction. For Palestinian supporters, Meshaal and the rest of the Hamas leadership are fighters for liberation from Israeli occupation, keeping their cause alive where international diplomacy has failed.

Meshaal, 68, became Hamas's political leader in exile the year before Israel tried to eliminate him, a post that enabled him to represent the Palestinian Islamist group at meetings with foreign governments around the world, unhindered by tight Israeli travel restrictions that affected other Hamas officials. Hamas sources said Meshaal was expected to be chosen as the man to replace Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Iran on Wednesday.

**Khaled Meshaal was the target of a botched assassination attempt in 1997**

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official who is based in Qatar and has headed Hamas negotiators in indirect Gaza truce talks with Israel, has also been a possibility for the leadership as he is a favourite of Iran and its allies in the region.

Meshaal's relations with Iran have been strained due to his past support for the Sunni Muslim-led revolt in 2011 against Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

Meshaal has been a central figure at the top of Hamas since the late 1990s, though he has worked mostly from the relative safety of exile as Israel plotted to assassinate other prominent Hamas figures based in the Gaza Strip. He rejects the idea of a permanent peace deal with Israel but has said that Hamas, which in the 1990s and 2000s sent suicide bombers into Israel, could accept a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem as a temporary solution in return for a long-term ceasefire.

Meshaal said the Oct 7 attack returned the Palestinian cause to the centre of the world agenda. He urged Arabs and Muslims to join the battle against Israel and said Palestinians alone would decide who runs Gaza after the current war ends in defiance of Israel and the United States who want to exclude Hamas from post-war governance. Meshaal has lived most of his life outside the Palestinian territories. Born in Silwad near the West Bank city of Ramallah, he moved as a boy with his family to the Gulf Arab state of Kuwait, a hotbed of pro-Palestinian sentiment. At the age of 15, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood, the Middle East's oldest Islamist group.

> 15
>
> **Meshaal's age when he joined the Muslim Brotherhood**

The Brotherhood became instrumental in the formation of Hamas in the late 1980s during the first Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Meshaal became a schoolteacher before turning to lobbying for Hamas from abroad for many years while other leaders of the group have languished for long periods in Israeli jails. He was in charge of international fund-raising in Jordan when he barely escaped assassination.

# Cough syrup-flavoured ice cream sticks in the throat of Malaysian health officials

*By* **Sarah Newey**
GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CORRESPONDENT *in Bangkok*

A MALAYSIAN artisan ice cream brand has landed in hot water over its latest special edition flavour: vanilla topped with cough syrup.

Inside Scoop was forced to withdraw its new creation after the Ministry of Health warned that mixing ice cream with cough syrup was against the law and may threaten consumer safety.

This week, the chain – which has 49 stores in the south-east Asian country selling "premium" ice cream "without artificial flavourings or preservatives" – launched a limited edition flavour combining vanilla ice cream with a syringe of Pei Pa Koa, a popular herbal cough syrup.

Inside Scoop touted the ice cream as a soothing and "cooling" sweet treat inspired by similar products in neighbouring Singapore – including Pei Pa Koa flavoured milk and bubble teas. But the government disagreed. "The Malaysian ministry of health is aware and takes seriously the sale of ice cream products mixed with traditional cough medicine Pei Pa Koa," the department said in a statement on Facebook.

It added that mixing medicines registered with the Drug Control Authority with food is illegal under the Food Act and could trigger a fine of 20,000 Malaysian ringgit (£3,400) or five years in prison.

"Accordingly, all premises that carry out the activity of selling these products are instructed to immediately stop the sale for the purpose of safety for consumers and the public," the ministry said. As the saga was reported across Malaysian media, debates erupted on social media, where many users were concerned the flavour could encourage cough syrup abuse among teenagers.

**Inside Scoop was using cough syrup as a sauce**

But Inside Scoop rapidly complied, telling the *New Strait Times* that the flavour had been recalled and discarded nationwide after a call from regulators.

"We view the matter raised by the ministry very seriously and apologise for any inconvenience caused," said Andrew Hong, the chain's marketing director.

"It is known to be a hot-selling flavour in Singapore and this inspired Inside Scoop to churn out its very own Pei Pa Koa flavour... We were genuinely unaware of the health ministry's regulation."

# Putin's drone attack on my house was fifth effort to kill me, says defector Russian MP

*By* **James Kilner**

A FORMER Russian MP who defected to Ukraine has accused the Kremlin of trying to kill him in a drone attack on his house in Kyiv.

Ilya Ponomarev published a photograph of himself covered in blood and bruises after the night drone attack, which Ukrainian media said struck just outside his front door.

"Today seems to be my second birthday. The fifth attack attempt was the most unconventional and the most successful and difficult to defend against. But to hell with them," he said in a post on social media.

More photographs showed extensive damage to Mr Ponomarev's three-storey house on the edge of Kyiv.

All the windows of the house appear to have been blown out. Debris from the ripped roof and destroyed balconies litter the foreground.

Mr Ponomarev was an opposition MP in Russia and renowned as being the only lawmaker to vote against the annexation of Crimea in 2014. He said that he was forced to leave the country shortly after the vote.

He moved to Kyiv in 2019 and has been a vocal opponent of the war, helping in 2022 to set up an anti-Kremlin Free Russia Legion - a unit of Russians who fight for the Ukrainian army. They have staged several cross-border attacks into Russia's southern Belgorod region since the start of the invasion.

**Ilya Ponomarev, a Russian defector, had his house bombed yesterday by drones**

The Ukrainian Air Force said Russia had attacked Ukraine with seven drones on Wednesday evening. It said: "All of them were shot down by anti-aircraft defence in the Kyiv region, Poltava region, Kherson region and Dnipropetrovsk region."

The Kyiv city authorities said at least two people had been injured by falling debris from the drone attacks.

The Kremlin has denounced Mr Ponomarev as a traitor and accused him of participating in a terrorist organisation and disseminating fakes about the Russian army.

Russian agents have been linked with multiple assassination plots in Ukraine over the past decade, including against Volodymyr Zelensky which the Ukraine security services have claimed credit for foiling.

# Saudi Arabia looks to the stars for World Cup football stadium

*By* **Iona Cleave**

SAUDI Arabia is planning a World Cup football stadium 350 metres (1,150ft) above ground level in its still-unbuilt futuristic city The Line.

The proposed venue, Neom, would be one of 15 stadiums built for the country's 2034 World Cup bid, in what is expected to be the most expensive sports construction project ever attempted.

Eleven of the stadiums will be new, eight in the capital Riyadh and four in the second city Jeddah, according to plans unveiled by the Gulf kingdom's sporting body.

Neom, which is intended to host the quarter-final fixtures, will be "the most unique stadium in the world" and will promise an "experience like no other", its designers say.

The opening and final matches however, are planned to take place at the King Salman Stadium, which will seat 92,000 and have VIP areas as well as "VVIP" areas.

Another stadium, named after Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, will hang over the edge of a 200m cliff.

A total of 132 training venues spread across 15 cities were proposed as base camps for the 48-team tournament and more than half would be built from scratch. Saudi Arabia has emerged as the only bidder for 2034, which has drawn sharp criticism from human rights groups over the country's long history of political oppression and anti-LGBT laws.

There are also fears migrant labourers will be exploited, following the widespread abuses documented during the construction of Qatar's £170 billion World Cup venues.

Saudi Arabia has paid huge sums to attract sporting events in recent times, moving from a backwater in international sports to be one of its major players.

In 2034, the kingdom will also host the Asian Games, a two-week tournament with more events than the summer Olympics.

The Neom stadium will be part of Saudi Arabia's projected 106-mile-long "linear city", a zero-carbon, urban centre to house nine million people in the desert sands of the country's deep northwest.

# Republicans rebuke Trump for 'racist' Harris remark

US ELECTIONS 2024

## Ex-president says his rival only recently turned black during 'meltdown that shows he's not fit for office'

*By* **Verity Bowman** *and* **Andrew Buncombe**

DONALD TRUMP has come under fire from fellow Republicans for saying Kamala Harris had only recently "turned black".

In a rare rebuke of the presidential nominee, Republicans voiced concerns over the remarks that have been condemned as racist.

"I think the better approach is to focus on the policies of Kamala Harris – that's what I've been talking about," said Senator Steve Daines of Montana, the GOP campaign chief.

Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri told reporters it is "not a great idea for either of the parties to be playing racial identity politics". Another senator, Thom Tillis of North Carolina, said he "clearly didn't like what he heard from Trump".

Appearing at a convention for black journalists on Wednesday, Trump asked if Ms Harris, the presumptive Democrat nominee was "Indian or is she Black?"

"I respect either one but she obviously doesn't, because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden, she made a turn and she went she became black," he continued.

Ms Harris responded saying the American people deserve better than such "divisiveness" and "disrespect".

Yet Trump, 78, has doubled down. On his Truth Social page he posted a previously published photograph of Ms Harris's mother's family wearing traditional Indian clothing.

"Thank you Kamala for the nice picture you sent from many years ago," he wrote with apparent heavy sarcasm. "Your warmth, friendship, and love of your Indian Heritage are very much appreciated."

Trump's running mate, JD Vance, piled on at a campaign rally on Wednesday evening mocking the way Ms Harris had spoken at a rally in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the battleground states.

"And you guys saw yesterday she was in Georgia, and she put on a southern accent for a Georgia audience," said Mr Vance.

"She grew up in Vancouver. What the hell is going on here? She is not who she pretends to be."

Ms Harris, 59, is of mixed race. Her father is Jamaican and her mother Indian.She served as attorney general of California before being elected senator.

In barely 10 days, Ms Harris, 59, is now running level with Trump in battleground states and Republicans are realising they face a tougher fight than most anticipated.

Politico said "virtually" every Republican it contacted was "flat-out distraught by what they perceive as a self-inflicted wound not only for Trump, but for Republicans down the ballot".

Without mentioning Trump by name, former Maryland governor Larry Hogan, a GOP candidate for the US Senate, said it is "unacceptable and abhorrent to attack vice-president Harris or anyone's racial identity".

Democrats also condemned the comments.

Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer termed Trump's appearance a "meltdown" that showed he was unfit for office.

Mark Kelly, a senator from Arizona and a favourite to become Ms Harris's running mate, said the remarks were "overtly racist".

Another potential pick, JB Pritzker, said Trump showed "racism coming through him".

This is not the first time Trump has been accused of race-baiting.

For many years he spearheaded a so-called "birther" movement to try and show Barack Obama was not born in the United States and thus not eligible to run for president.

Believing it was "a distraction" for Americans, Mr Obama released his full birth certificate showing he had been born in Hawaii as he had said.

In 2016, while running for president, Trump finally admitted as much, saying: "President Barack Obama was born in the United States, period."

PAUL BEATY/AP PHOTO

**Donald Trump was berated by politicians on both sides for his comments**

'She grew up in Vancouver. What the hell is going on here? She is not who she pretends to be'

# Airline's prized cup noodles off the menu after turbulence scare

*By* **Iona Cleave**

IT IS the end of an era for Korean Air after it announced it will stop serving its beloved instant cup noodles in response to increased turbulence issues.

The hot snack will be ditched in economy in favour of "safer", colder alternatives after a series of messy incidents and injuries.

"This decision is part of proactive safety measures in response to increased turbulence, aimed at preventing burn accidents," Korean Air said in a statement yesterday.

The cup noodles, which require boiling water, are a popular part of the airline's in-flight service and feature heavily on its social media.

"You know how one passenger starts slurping that noodle inside the cabin and more people are immediately enticed to order the same thing," a Korean Air official told the *Korea Times*.

"Then the cabin crews get busy preparing food and serving them, sometimes carrying multiple cups at once. When a plane at the same time hits turbulence and shakes, people can get hurt," they added.

The new era of noodle-less flights will be ushered in later this month and instead customers will be offered sandwiches or microwavable snacks like pizzas and hot pockets, the airline said.

However, the service change will only affect tightly packed economy seats as they pose a greater risk of spills and injuries compared with the spacious business class seats.

'When one person starts slurping that noodle... more people are enticed to order the same thing'

Concerns about turbulence on planes have heightened since a British passenger was killed and dozens more injured on board a Singapore Airlines flight from London in May. Korean Air said last month that it would be wrapping up cabin services 20 minutes earlier before landing in response to bumpier flight conditions.

The national airline is one of dozens tightening in-flight measures to adjust to what scientists say will be a more turbulent future owing to climate change.

Passengers are being told to sit with fastened seatbelts for longer, fewer meals are being served and rules are set to be introduced to ban "lap babies". Following the fatal incident, Singapore Airlines announced it will take a "more cautious approach to managing turbulence".

The carrier will suspend hot drink and meal services when the seatbelt sign is on, while cabin crew will be told to sit down during bumpy conditions.

Korean Air said it will "continue to seek service methods that are safe while increasing customer convenience and satisfaction".

# Musk challenges 'Dictator Maduro' to fight in wake of Venezuelan 'election fraud'

*By* **Verity Bowman**

ELON MUSK has accepted an invitation by Nicolás Maduro, the Venezuelan president, to a fight following criticism of his contested re-election.

Mr Musk, the world's wealthiest man, repeatedly criticised Mr Maduro on his social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, accusing him of "major election fraud" and labelling him a "dictator".

Mr Maduro was declared the winner in Venezuela's election on Sunday, although electoral authorities failed to disclose detailed results.

The result has been widely called into question, with the US and European Union demanding Venezuelan authorities release voting data.

"Shame on Dictator Maduro," Mr Musk wrote on X on Sunday. In response to Mr Musk's attacks, Mr Maduro declared on national television in Venezuela on Monday: "Do you want to fight? Let's do it. Elon Musk, I'm ready. I'm not afraid of you, Elon Musk. Let's fight, wherever you want."

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr Musk tweeted "I accept", adding that Mr Maduro "will chicken out".

"If I win, he resigns as dictator of Venezuela," Mr Musk posted to X. "If he wins, I give him a free ride to Mars."

Sunday's elections were held in the shadow of Mr Maduro's warnings of a "bloodbath" if he were to lose.

Venezuela has been thrown into uncertainty following the results, which Mr Maduro claims show he received 51 per cent of the votes.

Mr Maduro had promised to lead a free and fair election, but opponents have flagged issues including the barring of his opposition's main leader from running and reports that witnesses for his opponent were allegedly denied access to the centralised vote count.

The opposition claims their candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, is the rightful winner.

They have released extensive voting data they argue shows Gonzalez Urrutia defeating Mr Maduro by a significant margin, in line with pre-election polls.

On Wednesday, the *New York Times* released an analysis that shows Gonzalez Urrutia beat Mr Maduro by more than 30 percentage points.

The news outlet made the conclusions based on partial election results, provided by a group of researchers associated with Venezuela's main opposition alliance. The researchers estimated a result of 66 per cent for Gonzalez Urrutia versus 31 per cent for Mr Maduro, which closely matches the findings of an independent exit poll conducted nationwide on election day.

Mr Maduro said he was "ready to present 100 per cent of the records," as he addressed journalists outside the Supreme Court of Justice, where he filed an appeal against what he termed an "attack against the electoral process".

But he voiced outrage at opposition leader María Corina Machado and Gonzalez Urrutia, saying they "should be behind bars".

Protests have erupted across the country, resulting in the deaths of over a dozen individuals and the arrest of more than 1,000 people.

On Monday, security forces used tear gas and rubber bullets against Venezuelans who flooded the streets chanting "Freedom, freedom!" and "This government is going to fall!"

Ms Machado reported 177 detentions and 11 "forced disappearances", while Attorney General Tarek William Saab stated that over 1,000 people had been arrested during the protests, with some potentially facing terrorism charges.

**'I'm not afraid of you,' Nicolas Maduro told Elon Musk. 'Let's fight'**

**Elon Musk claimed Mr Maduro would 'chicken out' of any fight between the two**

Comment

# Unregulated social media disinformation is wrecking Britain

MIRIAM CATES

The violent scenes following the Southport stabbings were almost wholly the result of misleading posts that spread like wildfire on social media. Fabricated information about the attacker's race, religion and immigration status was shared and embellished, whipping up outrage across the country. This virtual storm had real world consequences, with riots spreading from Southport to Hartlepool and London.

From the Peasants' Revolt in the 14th century to the race riots of the early 1980s, England is no stranger to civil unrest. But the invention of social media has exponentially increased the speed at which protests can be triggered and spread.

It is no coincidence that the Arab Spring happened in the early 2010s, at the very moment that smartphones became ubiquitous and global social media usage took off.

New technology can be used for good or ill, but the ability for false information to spread rampantly online now poses serious security threats in democracies like ours. Outrageous stories – those that tap into our fears or suspicions – are especially prone to virality since social media algorithms amplify incendiary posts.

There are serious questions to answer about why the atmosphere is now so febrile in the UK. But however legitimate the causes of public discontent, we cannot allow Britain to descend into a pattern of violence and lawlessness that is fuelled by reckless online rumours.

Clearly the authorities must do something about social media being used to spread lies and stir up riots. But there are serious risks to civil liberties inherent in any attempt to crack down on online communications. What governments and tech companies class as "misinformation" sometimes turns out to be true. During Covid, many believe the British state attempted to suppress views that questioned the efficacy of lockdowns or masks, yet much of this scepticism has turned out to be well-founded. And even when the information being shared is just plain wrong, any suspicion of censorship just increases the power of conspiracy theories.

The sad truth is that Britain is now a low-trust society. The loss of a cohesive majority culture without democratic consent and a failure to allow open debate on these important issues have meant that many people are increasingly distrustful of those in authority. Social media has itself accelerated these trends, drawing users into bespoke and polarising online cultures that erode any empathy for those with different points of view.

But that doesn't mean nothing can be done. The principal weakness of social media is that it offers freedom without responsibility. In the regulated traditional media, those publishing information are fully identifiable and face serious financial and even criminal sanctions if they are found to be lying. Yet online anonymous users can say whatever they like without repercussions. Freedom without responsibility is just anarchy.

These volatile political undercurrents are not going to evaporate any time soon. But we can avoid a descent into civil unrest by translating our historically successful "offline" rules around free speech into the online space by outlawing anonymous accounts.

Our freedoms must be balanced with responsibility. Free speech must come with accountability, whether you're a TikTok influencer or the editor of a newspaper.

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# Israel has shown it can still hit back – and now the world can sleep safer

Leaders in London and Washington don't like Tel Aviv's tactics. But Tehran's losses are the West's gain

DOUGLAS MURRAY

In the months since October 7 many have asked how this war might end. Many have pointed to the Israeli government's stated objectives of getting back the hostages that Hamas kidnapped and also destroying Hamas in its entirety. Some have enjoyed pointing out that these two aims seem to be mutually contradictory.

I have consistently had a different answer: the war will be over when Israel has reasserted its intelligence and military deterrence capabilities against its enemies. That is what Israel is now doing.

There is little purpose in destroying Hamas in Gaza if the far better armed and trained armies of Hezbollah continue to operate from southern Lebanon. This war started not just with the unparalleled savagery of Hamas's attacks but because Israel's defence and deterrence capabilities failed. Many Israeli civilians – and not just those who suffered most in the area of the Gaza border – were stunned that such an attack could take place. After years of hearing about the unprecedented intelligence and security advantage Israel has against its enemies, the Israeli public (and those who wish them harm) believed it.

Popular films and television shows bolstered this image. The Israeli-made show *Fauda*, for instance, shows plenty of nuance and complexity. But the Israelis always win out in the end; the "eyes in the sky" and other technology proved reassuring for viewers.

Quite how the security system was able to be broken down on October 7 will be a matter for the commission of inquiry once the war is over. What matters as much as that is for Israel to be able to reassert the deterrent capabilities it was believed to have had. It is vital for the Israeli public and for the stability of the wider region. Recent weeks have been a good start.

From the moment the October attacks happened many had the vision of the Munich Olympics massacre in their heads, and its aftermath. That was when the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad was tasked with hunting down and killing the ringleaders of the massacre – wherever they were.

The operation (popularised by Steven Spielberg's film *Munich*) was not just successful in killing the masterminds of that plot. It was successful in deterring others from committing a repeat.

In the past weeks Israel has adopted this strategy with stunning success. In the middle of July the Israelis carried out a strike in Gaza which they have now confirmed took out Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif – the terrorists' number two. Then at the weekend Iran's proxy army in south Lebanon – Hezbollah – fired a missile into a playground in northern Israel that killed 12 children from the Druze community as they were playing football. Israel's response came swiftly.

Israel launched a precision airstrike into the Lebanese capital of Beirut. The strike killed Fuad Shukr, one of Hezbollah's most senior commanders. He was also wanted by the authorities in the US for his involvement in the killing of 241 US military personnel in the Marine barracks bombing that the terrorists carried out in 1983. The short timer of Israeli justice ended up helping the long-arm of American justice.

Then just 10 hours later there was the explosion in Tehran which took out the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh. He was in Tehran to participate in the swearing-in of the new Iranian president, a man whose predecessor fell out of the sky in a helicopter some weeks ago. Although the BBC have been careful to refer to Haniyeh as "moderate and pragmatic", he was no such thing. He was one of the most senior figures in a brutal terrorist group which has no meaningful distinction between its "military" and "political" wings. After October 7 it was vital that he was targeted.

Now it has emerged that his killing was not the result of a targeted airstrike but came from a bomb placed months ago in the apartment in the Iranian government compound that he was being hosted in. The Israelis have not taken responsibility for the hit in Tehran. But it re-establishes Israel's deterrence capabilities.

Every one of the troubles affecting Israel at present originate in Iran. It is the Revolutionary Islamic government there that has made the eradication of Israel a priority. It is Iran that is ensuring that Israel is fighting a war on – effectively – seven fronts. Not just against Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah in Iran but against the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen among many others.

After the October 7 attacks – again funded and backed by Iran – the regime in Tehran looked on with satisfaction as the world turned not on Hamas but on Israel. The regime delighted in the useful idiots and others in the West turning against Israel rather than on the terrorists of Hamas. The Supreme Leader – Ayatollah Khamenei – even expressed his public gratitude and support for students at American universities who were bringing their institutions to a halt as a protest against Israel's right to defend itself.

How much happier they must have been in recent months as the preposterous nobodies at the so-called International Criminal Court declared that they were seeking arrest warrants for the democratically elected prime minister of Israel – Benjamin Netanyahu – and his defence minister. Oh and also for two of the leaders of Hamas. Since the ICC has no evidence of war crimes committed by the Israelis it has announced the warrants ahead of any investigation. A novel concept: to announce an arrest and then start looking for a crime. Though it is hardly surprising given the illegitimate nature of the court and the wild politicisation that has predictably occurred in it.

So where will the rest of Israel's allies be now?

In the US Kamala Harris is busily trying to boast to her base that she is being "tough" on the Israelis. There is little evidence that she intends to be even equally "tough" on Iran. And in the UK our new government has not only acceded to the preposterous ICC (and good luck David Lammy when your time for arrest comes), it has also repeatedly criticised the Israeli government.

It is the wrong time to do either. For the sake of peace in the Middle East it is necessary for Iran's terrorist chiefs to be hunted down. And if the British government wanted to do something meaningful for once, perhaps instead of grandstanding it could finally round up the regime operatives here in Britain? I wonder if they will.

FOLLOW *Douglas Murray on Twitter/X @DouglasKMurray;* READ MORE *at telegraph.co.uk/opinion*

What matters is for Israel to reassert its deterrent capabilities. This is vital for the Israeli public

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# The militant BMA is becoming an enemy of the people

Calling on the NHS to lift the ban on puberty blockers will embolden trans extremists and put children at risk

ELLA WHELAN

For most people, the Cass Review into gender-identity services in England came as a relief. Finally, an evidence-led, expert group of people led by a renowned paediatrician had confirmed what we all were thinking, using research instead of Twitter spats: puberty blockers are not safe to give to kids.

One of the few things the Conservative Party did right in its ill-fated last stretch in government was to ban puberty blockers, instituted by the then health secretary Victoria Atkins. The current Government seems to agree. Following a High Court challenge to the ban, which was upheld, Health Secretary Wes Streeting welcomed the ruling, arguing that being "evidence-led" was the key factor in any approach to children's healthcare.

And yet, in its infinite wisdom, the British Medical Association (BMA) has decided that the ban on puberty blockers should be lifted. Why? Because it didn't like the Cass Review.

In a statement published on Wednesday, the doctors' union argued that there were "weaknesses in the methodologies used in the Review and problems arising from the implementation of some of the recommendations".

This is a familiar argument levelled at Dr Hilary Cass and her team that data has essentially been "cherry-picked". But this misses the key argument for the Cass Review's criticism of medicalised pathways for gender dysphoric children – that there simply isn't enough good evidence to justify such radical medical intervention.

If doctors aren't nervous about doling out medicine that hasn't been properly tried and tested, what chance do the rest of us have? Isn't a central tenet of the Hippocratic Oath, do no harm? If the BMA was simply arguing that more research should be carried out into puberty blockers, many of us would agree. With such an exponential rise in the number of children – particularly girls – requesting medical intervention on account of feeling that they are "in the wrong body", well-researched and trustworthy medical knowledge is vital to make sure no mistakes have been made.

But that isn't what the BMA is arguing. In fact, it wants to continue as normal, allowing young people to pop pills to stop their bodies progressing along normal, healthy pathways to adulthood. It argues that trans children have been silenced by this ban. "It is time that we truly listen to this group of important, valued, and unfortunately often victimised people," the BMA's chair of Council Prof Philip Banfield says. This statement directly contradicts the opinions of many whistleblowers from the Tavistock and other clinics, who argued that doctors were being bullied into "affirming" the demands of children, rather than exerting their authority to keep them safe.

The BMA press release also links to a report published by the Integrity Project at Yale. This critique of the Cass Review reads like a political tract, despite pointing the finger at Cass for the exact same crime. "Our concerns about the Cass Review reflect the politicised context for transgender healthcare, especially for youth," it says, "if politics continue to interfere with transgender healthcare, clinical services and research in this field may not recover." This is a classic copy-and-paste response from trans activists – question our approach and you endanger us. Such hostility to scrutiny is worrying in the world of politics, and downright dangerous in the field of medicine.

Healthcare should not be politicised – and yet, in many cases, it is. From abortion care to access to contraception, trans people are hardly the first to have debates raised about their right to pills. The BMA is currently involved in industrial action, having just announced a "work-to-rule" for GPs protesting a new contract with measly pay increases. This is what most people consider the stuff of a doctors' union – regardless of whether they agree with its recent actions – not trying to curry favour with trans activists by playing politics.

The twisted logic of extreme trans ideology – that asserts the fiction that sex isn't real and all your problems can be solved by mutilating your body – has been adopted by too many working in healthcare. The ban on puberty blockers was informed by science and experts. But there is a broader political battle to be won by those of us not in white coats – one for truth, and the protection of our children.

FOLLOW *Ella Whelan on Twitter/X @Ella_M_Whelan* READ MORE *at telegraph.co.uk/opinion*

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ESTABLISHED 1855

# *Russia prisoner swap may prove costly*

Amid the bloodiest war Europe has seen since the Second World War – with hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians dead, wounded, and missing – fragments of good news are scarce indeed. So the release yesterday of many prominent prisoners of Putin's brutal regime in the largest exchange between Russia and the United States since the Cold War – involving 24 captives – will be welcomed by many, especially since the death of imprisoned Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny in February. As President Biden put it in a briefing at the White House, each prisoner has "endured unimaginable suffering and uncertainty. Today, their agony is over."

Among the released were several journalists, including *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich, Radio Liberty journalist Alsu Kurmasheva, and Russian-British Pulitzer Prize winner Vladimir Kara-Murza. It bears repeating that none of these individuals should ever have been behind bars. As this paper wrote back in March, no journalist should be detained for simply doing their job. They were victims of the appalling clampdown that has taken place in Russia ever since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

But Moscow always drives a hard bargain. In exchange for the journalists and others wrongly imprisoned, among the released was Vadim Krasikov, a notorious hitman who gunned down a Chechen dissident in Berlin in 2019, and others involved in violent crimes committed on Western soil. The thought of such criminals being back in Russia's arms will horrify many, as will the risk it may embolden other unscrupulous regimes. It has been a deliberate strategy of the Kremlin to lock up individuals who make powerful bargaining chips as Western powers arm Kyiv; the fear will be that this will encourage such immoral and illegal tactics elsewhere.

Those hoping the deal signifies a defrosting of the fraught relationship between Moscow and Western capitals are also likely to be disappointed – there has been a long history of prisoner exchanges over the decades, and Ukraine and Russia swap prisoners frequently despite being at war. That it has happened now speaks to the political reality in the United States, with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump regularly attacking the Democrats for their failure to bring American citizens home. Now they are back. But the comfort of their return could quickly give way to worry over the cost.

# *IOC boxing fiasco*

It should go without saying that biological women must not be put into a boxing ring against a competitor whose gender is unknown. Yet the Paris Olympics is now engulfed in a sex row after the first opponent of an Algerian fighter who failed a gender eligibility test at the 2023 Women's World Boxing Championships was forced to abandon her bout in just 46 seconds. Italy's Angela Carini broke down in tears after the dangerous and profoundly unfair spectacle, claiming she had been hit so hard that she "couldn't breathe any more".

The decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to allow Imane Khelif, who had been banned from competing in other events, into the Games has prompted outrage from women's rights organisations, with the UN's Reem Alsalem saying that Carini "and other female athletes should not have been exposed to this physical and psychological violence based on their sex".

The IOC's spokesman Mark Adams has said we have a "responsibility not to turn this into some kind of witch-hunt" but many would argue that the Games's far greater responsibility is the safety of its competitors. It is one thing for a track race to be unfair, but quite another to put a biological woman's life in danger.

For years, sporting bodies denied the inherent tension between fairness and inclusivity in sport, despite repeated warnings from JK Rowling, Martina Navratilova and many other women's rights campaigners to the contrary. When the IOC devolved decision-making over gender eligibility to individual associations, many of which then banned transgender women from competing in female events, it was hoped the issue would be resolved. The IOC now has serious questions to answer.

# *Dun-Naming*

The most popular house name in the United Kingdom, we report today, is The Cottage. It encourages expectations of a rural setting, though these may be disappointed. Of course, if all rural houses were called The Cottage, the postman, that threatened species, would have a hard time of it. Frogmore Cottage, with four bathrooms, fits the Royal family's modesty in language. The late Duke of Edinburgh was born in a house called Mon Repos, which ordinarily suggests something in Surrey with a small gravel drive. Yet proud owners of a semi-detached villa once had no qualms in calling it Balmoral, as a hundred examples prove. The class-conscious British laugh at one another's pretensions in naming a house, so if it is to be called The Pines, it had better have pines in evidence. But if it has a number, perhaps no name is required.

# Letters to the Editor

*We accept letters by post and email. Please include name, address, work and home telephone numbers.*

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## The Government's counterintuitive approach to house-building

SIR – Had I voted Labour, I would have hoped that the party would consider the matter of housing through the prism of common sense.

Has nobody suggested to Angela Rayner, the Housing Secretary, that building more homes in places where demand for them is robust – such as London, which has had its targets reduced (report, July 31) – might be a good start?
**Mike Kaye**
*Lincoln*

SIR – You report (August 1) that "Tory councils' house-building targets have been increased by six times more than Labour ones".

I do not know why anyone is surprised by what Labour is doing. I have lived through a few Labour governments, so knew what to expect. This is simple class warfare.
**David Carter**
*Worcester*

SIR – Labour keeps talking about all these new homes it is going to build, but governments do not build houses – house-builders do.

However, with the latest regulations – the policy of requiring builders to make any development about 40 per cent affordable housing, a community infrastructure charge and the obligation to provide a local authority-defined "benefit" – there are few incentives to encourage builders to take on developments.

Angela Rayner's plans are just what one would expect of a politician, showing little knowledge of the economics and planning requirements around the construction of houses.
**Ian Yule**
*London SW1*

SIR – It is time we had an audit of all the land held by developers in land banks. This could be carried out by local authorities.

They should be compelled to either start building without delay or sell, with the planning consent, to a builder ready to begin work within a short period of time.
**Mike Martindale**
*Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria*

SIR – The Government's proposals to meet increased demand for housing should include the mandatory incorporation of photovoltaic panels in all new builds, thus reducing the need for Ed Miliband to jeopardise this country's food security by covering good agricultural land with solar farms.
**A N Wilson**
*Stamfordham, Northumberland*

SIR – Roger White (Letters, August 1) blames architects for the poor designs of housing developers.

However, these developers almost never use architects, but instead rely on untrained technicians to carry out their design work – hence the low standard of most developments.
**Lynn Davis**
*Deal, Kent*

## Squeezing pensioners

SIR – As a senior citizen and member of the "lucky generation", who has enjoyed full employment and has an occupational and a state pension, I cannot argue with the Chancellor's decision to means-test the winter fuel allowance (Letters, August 1).

However, Rachel Reeves should be careful about targeting us old 'uns further.

In pubs, restaurants, cafés and other places, many of us are spenders aiding the economy – often to the benefit of young workers.
**Peter Tozer**
*Hinchley Wood, Surrey*

SIR – Rachel Reeves has insisted that Labour will not balance the books on the backs of hardworking people.

She has defined a working person as "someone who goes out to work for their income".

Exactly what does she think that I, and several million other people, did for more than 50 years?
**Jane Grogan**
*Sunninghill, Berkshire*

SIR – Dr David Yates (Letters, August 1) asserts that some British pensioners living in Spain use the winter fuel allowance to cover their summer air-conditioning costs.

Those of us living in Spain know that this allowance was discontinued several years ago.
**Lionel Anderson**
*Peñíscola, Castellon, Spain*

## Sports babble

SIR – I, too, often resort to the mute button while watching sports events (Letters, July 31).

However, this does mean missing out on the nonsense frequently spouted by the commentators. In recent days I have heard: "He [the batsman] has taken the bait", whereupon the said batsman whacked a six; "the humidity is getting warmer"; and "if you are going to bowl a slower ball just make sure nothing gets slower".
**Tony Palframan**
*Disley, Cheshire*

## Top of the pops

SIR – My husband is an avid collector of tools, and, like Angela Lanyon (Letters, August 1), we have a range of appliances in our cutlery drawer.

The best one is a pair of 1930s gas pliers, which are indispensable for loosening the cork on a bottle of champagne.
**Maggie Rayner**
*Neston, Wiltshire*

ALAMY

A bird's-eye view of Stonehenge, the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe

## The folly of scrapping the Stonehenge tunnel

**SIR – I am hugely disappointed by Labour's cancellation of the tunnel under Stonehenge (Letters, August 1). Of course, many motorists delight in the view of the monument from the A303 – but this has been a cause of hold-ups or accidents on that stretch.**

**Not only would the tunnel have alleviated delays on one of the main routes to the South West, but the local villages – which become swamped with traffic trying to avoid the problems in the area – would also have benefited hugely.**

**I remember a similar situation at Hindhead when the A3 ran round the Devil's Punch Bowl. After many years the tunnel was built and the whole area has been transformed.**
Margaret Forbes
*London E1*

**SIR – Once again it is locals and A303 users who will suffer as a result of the latest cancellation of a plan to get traffic moving in this area. Since the early 1980s – and for half my life – there have been countless feasibility studies, planning reviews, public consultations, scheme adoptions and scheme abandonments. Nothing has been achieved. I wonder how much money has been spent.**
Simon Falkner
*South Barrow, Somerset*

## Labour's dogmatism over private schools

SIR – Congratulations to Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, whose imposition of VAT on independent school fees will alienate tens of thousands of families as they struggle with the disruption of their children's education in the middle of the academic year (Letters, August 31).

The long-term damage to a whole generation of pupils, so soon after Covid lockdown, will not be forgotten. This move will be seen as doctrinal, and I doubt any of those affected will vote Labour for the rest of their lives.
**Michael Allisstone**
*Chichester, West Sussex*

SIR – Our country's secondary schools grow ever bigger while the number of children with attendance problems rises; schools of 2,000-plus pupils are ill-equipped to support those with crippling anxiety, mental-health problems and other special needs.

The majority of independent schools have fewer than 270 pupils and provide an essential local service for such children and their families, reducing pressure on the state system. Adding VAT to parents' costs will lead them to apply for Education, Health and Care plans to secure local authority payment of their school fees. If this funding is not secured, pupils with highly complex support needs will return to state-maintained classrooms, affecting all children.
**Jonathan Hetherington**
*Head, More House School*
*Farnham, Hampshire*

## Huw Edwards scandal

SIR – In my view the BBC cannot be blamed for continuing to pay Huw Edwards while he was under investigation (report, August 1).

Had he been sacked and then found innocent, he would have had a clear case for unfair dismissal, which could have cost the corporation millions of pounds. The principle of "innocent until proven guilty" must prevail.

What I find staggering, however, is the salary that the BBC is prepared to pay someone for reading an autocue.
**Terry Lloyd**
*Derby*

SIR – The Huw Edwards scandal has demonstrated again what a profligate and self-serving organisation the BBC has become. Lord Reith must be turning in his grave.

I am cancelling my TV licence, and will go elsewhere for my entertainment and news.
**Roy Hodgson**
*Little Brington, Northamptonshire*

## GPs and the BMA

SIR – Wes Streeting, the Health Secretary, is going to face challenges in attempting to negotiate with the British Medical Association ("GPs vote to take industrial action", telegraph.co.uk, August 1).

What used to be a professional body looks increasingly like a hard-Left organisation. Patients, and particularly the elderly, will rightly be worried about the implications of this. The BMA may say that its action is against the Government, but such action always disadvantages patients – and will only harm GPs' reputation further.
**Dr Robert Walker**
*Workington, Cumbria*

SIR – GPs are to put a cap on their appointments. Will anybody notice?
**Dr Patsy Costigan**
*Sidmouth, Devon*

## HMRC imbroglio

SIR – Isabel Oakeshott's article on HMRC (Features, July 31) struck a chord.

After my wife completed her self-assessment in May, she was told she didn't have anything to pay.

Then, in mid-June, she was told that she owed more than £1,300, to be paid by July 31. This sum represents more than her total monthly income from pensions (state and private), and was described as a "payment on account".

To compound the situation, when I tried to make payment via "faster payments", the system said the bank sort code could not be verified. I warily continued with the transaction, only to be told that the account could not accept such payments, and I would have to pay via cash or cheque, or pay a £25 fee for Chaps

A letter of complaint to HMRC has yet to be acknowledged.
**Keith Appleyard**
*West Wickham, Kent*

## Lada land

SIR – May I suggest that the Lada is added to the list of "thief-proof" cars (Letters, August 1)?

I remember a colleague, who, in the 1970s, would buy a new Lada every three years. It was never locked, never cleaned and never stolen. He believed it was only a full tank of petrol that gave the car any value.
**David Rumsey**
*Pinner, Middlesex*

SIR – When the floor under the passenger seat of our Mini rusted through in the 1960s, we used a roasting tin to cover the gap.
**Alyson Persson**
*Henfield, West Sussex*

# Churchill would never have defended today's ECHR

## Evil racist or champion of the international courts? The progressive Left cannot have it both ways

ANDREW ROBERTS

Sir Winston Churchill has suddenly become the darling of the Left. After years of being denounced as a sybaritic racist warmonger fit only for the dustbin of history, denounced as a "villain" by John McDonnell MP, with his statue the subject of vandalism during Black Lives Matter marches, he has now magically transmogrified into an elder statesman whose wisdom should be heeded, especially when it is used to embarrass the Conservative Party that he led seven decades ago.

This is all because Churchill supported Britain joining the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which today many Conservative leadership contenders wish to leave. So *The Guardian* hails Churchill as "a trailblazing advocate from the start" of the European convention. *The New European* newspaper – while offering a free "B*llocks to Brexit" passport holder to subscribers – runs a "Churchill vs The Tories" piece. Labour peers in the House of Lords hail Churchill, and contrast his support for the ECHR with the Tories of today, implying that the modern Tory Party has lost the compassion and decency of those of the Greatest Englishman.

Yet of all people it was Polly Toynbee in *The Guardian* who let us spot the central flaw in the Left's argument, when she wrote that, "It was Winston Churchill who promoted the ECHR as a never-again protection against the horrors of the Second World War, with Britain persuading others to join."

For what Churchill was hoping to do in the late 1940s and early 1950s was to use human rights legislation to protect Europeans from the persecution of totalitarianism, not provide a way for illegal immigrants to enter and stay in Britain.

As Hillsdale College's Churchill Project attests, Churchill only made two references to the ECHR. The first was in a speech in Brussels on February 26 1949, in relation to the arrest and show trial of József Mindszenty. Catholic Archbishop of Esztergom in Hungary, Mindszenty had been brave enough to oppose both the Nazis and the Communists. After the first step of establishing a European Assembly Churchill said, "We have now to take the second step forward and try to establish, as the practical result of our meeting here, the setting up of a European Court of Human Rights."

"It must not be possible," he continued, "that within the boundaries of United Europe, such a legal atrocity could be perpetrated as that which has confronted us all in the case of Cardinal Mindszenty. Here you have the crime of religious persecution committed on an innocent man under the direct orders of Moscow, and carried through with all those features of police government with which we are familiar in trials under the Soviets. There must be means by which such events in any of the countries with which we can consort can be brought to the test of impartial justice."

After his conviction, Mindszenty was tortured by the Communist government. Freed during the Hungarian Uprising of 1956, he lived in the American Embassy for 15 years before finally being allowed to leave Hungary in 1971, four years before his death in 1975.

Churchill's only other reference to the ECHR was a brief one on July 23 1951 in London when he said, "There can be no Europe unless it be based upon a solid foundation of trust and comradeship between the French and German peoples. Within the wider framework of the United Nations Organisation, a Council of Europe has been set up. A European Army is beginning to take shape, and a European Court of Human Rights is shortly to be established."

If Churchill had thought for one minute that the ECHR would metastasise into what it is today – the body to which illegal immigrants immediately turn to prevent being deported – we can be certain that he would never have supported Britain joining. His views on the unregulated entry in small boats of large numbers of Afghans and Sudanese – both of whose tribesmen he personally fought against – can easily be imagined. The Left cannot without self-contradiction and hypocrisy simultaneously denounce Churchill as a racist and also argue that he would have supported the unlimited and unregulated incursion of illegal immigrants into Britain. If he had wanted to do that, he would have when he was home secretary, but he did not.

Churchill expected the European Court to protect the rights of Europeans: the clue was in the name.

He opposed even legal New Commonwealth mass immigration, using language that was common then but would not be considered acceptable today. "Problems will arise if many coloured people settle here," he told the Cabinet on February 3 1954. "Are we to saddle ourselves with colour problems in the United Kingdom? Public opinion in the United Kingdom won't tolerate it once it gets beyond certain limits." He was of course proved wrong about that, but his views on what he called "the magpie society" were clear.

For the Left gleefully to invoke Churchill, therefore, and attempt to use him to embarrass current Tory politicians for wanting to leave the ECHR now that it has shown itself to be adamantly on the side of the illegal immigrants, is profoundly unhistorical, and even more profoundly cynical.

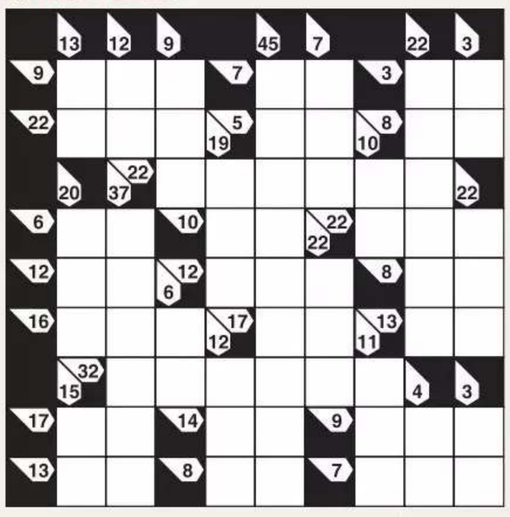
FOLLOW *Andrew Roberts on Twitter/X @aroberts_andrew;* READ MORE *at telegraph.co.uk/opinion*

# Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

## KAKURO

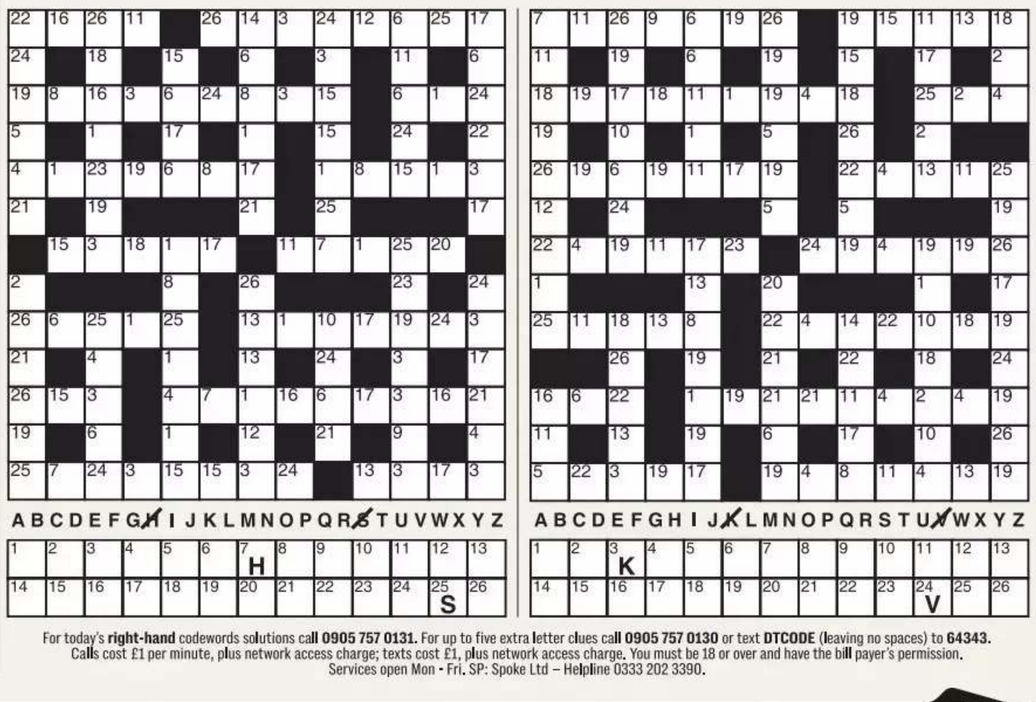
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution on Monday.*

DIABOLICAL NO 5100



## CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. Use the letters already supplied in the key grid as clues, which will let you work out more letters. *Solution for the first Codewords tomorrow and the second on Monday.*



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | H | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | S | 26 |



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | V | 26 |

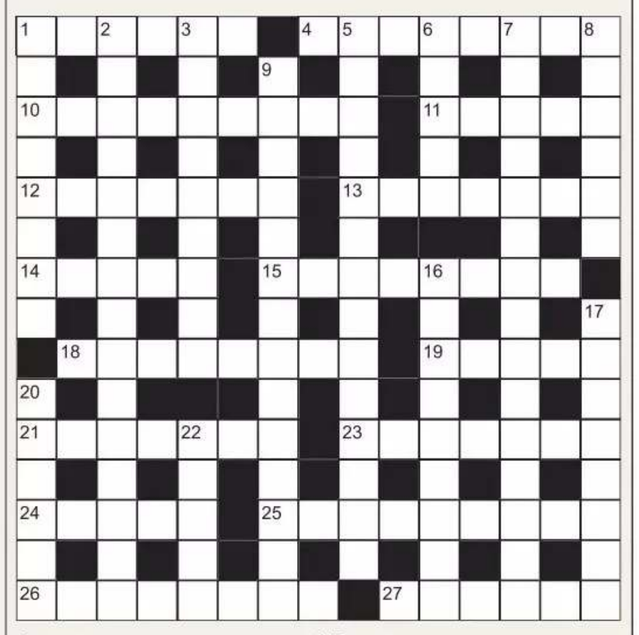
For today's **right-hand** codewords solutions call **0905 757 0131.** For up to five extra letter clues call **0905 757 0130** or text **DTCODE** (leaving no spaces) to **64343.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Notes

## TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3316

OSMOSIS



**Across**

**1** Waffle, pound, twirled in honey (6)
**4** PC helpline user may thus invite trouble (3,3,2)
**10** Specific knitwear ready, brought in to Hollywood celeb (9)
**11** Light green snails occasionally returning (5)
**12** Cleaner having brew's embracing my Alsatian (7)
**13** Huge firm bunk provided by one airline (7)
**14** Trip to Mecca Bingo includes, for starters, drinks and food (5)
**15** Application taken away from meeting with GP? (8)
**18** Perennial bridesmaid's principal, following career 'eartache (8)
**19** Unity seen after backing personnel department (5)
**21** Obsessed with midfield of team ahead 11-1? (5,2)
**23** User of blade shaved somewhere off kitchen? (7)
**24** Rigorous Spurs discussed passage of play (5)
**25** Last of salmon and plaice cooking? That indicates four for fish (4,5)
**26** Second grade whirlwind leading to extra litter perhaps (5-3)
**27** Monstrous image written in shadowy vernacular (6)

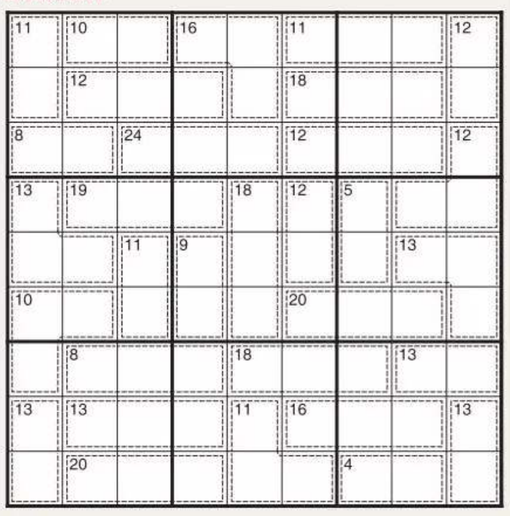
**Down**

**1** Cricket club, sixty-four for one, entertaining husband in essence? (8)
**2** Writer spoke twice with Bill, replacing that man in vitally important area (7,8)
**3** Maybe make Cockney dish, first off separating sole (9)
**5** Generous hero inspires small B team abroad (8,6)
**6** Chaps, without pained expression, racing on these? (5)
**7** Language course recruits granted life-changing venture? (7,8)
**8** Macho man's parting disturbed by variable winds, essentially (6)
**9** Overlook capital with Yankee touring Penn, or PA (4,10)
**16** Son abandoning search in couple's craft (9)
**17** Fruit and veg Mike put in bucket (8)
**20** Northward branch stocks, shifting ton, rival of *Liverpool Echo* (6)
**22** Extremely fond of Hazel? (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 on Monday.*

DIABOLICAL



## 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. *Regular solution tomorrow. Tough solution on Sunday.*

REGULAR NO 6670

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 3 | | | 1 | | 9 |
| | | 7 | 5 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | 4 | | |
| 1 | | | | | | 6 | | 3 |
| | 6 | | | 8 | | | | |
| 7 | | 4 | | | | | | 1 |
| | | 8 | | | | 7 | | |
| | | | 6 | | 2 | 8 | | |
| 5 | | 6 | | | 3 | 2 | | |

TOUGH NO 6670

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 6 | 5 | | |
| 9 | 7 | | | | | | 2 | 8 |
| | | 1 | 5 | | | 9 | | |
| | | 8 | | | 3 | 7 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 9 | 7 | | | 1 | | |
| | | 3 | 1 | | 8 | | | |
| 5 | 4 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | | 7 | 2 | | | | | |

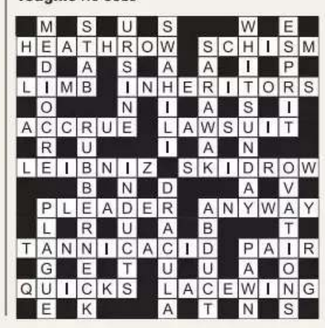
**Sudoku Solution** For today's tough sudoku solution call **0905 757 0136.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon – Fri. SP: Spoke – **0333 202 3390.**

## PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution on Monday.*

Up to 6 words - Word Finder, 7 - Wordsmith, 14 - Word Wizard, 21 - Word Master, 28 - Word Genius, 36 - Word Perfect

**Toughie** No 3315



**Help with clues**
**Single clues 0905 757 0126.**
**All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.**
Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Service open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 2023390.

## ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out the name of a domestic appliance. *Solution on Monday.*

ORACLE PORT _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
NO SMARTIE _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
SUPER RESORTS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

## MIND GYM

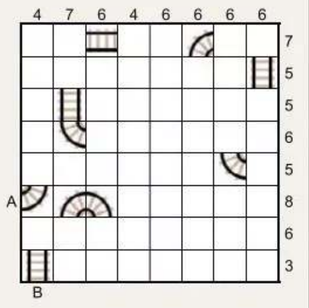
NO 4380

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.*

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BEGINNER | | | | | | | | | ANSWER |
| 96 | 3/4 OF THIS | ÷9 | x6.75 | TRIPLE IT | -78 | ÷12 | X BY ITSELF | +45 | HALVE IT | |
| INTERMEDIATE | | | | | | | | | | ANSWER |
| 14 | x10.5 | TRIPLE IT | -155 | HALVE IT | ÷13 | X BY ITSELF | -79 | 4/7 OF THIS | x9 | |
| ADVANCED | | | | | | | | | | ANSWER |
| 352 | ÷11 | x16.5 | -186 | HALVE IT | 2/3 OF THIS | +462 | √ | x6.75 | TRIPLE IT | |

## TRAIN TRACKS

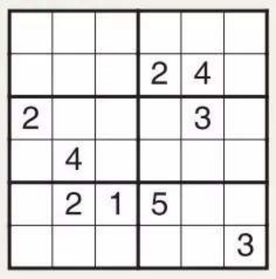
Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution on Monday.*




## 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 on Monday.*

TOUGH NO 4147



## PLUSWORD

NO 803

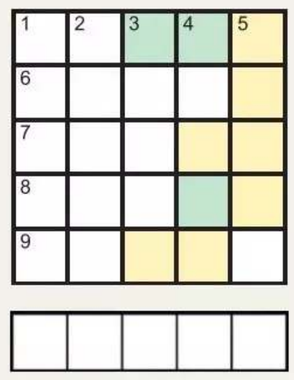
Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
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 on Monday.*

**Across**

**1** Ranted and ___
**6** Unaccompanied
**7** Slip and ___
**8** Walked and fretted
**9** Garden structures

**Down**

**1** Gravelly intonations
**2** God, in Islam
**3** *The ___ UK*, singing show
**4** Stopped
**5** House ownership documents



Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code

Notes

## 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 on Monday.*

JOB, APPEARANCE, OVER, PLUNDER, CONFUSED

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## THE SOLUTIONS

**Yesterday's solutions**

**Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6669**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 |

**Word Ladder:** Clay, slay, slap, soap, soup, soul, soil.

**Anagrams:** 1. Bureaucrat 2. Chairperson 3. Civil servant.

**Panagram:** Millinery, milliner, myelin, miller, merlin, linier, limner, limier, inlier, rille, nelly, miner, mille, miler, liney, liner, limey, limen, imine, ylem, yell, rime, rile, riel, rely, rein, mire, mine, mile, mien, mell, lyre, line, lime, lier, lien, emir, elmy.

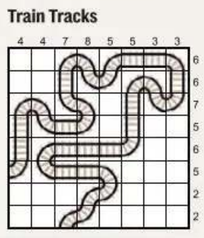
**Today's Mind Gym**
**Beginner:** 47 **Intermediate:** 216 **Advanced:** 486

**PlusWord No 802**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | T | E | R |
| E | E | R | I | E |
| E | R | O | D | E |
| P | I | P | E | D |
| S | E | E | R | S |

Crowd

**Train Tracks**



**Killer Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 |

**Mini Sudoku No 4146**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

**Codewords 1 and 2**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | G | M | B | F | W | L | N | P | J | I | C | Y |
| R | H | Q | Z | T | E | K | V | U | D | O | A | X |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | B | W | F | L | R | O | P | D | T | X | C | V |
| S | Z | A | E | K | N | M | H | U | Q | G | I | Y |

**Kakuro No 5099**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | | | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | |
| 2 | 1 | | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | | |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| | | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | | 3 | 1 |
| | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | | | 9 | 3 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | |

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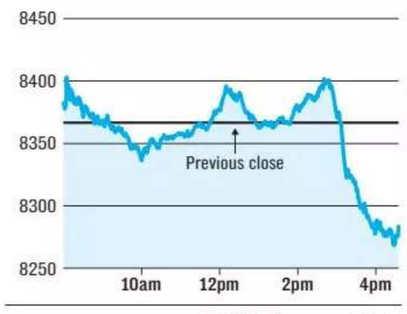
# Business

## MARKETS

**FTSE 100**



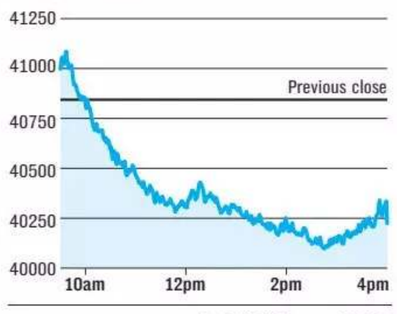

8283.36
-84.62 (-1.01pc)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 52WkHigh | 8474.41 | |
| 52WkLow | 7215.76 | |
| Yield | 3.68pc | +0.04 |
| P/E Ratio | 11.88 | -1.64 |

**BIGGEST RISER**
Next
9830p
+756 (+8.33pc)

**BIGGEST FALLER**
Melrose Ind
515p
-73¾ (-12.53pc)

**DOW JONES**




40347.97
-494.82 (-1.21pc)

| | |
|---|---|
| 52WkHigh | 41376.00 |
| 52WkLow | 32327.20 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FTSE 250 | 21459.23 | -141.48 (-0.66pc) |
| FTSE All Share | 4544.95 | -43.36 (-0.94pc) |
| FTSE All Share Yield | 3.61 | +0.03 |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 4032.97 | -48.05 (-1.18pc) |
| Nikkei 225 | 38126.33 | -975.49 (-2.49pc) |
| EURO STOXX 50 | 4765.72 | -107.22 (-2.20pc) |
| S&P 500 | 5446.68 | -75.62 (-1.37pc) |
| Nasdaq | 17194.15 | -405.25 (-2.30pc) |

## CURRENCIES

**£$**
Rate
1.2792
Change
-0.52¢

**£€**
Rate
1.1853
Change
-0.17¢

Page 22

## COMMODITIES

GOLD
$2442.78
(£1910)
-4.58 (-0.19pc)

BRENT CRUDE
$79.52
(October)
-1.20 (-1.49pc)

Page 22

**Sticky business**
BP and Shell must drive net zero — but they are refocusing on oil and gas
*Ben Marlow*

Page 21

**Veering off course**
Titanic-shipyard Harland & Wolff has abandoned plans for fast ferry to the Isles of Scilly as its financial woes deepen

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# Tax rises loom despite cut in interest rates

## Chancellor hints at increase even as Bank of England decision eases pressure on state finances

*By* **Szu Ping Chan** *and* **Tim Wallace**

RACHEL REEVES has indicated she might still raise taxes after the Bank of England cut interest rates for the first time in four years and more than doubled its growth forecast.

The Chancellor warned of "difficult decisions" ahead despite the lower cost of borrowing and substantial upgrade to Britain's economic prospects – both of which will improve the outlook for public finances.

Threadneedle Street policymakers voted by a majority of 5-4 to lower rates to 5pc from 5.25pc in a "finely balanced" decision, in which Governor Andrew Bailey cast the deciding vote.

In a further boost for Labour, the Bank raised its growth forecast for this year from 0.5pc to 1.25pc, following a strong start to the year for the economy.

While Ms Reeves described the rate cut as "welcome news", she repeated her message of tough choices in her autumn Budget.

She said: "Millions of families are still facing higher mortgage rates after the mini-Budget. That is why this government is taking the difficult decisions now to fix the foundations of our economy after years of low growth, so we can rebuild Britain and make every part of our country better off."

Earlier this week, Ms Reeves said the Government would "have to increase taxes in the Budget", blaming what she claimed was a £22bn black hole left in public finances by the Conservatives.

Autumn tax rises mean any benefit for homeowners and borrowers from lower interest rates may be short-lived.

Rishi Sunak also warned that Ms Reeves' decision to hand public sector workers a £9.4bn pay rise would jeopardise further rate cuts.

Mr Bailey said history suggested public sector pay deals had a limited impact on inflation. But he said that borrowing to fund the settlements could add to price pressures.

"We don't know [yet] how this is going to be funded," he said.

He also cautioned that policymakers were wary as he warned the fight against inflation was not over.

Lower interest rates help to reduce the Government's debt interest bill, while stronger growth could also hand the Chancellor a boost if it results in stronger pay rises than the Office for Budget Responsibility is forecasting.

"Stronger pay growth would certainly be consistent with higher tax revenues," said Andrew Goodwin at Oxford Economics. However, Mr Bailey suggested Sir Keir Starmer would find it difficult to meet a goal of raising growth to 2.5pc. "At the moment our potential growth rate is below the historic trend [of 2.75pc]," he said.

He added there was "very little difference" between Ms Reeves and her predecessor Jeremy Hunt's quest for higher growth. The reduction in borrowing costs is good news for homeowners, with a typical borrower on a tracker mortgage enjoying a £28 reduction in their monthly payments. However, Mr Bailey signalled that the Bank was not embarking on a campaign of cuts. He said: "Inflationary pressures have eased enough that we've been able to cut interest rates today.

"But we need to make sure inflation stays low and be careful not to cut interest rates too quickly or by too much. Ensuring low and stable inflation is the best thing we can do to support economic growth and the prosperity of the country." The Bank now expects the economy to expand by 0.7pc in the second quarter, matching the expansion in the first three months.

Growth is then projected to slow to 0.4pc in the three months to September.

While policymakers also noted that growth was "stronger than expected" compared with three months ago, they expect interest rates to continue to bear down on the economy and wages. Unemployment is also predicted to rise slightly faster by the end of this year.

Inflation fell back to the Bank's 2pc target in May. However, the Monetary Policy Committee said underlying price pressures remained strong, which suggested rates would "need to continue to remain restrictive for sufficiently long until the risks to inflation returning sustainably to the 2pc target in the medium term have dissipated further".

A survey by the Bank's agents showed average pay settlements had ticked up in recent months to 5.7pc, from 5.4pc at the start of the year.

Many employers remained "concerned" about the ongoing impact of a higher minimum wage, which the Government has said it wants to raise further. Companies said they were already cutting hours and increasing non-pay benefits in order to hand bigger pay rises to their lowest-paid staff.

*Analysis: Page 18*

HOLLIE ADAMS/BLOOMBERG

'Ensuring low and stable inflation is the best thing we can do to support economic growth'

**Andrew Bailey, the Bank of England Governor, cast the deciding vote as policymakers voted 5-4 to lower rates to 5pc**

# EU red tape leaving meat and dairy to rot at border, Environment Secretary is warned

*By* **Hannah Boland**

FOOD is at risk of rotting in lorries under post-Brexit border checks, dairy and meat suppliers have warned.

In a letter to Steve Reed, the Environment Secretary, an influential group of food makers, hauliers and farmers said they were "deeply concerned" over the threat to Britain's food security, biosecurity and food safety amid rising delays and friction.

New border controls came into force in April, meaning EU goods now face more checks when entering the UK.

However, writing to Mr Reed last week, the SPS Certification Working Group warned of major issues at the border, saying: "Perishable and other foods are being delayed entry, resulting in food waste and financial loss." Some deliveries are being held up at the border for as long as 24 hours, with drivers claiming their consignments containing perishable goods have been spoiled. The group said importers were also battling inconsistent charges for various shipments and were starting to review whether they would keep shipping into Britain. It said: "It is worth noting that the EU is the major supplier of many of the UK's food and ingredients, and that much of EU-GB trade operates on a 'just-in-time' basis, often involving product with significantly shorter shelf-life than that arriving from other origins."

**24**

**Hours that some deliveries of perishable food are having to wait at border control, resulting in waste and financial loss**

This meant any friction between Britain and the EU posed "significant risks to UK food security and needs to be carefully managed, planned for and mitigated where possible", it said.

A Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs spokesman said: "Protecting UK biosecurity remains one of our key priorities, and we are working with border control posts to ensure they operate effectively and with traders to ensure checks are completed efficiently, swiftly and without delays."

# Sales of iPhone fall to three-year low as Apple's popularity declines in China

*By* **James Titcomb**

SALES of the iPhone have fallen to the lowest level for three years after Apple's popularity dropped in China and as shoppers wait for new models.

Apple recorded a 1pc drop in quarterly iPhone revenues last night to $39.3bn (£30.7bn), the lowest figure since 2021.

While a small drop, it means Apple has recorded consecutive quarters of falling iPhone sales for the first time in five years. The figures were better than forecast, leading shares in the tech giant to climb slightly.

Apple's overall revenues rose by 5pc to $85.8bn. Profits were up 8pc at $21.5bn. However, the company posted another sales drop in China, where it has struggled in recent months as local rival Huawei has overcome US microchip sanctions to launch new high-end phones.

Apple has resorted to deep discounting to boost sales, but dropped out of the top five biggest smartphone makers in China in the second quarter of the year. Sales in China fell 6.5pc, the fourth drop in a row.

Overall, however, Apple's sales returned to growth owing to the success of new iPad models and the continued growth of services such as the App Store and Apple TV Plus.

Sales of the iPad were up 24pc to $7.2bn, while Mac computer sales climbed slightly. Its digital services unit grew by 14pc to sales of $24.2bn. The iPhone remains by far Apple's biggest source of revenue but sales have wavered in recent years in the absence of any major design breakthroughs.

The company is expected to release a new wave of handsets next month that are powerful enough to take advantage of its latest AI features.

It came as Amazon shares fell despite the company doubling its profit as it predicted a slowdown in sales growth.

The online retail giant said revenue in the second quarter of the year rose by 10.1pc to $148bn, while profits were up from $6.8bn to $13.5bn.

However, it predicted that sales would grow by around 9.5pc in the next quarter, which would be its slowest for more than a year.

Shares fell by around 4pc immediately after the results.

# British billionaire charged with bribery offences

*By* **Matt Oliver**

A BRITISH billionaire who held a top role at the mining giant Glencore has been charged with conspiring to pay bribes in Africa along with four former colleagues.

Alex Beard was one of the original members of the "billionaire boys' club" who earned significant fortunes from Glencore's stock market listing in 2011. He ran the company's oil business from a desk in London between 2007 and 2019, and is worth around $2bn (£1.6bn), according to *Forbes*.

But yesterday, the Serious Fraud Office said it was charging Mr Beard, 56, with making corrupt payments "to benefit Glencore's oil operations in west Africa".

Paul Hopkirk, 50, Ramon Labiaga, 55, Andrew Gibson and Martin Wakefield, both 64, were charged with similar offences, with the latter two also accused of falsifying documents. The five are due to appear at Westminster magistrates' court on Sept 10. All are currently on bail with no travel restrictions.

Nick Ephgrave, the SFO's director, said: "Bribery damages financial markets and causes lasting harm to communities. Today's action is an important step towards exposing overseas corruption and holding those who are responsible to account."

The SFO's announcement follows protracted court proceedings, which at one point involved as many as 11 former Glencore staff members.

Future hearings are to take place about whether the others, who are currently protected by an anonymity order, can also be named.

When Glencore listed in London with a valuation of £37bn in 2011, it was by far the City's biggest ever stock market float.

# Marshall leads race to buy Spectator

*By* **Michael Bow**

SIR PAUL MARSHALL has emerged as the frontrunner to buy *The Spectator* after entering advanced talks over the political magazine.

The billionaire hedge fund tycoon is among a clutch of bidders competing for *The Spectator*, which has been put up for auction alongside *The Telegraph* newspapers by Abu Dhabi-backed media group RedBird IMI. Sir Paul, who also owns a significant stake in news channel GB News, is bidding through his Old Queen Street Ventures vehicle, which includes the UnHerd website and café.

RedBird IMI put *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator* up for auction earlier this year with a price tag of above £600m after the previous Tory government blocked its attempt to take over the titles. Sir Paul is now said to be leading the race to acquire *The Spectator*, which was first published in 1828.

Sources told Sky News that a deal could be struck this month. The two sides are yet to enter exclusive talks, meaning another bidder could gatecrash the process. Sources stressed that a deal for *The Spectator* would not preclude Sir Paul also mounting a bid for *The Telegraph*.

Old Queen Street Ventures and RedBird IMI declined to comment.

# Don't bet on a flurry of Bank of England cuts

## Decision made by finest of margins as four MPC members worry that inflation is not yet beaten, reports *Tim Wallace*

This is the most cautious rate cut the Bank of England could possibly have made. Five members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), including Andrew Bailey, the Governor, voted to cut rates to 5pc. The other four, including Huw Pill, chief economist, wanted to hold at 5.25pc, the level to which they raised borrowing costs last August.

Since the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street was granted independence to set rates in 1997, it has never held borrowing costs at the peak for longer than this.

Bailey and his colleagues want to send a signal to borrowers that they should not expect rates to be cut at every meeting. Unlike the rapid rise in interest rates during the cost of living crisis, the decline will be much slower.

Markets, however, were jubilant, with traders betting more heavily on further cuts this year.

The decision was on a knife-edge as the policymakers, whose job is to keep inflation at 2pc, are worried that price rises are not yet comprehensively vanquished.

"The job of monetary policy is to squeeze the persistent element of inflation out of the system in a way that is consistent with returning inflation to target on a timely and sustained basis. That is what we did by increasing Bank Rate to 5.25pc and keeping it at that level for a year," said Bailey. "But we still face the question of whether the persistent element of inflation is on course to decline to a level consistent with inflation being on target on a sustained basis and what it will take to make that happen."

Headline consumer price rises have slowed to 2pc, bang on target, down from 2022's peak of 11.1pc.

On the face of things that allows the MPC to declare their mission accomplished – but much of the fall was driven by a decline in energy prices, and there are still dangerous pressures lurking under the surface.

Key to this are services price inflation and core inflation, which strips out energy and food costs.

Both are rising by significantly more than the 2pc headline target.

Services prices in particular are increasingly driven by wages.

Pay growth in the private sector has slowed from last year's peak of more than 8pc, but at 5.6pc in May it is still well above levels officials consider consistent with inflation of 2pc. It raises the prospect that bosses will have to keep raising prices to afford those pay rises.

"Pay growth has become an increasingly important driver of the remaining strength in services inflation," says the Bank's Monetary Policy Report.

The MPC hopes this will keep on easing as lower inflation reduces the pressure on workers to demand big pay rises. "The committee expects the fall in headline inflation, and the normalisation in many indicators of inflation expectations, to continue to feed through to weaker pay and price-setting dynamics," said the minutes of the MPC's meeting.

'Pay growth is an increasingly important driver of the remaining strength in services inflation'

Although the economy has grown more strongly than the Bank expected in the first half of the year, there are signs the jobs market is cooling, which would be expected to pull down pay growth.

Unemployment has edged up, and the number of vacancies advertised by employers has kept on falling.

The Office for National Statistics found 889,000 jobs were available in the three months to June, down from a peak of 1.3m two years ago and almost back to levels common before the pandemic, when interest rates were far lower.

On top of that, business surveys indicate bosses are cautious on hiring.

Hence the cautious rate cut: inflationary pressures are still menacing the economy, but they are weaker than they were six months ago. The Bank thinks 5pc is still a restrictive rate, slowing the economy and taking the wind out of inflation – the cut from 5.25pc is akin to a driver easing off the brake pedal a little, rather than pressing down on the accelerator.

Mortgage rates on offer to borrowers are still two to three times as high as they were in late 2021.

Even with a modest rate cut, anyone with a cheap fixed-rate loan from before 2022 will still face a huge leap in their borrowing costs when they have to remortgage. It means rates will still drain spending power from those households, slowing the economy and inflation for some time to come.

'There has been some progress in moderating risks of persistence in inflation'

One of the biggest difficulties for Bailey and his colleagues is that it takes time for interest rates to feed through the economy and affect the rate of inflation. This lag is often thought to be around two years. It means they have to act through this year's fog of uncertainty.

Price rises are forecast to pick up again to an estimated 2.75pc later this year – something that rates set today will not affect.

The minority of four MPC members, who voted to hold rates at 5.25pc, are worried that this, combined with high pay growth, is a sign inflation is not yet completely under control.

As a result, they want to keep rates high as they await more proof that it is time to cut.

"Underlying domestic inflationary pressures appeared more entrenched" to those four, the minutes say, with fears of "more enduring structural shifts".

The minutes add: "They preferred to maintain the current level of bank rate [at 5.25pc] until there was stronger evidence that these upside pressures would not materialise."

But the remaining five think they might be wrong. They voted to cut rates as "there has been some progress in moderating risks of persistence in inflation".

The Bank's forecasts indicate that if interest rates are held at 5pc for several years to come, the economy will grind almost to a halt over the next year, unemployment will surge close to 6pc by 2027 and inflation will plunge to 1pc, just half the 1pc target.

However, if rates are cut as financial markets expect, dropping to 3.75pc by the end of 2026, the economy is forecast to fare better, unemployment will stay below 5pc and inflation will fall only to 1.8pc.

If anything, even this projection of inflation at a touch below the 2pc target suggests rates should be cut a little further than 3.75pc.

Confidence in those projections is clearly lacking. As well as worries over the persistence of inflation, the Bank also fears it is trying to set policy in the dark because of the poor quality of jobs data.

The Office for National Statistics has struggled to persuade more members of the public to complete its jobs surveys, making it hard to work out exactly how many people are in work or unemployed.

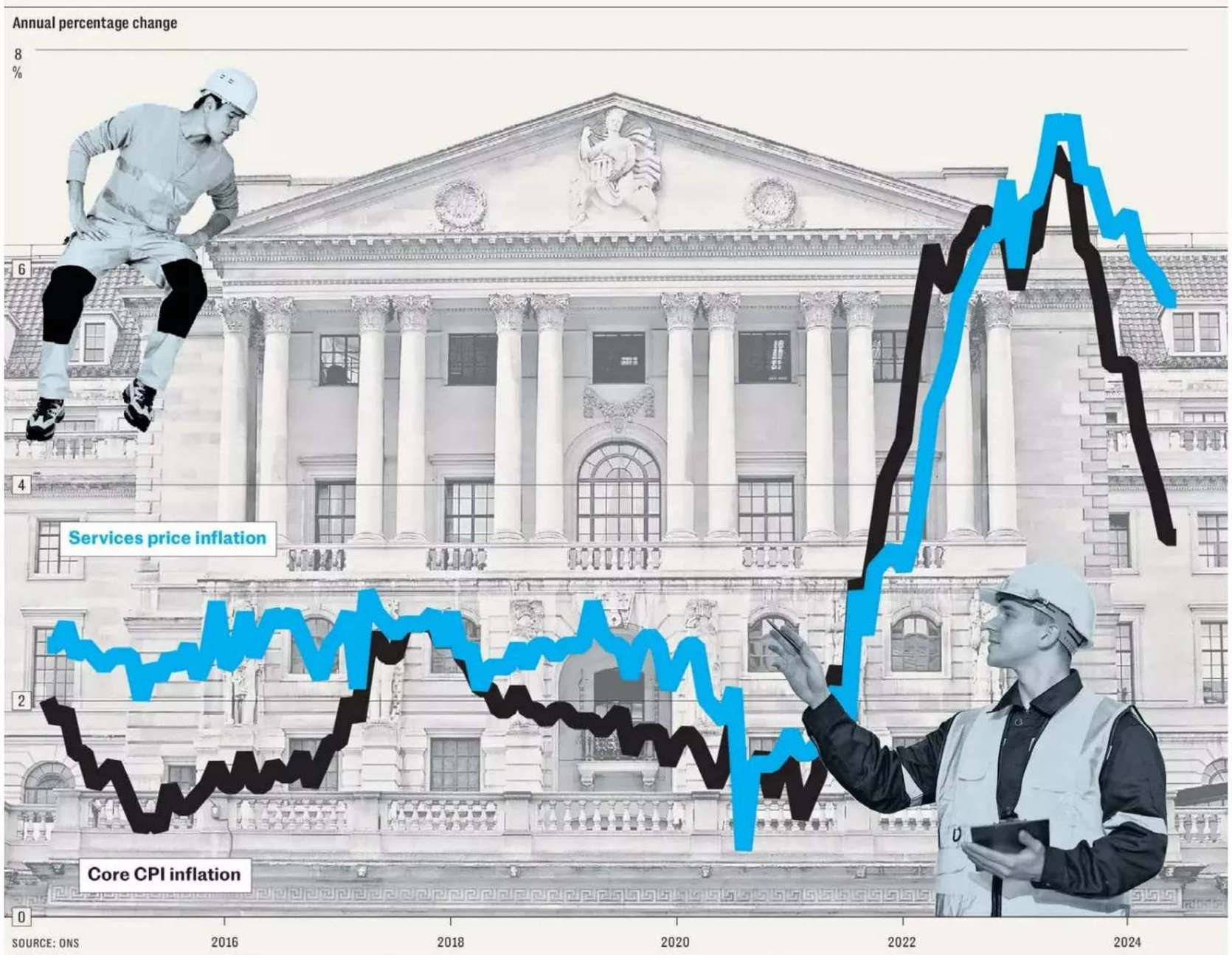
Those surveys indicate that a growing share of working-age adults have dropped out and are neither in a job nor looking to get one. The Bank notes that just under 63pc of adults are participating in the workforce, whether employed or unemployed – a definition that requires them to be seeking work and able to start a job. That is close to the lowest share since 1998.

It means that even if vacancies have fallen, the jobs market might be tighter than it appears, raising worries that bosses will have to offer higher pay as they fight to hire from the shrinking pool of people who are willing and able to work.

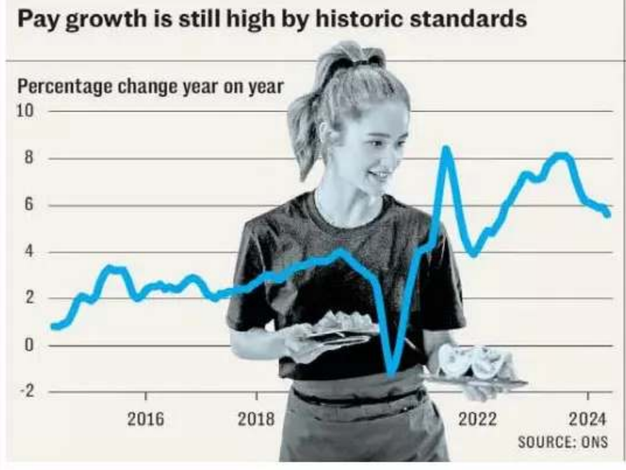
In turn that risks sustaining inflation for longer, requiring rates to stay high, or at least fall only very slowly.

That is why the Bank is groping in the dark towards lower rates.

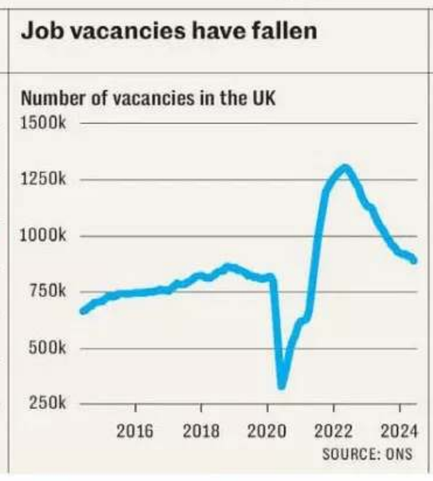
**Both services and core inflation remain high**



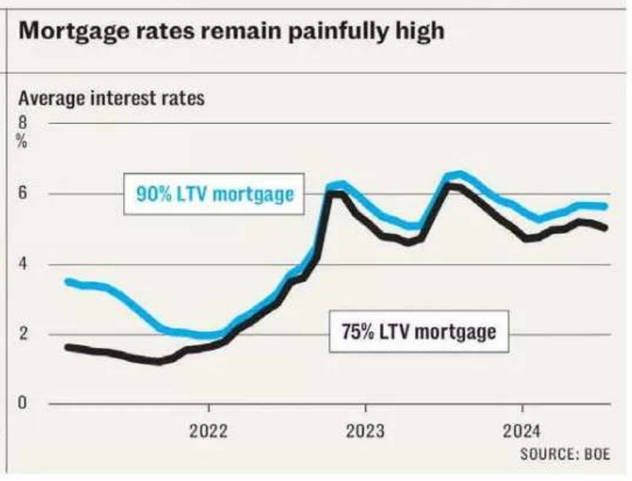

**Pay growth is still high by historic standards**




**Job vacancies have fallen**




**Mortgage rates remain painfully high**




**Base Rate change**

Current National Westminster Bank and Ulster Bank Base Rates, effective from 1st August 2024.

**5.0%**

Previous Base Rate: 5.25%.

The interest rate for lending facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements), where the rate of interest is linked to either Base Rate will vary accordingly.

TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

NatWest

Ulster Bank, a business name of National Westminster Bank Plc. National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered in England and Wales No. 929027. Registered Office: 250 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4AA. Financial Services Firm Reference Number 121878. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

# Social media boss 'used funds for holidays'

*By* **James Titcomb**

A SOCIAL media boss and his wife used millions of dollars of company funds to pay for their wedding and luxury holidays, US regulators have said.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is suing Abraham Shafi, the founder of the social media app IRL, and his wife, Barbara Woortmann, for fraud.

IRL, an app aimed at Gen Z smartphone users that enabled them to discover real-life events, raised $170m (£132m) from investors including SoftBank.

The app was presented as a version of Facebook's Groups feature for younger users who had abandoned the social network. IRL claimed that a quarter of US teens had downloaded it.

However, it was shut down last year when its backers found that the vast majority of its users were fake, according to a separate SoftBank lawsuit.

The SEC said that Mr Shafi and Mrs Woortmann had used company credit cards to fund millions in personal expenses.

This included hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses related to their wedding in 2022 – including luxury hotels and airfare for guests – and tens of thousands of dollars for holidays in Hawaii.

**The US market regulator is suing Abraham Shafi for fraud**

The SEC said Mr Shafi spent $34,700 on a luxury resort in Hawaii in October 2021, while Mrs Woortmann spent more than $16,000 at a merchant specialising in spirituality and alternative medicine in June 2021 – the same month it raised funds from SoftBank.

The couple also used company credit cards for home improvement purchases, clothing and jewellery, restaurants, groceries and food delivery apps.

It said that after Mr Shafi was confronted by IRL's chief financial officer, he repaid around $2.5m in personal expenses but that some expenses were never repaid.

The lawsuit also said that Mr Shafi had lied about the company's heavy spending on advertising to drive downloads of the app.

Mr Shafi had told investors that IRL's growth was built on word of mouth and viral adoption, when the company had spent $5.7m on incent adverts, which reward users who download the apps with extra lives for games or credits in other apps.

Monique Winkler, the San Francisco director of the SEC said: "Mr Shafi took advantage of investors' appetite for investments in the pre-IPO technology space and fraudulently raised approximately $170m by lying about IRL's business practices."

Lawyers for Mr Shafi were contacted for comment.

# Alpine flooding hits Jaguar Land Rover and rival marques

*By* **Matt Oliver**

JAGUAR LAND ROVER (JLR) is among a string of luxury carmakers to be hit by major disruption after flooding in Switzerland paralysed a top aluminium producer.

The company is scrambling to find alternative suppliers after Novelis, an Indian-owned manufacturer that runs a mill in the alpine city of Sierre, was forced to shut down operations at the end of June.

Porsche, BMW and Mercedes have also been affected. It followed heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in parts of central Europe, with Novelis and other aluminium producers in Switzerland hit by floods from the nearby Rhône river. JLR said this issue was partly to blame – along with summer plant shutdowns – for the "constrained production" it expects from July to December.

It is understood that the aluminium alloys Novelis produces are used in car panelling and body parts. A spokesman added that production was continuing, but the carmaker was hunting for alternative suppliers to Novelis, through its own channels and with help from parent company, Tata. The spokesman said: "Our priority is to minimise any impact on our production and in turn client orders."

JLR revealed the aluminium issue in its first-quarter results as it reported a 5pc rise in sales to a record £7.3bn. It stressed that its full-year profit forecast remained unchanged.

It is the latest carmaker to warn about the problem after fellow brand Porsche was hit by the Novelis closure.

Porsche said it was now facing "a significant supply shortage" of certain aluminium alloys and issued a profit warning to investors. The aluminium shortage has also affected the supply chains of fellow German carmakers BMW and Mercedes.

Novelis has declared force majeure – when one party in a contract excuses themselves from their obligations because of factors outside of their control – to customers.

# House prices rise for third month in row

*By* **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

HOUSE prices rose at their fastest rate in almost two years in July, according to Nationwide.

Annual house price growth picked up to 2.1pc in July, up from 1.5pc in June.

Last month's rate was the fastest since December 2022, Nationwide said, and it marked the third month in a row of rising house prices.

The average house price stood at £266,334 across the UK last month, the building society said.

Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, said: "Prices are still around 2.8pc below the all-time highs recorded in the summer of 2022. Housing market activity has been holding relatively steady in recent months with the number of mortgages approved for house purchase at around 60,000 per month.

"While this is still around 10pc below the level prevailing before the pandemic, it is still a respectable pace."

The figures were published before the Bank of England cut interest rates for the first time in four years, which is likely to lead to lower mortgage rates and may provide a further boost to house prices.

Stephanie Daley, director of partnerships at mortgage broker Alexander Hall, said: "The Bank's decision offers a significant opportunity for homeowners and buyers."

The chief executive of Barclays, whose sponsorship of the Wimbledon Championship can be seen on the umpire's chair, said protestors calling for the bank to be dropped were 'misguided'

HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

# Barclays chief: Wimbledon right to resist calls to drop us

*By* **Michael Bow**

THE chief executive of Barclays has praised the Wimbledon Championships for refusing to give in to "misguided" protesters in a row over the bank's sponsorship of the event.

CS Venkatakrishan, known as Venkat, said Wimbledon deserved credit for sticking by them after other events cut ties with the bank as a sponsor.

Barclays was forced to suspend sponsorship of the Latitude and the Isle of Wight music festivals in June after protests over its links to Israeli defence company Elbit.

Protesters and campaigners demonstrated outside the All England Lawn Tennis venue in July.

Mr Venkat yesterday said: "Some sponsorships have been vocal in not wanting to work with Barclays and there have been other sponsorships, and Wimbledon is prominent among them, who continue to work well with us and be very supportive.

"I'm grateful for those institutions that continue to be supportive to us and rightly resisting pressures, which I think are ultimately misguided."

His comments came as the lender announced its half-year results, showing profits before tax dipped to £4.2bn, down from £4.6bn in the first six months of 2023.

Barclays reduced its total gross mortgage lending by nearly a quarter year-on-year, down from £12.2bn to £9.2bn in the first six months of 2024.

The bank set aside another £897m for bad debts, more or less flat on the £896m it set aside in the first half of 2023. Barclays raised its forecast for net interest income outlook for the full year to around £11bn, up from the previous guidance for about £10.7bn.

The measure reflects the difference between what Barclays pays out in interest to savers and makes as margin on its loans and mortgages.

The bank also confirmed plans to buy back another £750m in shares in the third quarter and boosted half-year dividends.

# Titanic shipbuilder scraps Cornish ferry plan

## Harland & Wolff ceases Scilly Ferries operations 'with immediate effect' as it battles for survival

*By* **Matt Oliver**

THE Belfast shipyard that built the Titanic has scrapped an "overly ambitious" ferry service as it battles for survival. Harland & Wolff announced yesterday that it had ceased the operations of Scilly Ferries, a new venture it was preparing to launch before getting into financial difficulties.

The business, which has effectively put itself up for sale, also extended an overdraft from Riverstone, its Wall Street lender, by a further $25m (£20m). This increases the facility to $140m. Its decision to scrap Scilly Ferries follows months of preparation under former boss John Wood, who left last month.

Mr Wood announced Harland was launching the ferry service, which would have served people travelling to and from the Isles of Scilly, after his company missed out on a contract to design and build new boats for the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company.

But yesterday, the company told customers: "It is with great sadness that we announce that Scilly Ferries, including the Atlantic Wolff fast ferry, has ceased operations. The decision has been made because of the need for Harland & Wolff to refocus on its core business activities.

"As the company's new board assesses all aspects of the group's functions, the ferry operation was identified as being overly ambitious given current circumstances. As a result, the decision was made to cease Scilly Ferries with immediate effect."

Russell Downs, Harland & Wolff's interim executive chairman, said: "We understand that this will be difficult news for those affected directly and for the people of the Isles of Scilly and sincerely apologise for the inconvenience and uncertainty caused."

**H&W's Atlantic Wolff high-speed catamaran will be returned to its manufacturer, Damen, in the Netherlands**

Harland & Wolff Marine Services, which transports freight between the mainland and the Isles of Scilly, will continue unaffected.

The company added that customers with reservations would be contacted today but did not explicitly say whether they would receive refunds.

Meanwhile, staff have been informed about the company's closure and Atlantic Wolff, the high-speed catamaran it had outfitted for the job, will be returned to its manufacturer, Damen, in the Netherlands.

As recently as July 18, the company had announced the arrival of the Atlantic Wolff in Penzance for berthing trials.

The vessel, capable of carrying 400 passengers and painted in Harland & Wolff's signature colours of yellow, black and white, would have provided two return crossings per day during the tourist season. However, the company's ferry plans later became a problem when Mr Wood sought a lifeline loan guarantee from the Government, with the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company threatening legal action over the allegedly unfair support.

'The ferry operation was identified as being overly ambitious given current conditions'

It culminated in ministers informing the company that it would not receive the support, plunging it into financial uncertainty.

Harland had long said it needed the loan guarantee to carry out a major restructuring of its debt pile. The borrowings from Riverstone carry high rates of interest.

The turmoil prompted the departure of Mr Wood and the installation of Mr Downs, a turnaround expert, as the new interim chairman.

Bankers at Rothschild have been drafted in to "assess strategic options" for the business, which are expected to include a potential sale.

# British Airways owner ends takeover talks

*By* **Michael Bow**

THE owner of British Airways has abandoned a deal to buy Spanish carrier Air Europa for the second time after regulators threatened to block the tie-up.

International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns British Airways, Aer Lingus and Iberia, revived the €400m (£338m) takeover last February after an initial bid was thwarted by the European Commission in 2021.

Despite IAG's hopes that it could convince Brussels to support the plan, officials signalled they would block the merger, prompting IAG to pull the plug. IAG owns 20pc of Air Europa and had been attempting to buy the other 80pc from the Spanish tourism operator Globalia.

The group will pay a €50m break fee to Globalia after dropping the plan.

Luis Gallego, IAG's chief executive, said: "We believe this decision is in the best interests of our shareholders.

"IAG remains committed to its strategy, including competing effectively from its Madrid hub. This is a strategy which is delivering strong results.

"We will continue to develop our presence in Madrid so that the hub can develop as a rival to Europe's largest hub airports."

The outcome is embarrassing for IAG, given it decided to revive the deal despite EU regulators saying it should not proceed previously. The group also had to pay a €40m break fee when the deal collapsed in 2021.

Air Europa and IAG's Iberia are the two major airlines in Spain, and provide key routes between the country and the rest of Europe and Latin America. The group has spent the last six months trying to convince the EU to support the plan.

However, European Commission competition tsar Margrethe Vestager warned IAG in January that the tie-up could harm passengers by increasing costs.

Madrid's main international airport would have been dominated by one group if the deal was allowed to proceed, the EU said.

In response, IAG had offered a package of concessions to Brussels to try to ease concerns, including offering up take-off and landing slots to rivals.

IAG said it offered to surrender half of the Air Europa slots but that did not satisfy the commission.

Mr Gallego said: "This was not enough to have the approval. To go beyond that did not make sense for the group and our shareholders."

EU regulators have become increasingly sceptical about so-called "slot remedies" in recent years, with top Brussels anti-trust director Olivier Guersent saying they did not solve competition problems.

News of IAG's decision to abandon the Air Europa deal came as the company published its half-year results a day early.

IAG's operating profits for the six months ending June nudged up slightly to €1.3bn, from €1.26bn for the same period last year.

# Rolls-Royce roars back to life after pandemic-induced crisis

*By* **Matt Oliver**

ROLLS-ROYCE has brought back its dividend as the engineering titan roars back from its pandemic-era crisis.

Tufan Erginbilgic, who took charge in January last year, said shareholders would receive a payout for the current financial year worth 30pc to 40pc of the FTSE 100 company's underlying profits.

That is expected to amount to about 5p to 5.5p per share based on the latest forecasts, which were upgraded yesterday.

Rolls, which makes engines for commercial aircraft, naval vessels and military jets, has not paid a dividend in five years. The company, under previous boss Warren East, had a payout planned in 2020 but cancelled it after the coronavirus pandemic shut down international air travel and decimated its finances overnight.

Mr Erginbilgic's decision to restore the dividend marks another symbolic moment on the company's path back to success, after the chief executive launched a top-to-bottom overhaul of the business. The news sent shares in Rolls rocketing 11pc in early morning trading to hit a record high. They closed up 7pc at 481p.

**Tufan Erginbilgic said Rolls-Royce's turnaround plan was 'proceeding with pace'**

Mr Erginbilgic said yesterday: "Our transformation of Rolls-Royce into a high-performing, competitive, resilient and growing business is proceeding with pace and intensity. These results and our increased financial resilience give us the confidence to raise our 2024 guidance and reinstate shareholder distributions."

It came as Rolls also upgraded its profit forecast for 2024. In its half-year results, the company predicted a full-year underlying operating profit of £2.1bn to £2.3bn, compared with analyst expectations of around £2bn.

# Wizz Air slumps as ticket sales drop

*By* **Christopher Jasper**

BUDGET airline Wizz Air aims to limit its growth in Britain after falling demand for flights sent its share price plunging by more than a fifth.

Wizz became the latest European airline to reveal lacklustre results on Wednesday, with profits almost wiped out in the three months through June, sending the stock to its biggest decline since Covid lockdowns began in March 2020.

József Váradi, Wizz chief executive, said sluggish sales in the UK and Western Europe will lead the airline to reassess where it stations new jets next summer. Deployment is likely to be skewed more to central and eastern Europe, where demand remains robust.

Britain, where Wizz competes with carriers including Ryanair, easyJet and Jet2 in the intensely competitive low-cost market, may get some additional flight times and perhaps a few more routes, he said, but is unlikely to benefit from the opening of further bases.

Mr Váradi said: "Clearly, from an overall market perspective, demand is suffering. All our competitors are struggling, as we've seen from Ryanair and Lufthansa.

"Western Europe is becoming a more saturated market. But this is not unique to airlines. We're seeing softening consumer demand across many sectors."

Shares closed down 22.6pc.

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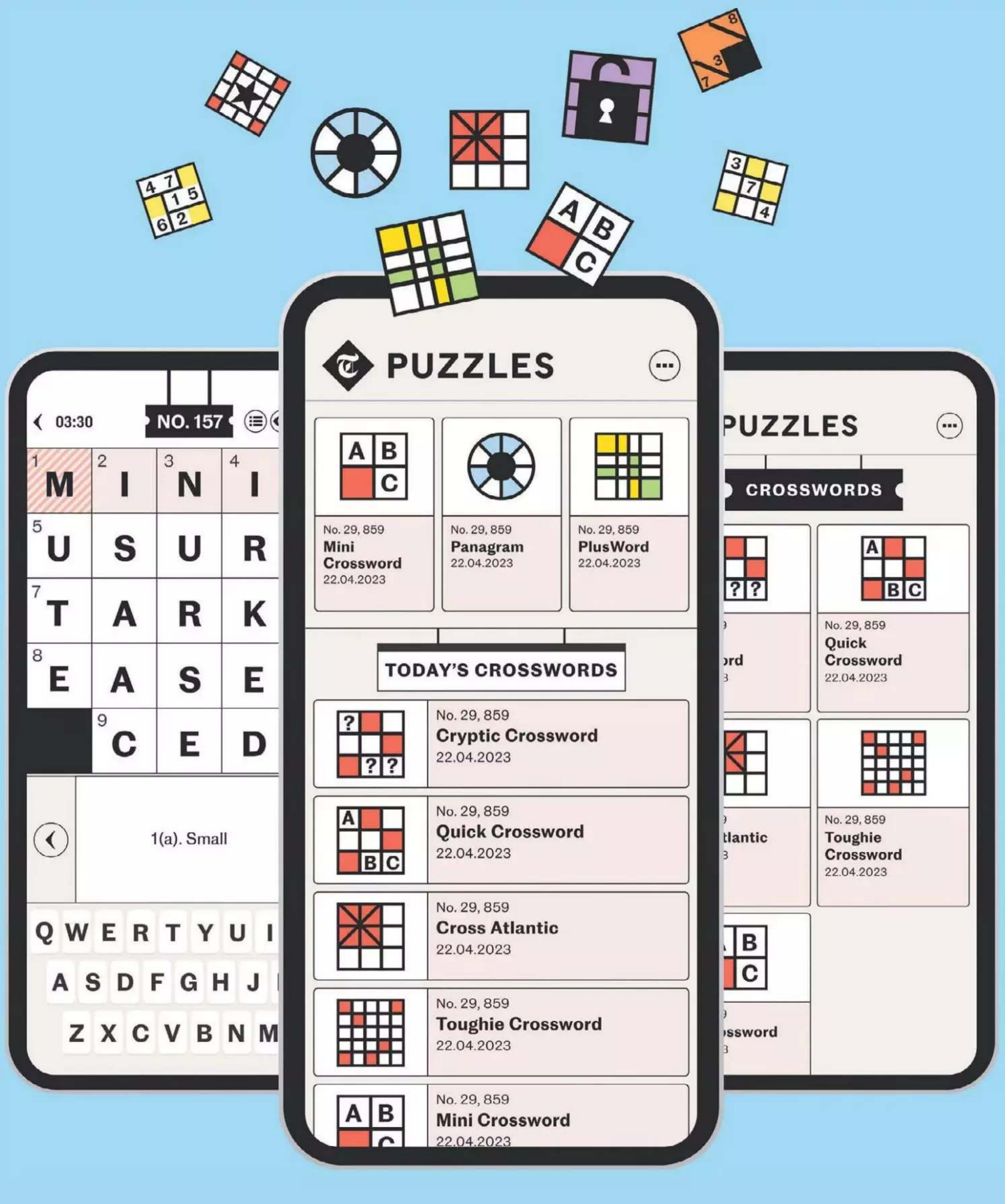


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# Labour must stick to its guns on green power

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

## Procrastination over carbon capture ambitions is a missed opportunity to corner a valuable market

Britain has made a dog's dinner of its grand ambitions for carbon capture. The £20bn national plan was supposed to anchor the country's energy policy, making all else possible in the rush towards clean power and clean industry.

As matters stand, no "final investment decision" has been made on any project. Government drift during the last spasms of the Tory civil war wasted critical time. Irritated global companies defected to America, where the Inflation Reduction Act has turbocharged carbon capture and storage (CCS) with tax credits worth $85 (£67) a ton.

"Everything was left hanging, so they turned to the US instead. We are now a year behind," said Ruth Herbert, head of the Carbon Capture and Storage Association.

Labour has inherited a roll-out schedule that has gone off the rails. A harsh report last week by the National Audit Office said the project pipeline will "only provide a quarter of the carbon capture capacity needed to meet the Government's targets for 2030". It leaves a bomb crater in Labour's climate plan.

Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, intends to persevere with CCS, but that alone will not meet his 100pc clean power target this decade. He will have to commit more money, rush through a string of project deals, and take an unpopular political gamble on the most complex CCS experiment in the world. If he does not, he will preside over a big policy failure.

The NAO report said it "could be a risk worth taking". I agree. Britain is tailor-made for carbon capture. It has coastal clusters of heavy industry linked to oil and gas pipelines in the North Sea that can seal CO2 in depleted wells at viable cost. Most of Europe has no such luck.

The scale is large enough both to store the UK's emissions and the emissions of Europe's industrial heartland, spinning a profit along the way. "It is a huge economic opportunity. We can help Europe decarbonise," said Mrs Herbert.

German cement, fertiliser and steel companies are already in talks to ship CO2 to Norway for storage in the Northern Lights project. The UK could corner most of this lucrative trade. "We could ship it from Rotterdam to Teesside or the Humber, and store it much more cheaply.

It could be worth £5bn a year," said Prof Jon Gibbins, head of the UK Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre at Sheffield University.

The subject of carbon capture has become politically poisonous.

Eco-purists loathe it with an unforgiving fury. They deem it a strategic deception to keep fossil fuels going, a delaying tactic by Saudi Aramco, Exxon and other villains of green eschatology.

Hardline climate sceptics also hate it, deeming it a pointless waste of money. Although in this instance – unlike other green themes – they do not have the deep pockets of the oil and gas industry behind them.

Once you shut out this noise, carbon capture and storage is probably the easiest, cheapest and quickest way to back up renewable power.

If Labour succeeds in doubling onshore wind, tripling solar and quadrupling offshore wind by 2030 – near impossible under the Reeves austerity doctrine, but let us generously allow 2033 – the UK will have 140 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity meeting most electricity needs, most of the time. We will have too much at certain times. This excess power will have to be turned into green hydrogen once electrolysis reaches prime time, a long way off.

The system will not require large volumes of baseload power at that juncture, beyond what will already be available from nuclear reactors at Sizewell B and Hinkley Point C, the Xlinks cable project from Morocco, and European interconnectors.

It will require "dispatchable" power that can be ramped up and down quickly. Batteries can plug the gap for a few hours, but the only realistic way to cover the seasons and get through a two-week winter doldrum is to fire up standby gas plants.

> 'Carbon capture and storage is the easiest, cheapest and quickest way to back up renewable power'

Carbon capture is by now a proven technology. Amine solvents have been used around the world for 30 years. You can bolt a post-combustion retrofit on to a gas-fired plant, capturing over 90pc of the CO2.

You lose a fifth of the energy as a "parasitic" loss, but better solvents are on the way. The next generation – Allam cycle, carbonate fuel cells, or metal organic frameworks – may slash costs by the early 2030s. For now, it takes real money, but less than the future cost of carbon emissions in the OECD bloc.

Anybody who thinks that the UK will be burning large amounts of "unabated" gas in the 2030s is living in geopolitical cloud cuckoo land. Europe's carbon contracts trade today at €69 (£58) a ton.

Analysts at BNEF expect the price to ratchet towards €150 by 2030 as carbon allowances are dialled down. The EU carbon border adjustment mechanism will hit in 17 months. Climate free-riders will be shut out of the market.

Obviously, Labour has no intention of taking that pariah course. It sees decarbonisation as a long-term accelerant of economic growth and a bonanza for British clean tech.

But it should take a close look at how that £20bn CCS budget is spent. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis says the "overwhelming majority" of the effort is going into blue hydrogen (made from gas with CCS) rather than generating electricity.

"Support for abating emissions from the UK's existing gas and bioenergy power stations is severely lacking," it said. Only one 900MW gas-fired plant will be abated by 2030. "We could do at least another six, but the Government needs to make a quick decision. Our members need certainty," said Ruth Herbert.

Ultimately, over 10GW of gas plants could be abated with the right dispatchable power agreements.

RWE has 5.3GW lined up for possible CCS retrofits. SSE has parallel plans. You could retrofit 3GW of biomass plants, generating "negative" emissions.

Bingo: you have something close to 24/7, all-year-round, back-up power for a grid built on renewables.

You are almost there on clean power by the early 2030s, at least until EVs displace the old car fleet and heat pumps take over.

"If we set up the right incentives, and have cross-party support, the supply chain will respond. We are already far ahead of most other countries, so let us have a crack at it," said Mrs Herbert.

It costs serious money, but renewable power pays that back later by displacing most LNG gas imports. Besides, every other conceivable option costs more, unless one intends to walk away from the Glasgow Agreement sponsored by this country.

Should Labour pull the lever and get on with it? With caveats, yes. Carbon capture could yet be an unsung hero of the green transition.

**Carving out a revival**
Ghulam Nabi Zargar, 70, a walnut wood carving artisan for 53 years, prepares a piece at his workshop in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir. He is reviving the dying craft by inculcating creative and new designs including carvings of the map of Srinagar City or route maps to Amarnath Cave, a Hindu pilgrimage site.

FAROOQ KHAN/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Energy Secretary is heading for a showdown with BP and Shell over switch to renewables

BEN MARLOW

## As Ed Miliband dreams of a revolution in solar power, oil giants could not be less enthusiastic about net zero

While millions of households continue to grapple with extortionate energy bills, it is reassuring to know that not everyone has lost their sense of humour. Take Shell boss Wael Sawan, for example.

The Lebanese-Canadian businessman has hailed the oil giant's latest forecast-busting profits alongside billions of pounds in further share buybacks as proof that it is "delivering more value with less emissions". How so exactly when it has just generated $6.3bn (£4.9bn) of profits in the past three months alone – well above analyst predictions of between $5.9bn and $5bn – and pledged to fork out $3.5bn on share buybacks? Much of this continues to be made off the back of the Kremlin's devastating war in Ukraine, and astronomical household bills.

To the list of unfortunate tailwinds we may soon be able to add all-out war in the Middle East. Oil prices have been rising steadily since the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran and top Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut this week. Shell's spectacular haul was no aberration either. The previous quarter's profits were $7.7bn against forecasts of $6.5bn, and the amount set aside for the company's buyback programme was also $3.5bn.

Nor is Shell alone in raking in vast sums of money – BP has posted bumper quarterly profits too – while energy bills remain alarmingly high. True, they have come down somewhat from their terrifying peak but we should not allow the energy sector to gaslight us into believing that they are even close to returning to previous levels. Household energy costs remain far higher than they were before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and are on course for a worrying spike in the autumn that will wipe out this year's modest falls.

As Adam Scorer, chief executive of charity National Energy Action, recently put it: "The cost of energy remains a luxury that many of the poorest simply cannot afford."

So when Sawan talks about value, presumably he means for shareholders? The second part of his assertion would be easier to square if the company was scaling back oil and gas exploration but it is not. The company may have found ways – some controversial – to reduce the environmental impact of its activities but "less emissions" seems to imply that it is gradually turning its back on fossil fuels while embracing low-carbon technologies, which is simply not the case.

The reality is the vast proportion of the eye-watering sums of money that Shell and its rivals continue to generate still come from its core operations, while the company's carbon footprint is so colossal that it is regularly named and shamed as one of the world's worst corporate polluters. This, despite numerous pledges to do their bit to fight climate change by accelerating decarbonisation.

Indeed one could fairly argue that progress towards "greening" big oil's activities has taken a sizable step backwards in recent months, at the worst possible time, too, in terms of the risk of serious political blowback.

The general election means the industry has arguably just witnessed the government with the most sympathetic stance towards fossil fuels in many years replaced by what could quickly become the most hostile. If there was ever a more ideological energy secretary than Ed Miliband it is hard to think of one. That puts the likes of Shell and BP on course for a mighty showdown with the MP for Doncaster North in the near future.

While Miliband dreams of a "rooftop revolution" that will triple the country's solar capacity by pressuring housebuilders to put solar panels on new homes and buildings, the energy giants could not be less enthusiastic about the embrace of renewables and the wider net zero charge.

Take Shell. As part of plans to make the company "leaner", Sawan has rowed back on a series of key climate pledges at the same time as unveiling new oil projects, growing its gas arm and trimming some of its so-called "low-carbon" businesses.

Shell has been emboldened by the previous government's confused rhetoric about the need to double down on homegrown oil and gas in the name of energy security.

The idea that hydrocarbons produced in the North Sea made us less reliant on hostile foreign regimes was always a giant red herring anyway, given that international markets dictate prices, but the sudden ministerial clamour for homegrown reserves made even less sense in the face of the windfall tax. If ever there was any doubt about what a massive disincentive to invest that was, one only needs to look at the rate at which the big producers are pulling out of Britain's waters. Shell has just sold 11 North Sea gas fields to independent operator Viaro as it pursues more lucrative opportunities in other corners of the world.

Ministers were also guilty of rowing back on net zero at the same time as peddling the myth that energy bills are high because of green taxes when in fact they represent just a tiny proportion of the overall cost. Voters have been fooled into thinking that the cost of energy transition will forever be prohibitively high but economies of scale, together with continually evolving technologies, mean the costs of many types of green energy are falling rapidly.

Yet, that doesn't mean we should go hell for leather without being mindful of the costs, which is the danger with someone as ideologically driven as Miliband. The reality is that the energy behemoths of yesteryear cannot solely be relied on to build the energy system of tomorrow. But it makes more sense to ensure they are a part of it. The risk with Miliband's crusade is that he alienates them further, setting back attempts to decarbonise by decades.

# Royal Mail deal called in for security checks

*By* **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

CZECH billionaire Daniel Kretinsky's £3.57bn takeover deal for Royal Mail's owner has been called in by the Government under national security rules.

International Distribution Services, the parent company of Royal Mail, agreed a takeover deal by Mr Kretinsky's EP Group in May.

It is understood that the Cabinet Office has now launched a review process into the bid under the National Security and Investment (NSI) Act. Mr Kretinsky's EP Group and the Cabinet Office declined to comment.

The process will assess whether the sale to Mr Kretinsky, who is already IDS's largest shareholder, could affect the UK's economic infrastructure or pose a security risk.

The BBC, which first reported the government action, said officials will look closely at Mr Kretinsky's links to Russia. He owns a stake in a major gas pipeline from Russia to Europe.

Government officials could block a deal or ask for specific commitments from the suitor if the review raises major concerns.

The review process is expected to take up to two months.

Sources close to the process said calling in the deal under the NSI Act was "not a surprise" given the significance of Royal Mail. The Government undertook a similar review when Mr Kretinsky increased his shareholding in Royal Mail's owner to 27.5pc in 2022.

Labour earlier pledged that it would "ensure that any proposed takeover is robustly scrutinised".

# UK labour laws 'among weakest in Europe'

*By* **Lucy Burton**

BRITISH employment laws are "significantly weaker" than those in other major economies, a report has revealed.

Unions are urging Sir Keir Starmer to cut workers' hours and make strikes easier after research found that labour laws in Britain are half as protective as those in France, and far weaker than in other European countries such as Germany, Italy and Spain.

Analysis has revealed that Britain scores lower than the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development average on working hours, unfair dismissal, employee representation and industrial action.

The research, carried out for the Trades Union Congress by the University of Cambridge, argues the gap in worker protections between Britain and the 38 OECD member nations widened after the Tories took office in 2010.

It says other wealthy countries have laws "specifying Sunday as the default day of weekly rest and a right to a premium [wage] for weekend working". Boardrooms are currently awaiting the Government's incoming Employment Bill, which is expected to award workers full rights from day one.

The TUC said the package of measures designed to boost workers' rights, which also includes banning "fire and rehire" practices and increasing the minimum wage, will "create a level playing field to stop good employers from being undercut by the bad".

However, the proposals have spooked bosses amid fears of an increase in unfair dismissal complaints.

# Markets

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## Government securities

| 52 week High | Low (£) | Stock | Price (£) | +/- | Flat Yield | Rdm Yield |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Index Linked Securities** | | | | | | |
| 102.30 | 99.20 | Treas 5% 25 | 100.27 | +0.06 | 4.99 | 4.57 |
| 112.21 | 100.63 | Treas 6% 28 | 109.42 | +0.47 | 5.48 | 3.64 |
| 106.59 | 92.22 | Treas 4¼% 32 | 103.62 | +0.75 | 4.10 | 3.71 |
| 106.09 | 94.06 | Treas 4¼% 36 | 102.50 | +1.02 | 4.15 | 3.98 |
| 110.73 | 96.88 | Treas 4¾% 38 | 106.64 | +1.13 | 4.45 | 4.13 |
| **10-year Government Bonds** | | | | | | |
| 352.43 | 328.96 | Treas 4½% IL 30 | 348.02 | +2.37 | 1.19 | 0.18 |
| 243.64 | 239.45 | Treas 2% IL 35 | 251.85 | +2.51 | 0.79 | 0.55 |

| | Yield% | Spread vs Bunds | Spread vs T-Bonds |
|---|---|---|---|
| France | 2.94 | +0.70 | -1.03 |
| Germany | 2.24 | - | -1.73 |
| Japan | 1.03 | -1.21 | -2.94 |
| Great Britain | 3.87 | +1.63 | -0.10 |
| United States | 3.97 | +1.73 | - |

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 +2.62%

| 52 week High | Low (p) | Stock | Price (p) | +/- | Yld | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 575 | 361¼ | Babcock Intl ● | 522½ | -8½ | 1.0 | 15.9 |
| 1415¼ | 930¾ | **BAE Systems** | 1285 | -12 | 2.4 | 21.0 |
| 491 | 292¼ | QinetiQ ● | 470¼* | -13 | 1.8 | 19.4 |
| 503 | 178½ | **Rolls-Royce** | 481¼ | +31½ | – | 16.7 |
| 183 | 146¾ | Senior ● | 162 | -1¼ | 1.4 | 21.5 |

## Banks -5.68%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 241¾ | 128¼ | **Barclays** | 222⅞ | -10% | 3.7 | 8.0 |
| 930½ | 278 | Close Bros ● | 497¼ | -13% | – | 9.2 |
| 725¼ | 572⅝ | **HSBC** | 658½ | -45½ | 7.2 | 7.3 |
| 64⅜ | 39¼ | **Lloyds Bk Gp** | 56⅛ | -3¾ | 5.2 | 7.4 |
| 372¼ | 168 | **NatWest Group** | 338¾ | -29¾ | 5.2 | 7.1 |
| 423 | 285 | Santander | 360½ | -11½ | 3.3 | 21.4 |
| 796 | 571 | **Standard Ch** | 721¾ | -45¾ | 3.3 | 8.5 |

## Beverages -0.78%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3509 | 2275 | **Diageo** | 2400 | -19 | 3.3 | 14.6 |

## Chemicals -1.91%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5925¼ | 3847 | **Croda Intl** | 3967 | -75 | 2.7 | 32.4 |
| 1917⅞ | 1428½ | Johnson Mat ● | 1603* | -36 | 4.8 | 27.4 |
| 1581 | 1054 | Victrex ● | 1088 | -12 | 5.5 | 15.3 |

## Construction -0.00%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 437⅞ | 291⅝ | Balfour Beatty ● | 416 | -5¼ | 2.8 | 11.8 |
| 582⅛ | 384½ | **Barratt Dev** | 534 | +7½ | 5.2 | 10.0 |
| 2904 | 1972 | Bellway ● | 2844 | -22 | 3.9 | 9.6 |
| 5360 | 3832 | **Berkeley Grp** | 5080 | – | 2.5 | 13.6 |
| 237 | 170 | Boot H | 228 | -2 | 3.2 | 11.6 |
| 90¾ | 44⅛ | Costain | 87¼ | – | 1.4 | 10.8 |
| 1089¾ | 737¼ | Grafton Gp ● | 1060¾ | -19¾ | 3.4 | 15.2 |
| 2960 | 1768 | Morgan Sindall ● | 2835 | -25 | 4.0 | 11.2 |
| 1618¼ | 925 | **Persimmon** | 1588½ | – | 3.8 | 19.9 |
| 765 | 434½ | Redrow ● | 754½ | +8½ | 3.3 | 8.3 |
| 163¼ | 102¼ | **Taylor Wimpey** | 159½ | +½ | 6.0 | 16.1 |

## Electricals -2.60%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 238 | 135 | Dialight | 176½ | +2½ | – | – |
| 842 | 586 | discoverIE Grp ● | 659* | -18 | 1.8 | 40.7 |
| 2750 | 1802 | **Halma** | 2604* | -58 | 0.8 | 42.0 |
| 4500 | 2823¾ | Renishaw ● | 3615 | -180 | 2.1 | 22.6 |
| 2489¼ | 682¾ | XP Power | 1324 | +24 | 1.4 | -29.2 |

## Electricity -0.49%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 666½ | 395¼ | Drax Group ● | 644½ | -4 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| 1052⅝ | 645 | **Nat Grid** | 980 | -6 | 6.0 | 17.2 |
| 1932½ | 1485 | **SSE** | 1877* | -3½ | 3.2 | 12.0 |

## Engineering / Industrial -0.86%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101¾ | 64¼ | Coats Group ● | 101 | +11½ | 2.3 | 36.7 |
| 851 | 212 | Cropper J | 265 | -5 | 1.1 | -6.3 |
| 8860 | 4500 | Goodwin ● | 8400 | -100 | 1.4 | 40.6 |
| 1911 | 1429 | **IMI** | 1830 | -64 | 1.6 | 20.0 |
| 1719⅜ | 1304 | **Mondi** | 1541½ | +21 | 3.8 | 16.9 |
| 84¾ | 48⅛ | Severfield | 82 | +2½ | 4.5 | 15.8 |
| 1791 | 1517½ | **Smiths Gp** | 1750 | -36 | 2.4 | 26.7 |
| 464¾ | 260½ | **Smith (DS)** | 456¾ | +1¾ | 3.9 | 16.3 |
| 3910 | 2528 | Smurfit Westrock | 3408 | -43 | 2.8 | – |
| 11280 | 7900 | **Spirax Gp** | 8875 | -185 | 1.8 | 35.6 |
| 2210¼ | 1652½ | **Weir** | 1980 | -52 | 2.0 | 22.4 |

## Food producers +0.13%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2765 | 1907½ | **Ass Brit Fds** | 2487 | +5 | 2.2 | 18.5 |
| 2890 | 2065 | **Coca-Cola HBC** | 2844 | +4 | 2.8 | 19.5 |
| 4795 | 3158 | Cranswick ● | 4750* | -15 | 1.9 | 22.6 |
| 957 | 632 | Hilton Food ● | 929 | -5 | 3.4 | 22.9 |
| 99 | 48 | REA Hldgs | 81 | +½ | – | -3.2 |
| 4804 | 3680½ | **Unilever** | 4782 | +6 | 3.1 | 22.0 |

## Gas & Water -0.08%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 173¾ | 123⅞ | **Centrica** | 130½ | -2½ | 3.2 | 1.8 |
| 775 | 532⅞ | Pennon Gp ● | 629½* | +9½ | 7.0 | -174.9 |
| 2801 | 2243 | **Severn Trent** | 2589 | +18 | 4.5 | 50.8 |
| 1139½ | 896¼ | **Utd Utilities** | 1033* | – | 4.8 | 55.5 |

## General financial +1.03%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 234¼ | 156¼ | Ashmore ● | 168¾ | -3¾ | 10.0 | 13.6 |
| 300⅜ | 164¾ | Bridgepoint Grp ● | 291¼ | -1¼ | 3.1 | 32.4 |
| 1169 | 676¾ | **Hargreaves L** | 1095½ | -9½ | 3.9 | 16.0 |
| 953 | 600½ | IG Group ● | 934½ | -3 | 4.9 | 11.8 |
| 2448 | 1244⅞ | **IntermediateCp** | 2132* | -64 | 3.7 | 12.9 |
| 620½ | 429¾ | Investec ● | 605½ | -10 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| 66⅞ | 39 | IP Group ● | 42½ | +¾ | 3.0 | -2.6 |
| 865 | 519 | Liontrust | 652* | -11 | 11.0 | -119.4 |
| 73⅜ | 30 | Lon. Fin. & Inv. | 63 | -1½ | 1.9 | 14.3 |
| 11080¼ | 7784 | **Lon Stock Ex** | 9852 | +382 | 1.2 | 70.9 |
| 241½ | 182⅞ | **M&G** | 208¾ | -3¾ | 9.4 | -3.2 |
| 279¼ | 200½ | Man Group ● | 238¼ | -6¼ | 5.3 | 15.3 |
| 136 | 71¼ | Quilter ● | 134½ | +¾ | 3.9 | 43.4 |
| 2450 | 1750 | S & U | 1960 | +95 | 6.1 | 9.4 |
| 462¼ | 346¼ | **Schroders** | 354¾ | -38¼ | 6.1 | 14.4 |
| 134¾ | 42¾ | Vanquis Banking Gp | 56¼ | +1¼ | 10.7 | -23.4 |

## Healthcare +3.43%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 371¼ | 308⅛ | **Haleon** | 358 | +8¾ | 1.7 | 31.4 |
| 1245¼ | 887 | **Smith & Nep** | 1199 | +76 | 2.5 | 50.8 |

## Household goods -1.84%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2275 | 680 | **Burberry** | 767¾* | -7¾ | – | 10.4 |
| 145 | 31⅜ | McBride | 130½ | -2½ | – | -19.8 |
| 168¼ | 81½ | PZ Cussons ● | 104 | -1¾ | 5.0 | 12.0 |
| 6006 | 4034 | **Reckitt Benck** | 4098 | -80 | 4.8 | 17.9 |

## Information technology -0.98%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 390 | 224½ | Aptitude Sftwre | 378 | -2 | 1.4 | 52.4 |
| 1285 | 920 | **Sage Gp** | 1074½ | -11½ | 1.8 | 51.8 |
| 205 | 79¾ | Spirent ● | 172½ | -½ | 1.8 | 51.3 |

## Insurance -2.20%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 234⅞ | 134⅝ | abrdn ● | 170¾ | +⅝ | 8.6 | – |
| 2870 | 2044 | **Admiral** | 2728 | -26 | 3.8 | 24.5 |
| 504¾ | 366 | **Aviva** | 490¼ | -10 | 6.8 | 13.0 |
| 715 | 485¼ | **Beazley** | 664 | -19½ | 2.1 | 5.3 |
| 240½ | 145⅞ | DirectLineIns ● | 185¼ | -2¼ | 2.2 | 11.7 |
| 1282 | 926 | Hiscox ● | 1245 | -26 | 2.4 | 7.7 |
| 690 | 527½ | Lancashire Hldg ● | 628 | -6 | 2.5 | 6.0 |
| 259 | 203¼ | **Legal & General** | 225¾ | -5¾ | 9.0 | 30.7 |
| 560½ | 436½ | **Phoenix** | 543 | -4 | 9.7 | -39.3 |
| 1075½ | 666¼ | **Prudential** | 667¼ | -32 | 2.5 | 13.7 |
| 948¾ | 393⅝ | St. James's Place ● | 704½ | +19½ | 2.0 | -391.4 |

## Investment trusts -0.48%

| 52 week High | Low (p) | Stock | Price (p) | +/- | Yld | NAV |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3180 | 1858½ | **3i** | 3092 | -36 | 2.0 | 2172 |
| 360 | 289 | 3i Infrastructure ● | 350 | +½ | 3.4 | 360 |
| 826 | 528 | abrdn New India | 812 | -4 | – | 987 |
| 1264 | 980 | Alliance Trust ● | 1240 | – | 2.1 | 1274 |
| 418 | 242⅝ | Allianz Tech Trust ● | 373½ | +4 | – | 396 |
| 426⅞ | 321⅝ | Asia Dragon Trust ● | 420 | +6 | 1.6 | 457 |
| 241 | 175 | Baillie Giff China | 188½ | +2 | 1.1 | 209 |
| 101¼ | 75⅞ | Baillie Giff Euro Gwth | 95¼ | -¾ | 0.4 | 111 |
| 88 | 60 | Balanced Comm Prp ● | 86¾* | -¾ | 6.1 | 105 |
| 118¼ | 91½ | Bankers Invstmt Tst ● | 116¾* | -⅜ | 2.3 | 128 |
| 1064 | 715 | Biotech Growth | 1020 | -8 | – | 1114 |
| 127 | 104 | BlackRockEnrgy&Res | 117½ | -2½ | 3.8 | 133 |
| 159⅞ | 131¼ | BlckRock FroInv | 145¾ | -1¼ | 4.5 | 164 |
| 653 | 457½ | BlckRck Grt Euro ● | 605 | -6 | 1.1 | 633 |
| 209¾ | 170 | BlckRck Inc&Grth | 207* | +8 | 3.6 | 229 |
| 207 | 172½ | BlckRckSustAmInc | 204 | +1 | 3.9 | 222 |
| 1622 | 1146 | BlackRock Small ● | 1598 | -2 | 2.6 | 1720 |
| 682 | 503 | BlkRk Throg Tst ● | 664 | -12 | 2.3 | 723 |
| 634 | 490 | BlackRock Wld M ● | 560 | -3 | 6.0 | 567 |
| 1420 | 964 | Brunner ● | 1400 | -5 | 1.7 | 1416 |
| 3700 | 3120¼ | Caledonia ● | 3650* | -15 | 1.9 | 5364 |
| 454 | 371½ | City of Lon ● | 442* | -4½ | 4.7 | 443 |
| 206 | 151½ | CQS Nat Res G & I | 184½ | – | 3.6 | 208 |
| 260 | 206 | CT Glbl Mgd G | 262 | +4 | – | 271 |
| 121¾ | 98 | CT Glbl Mgd I | 120½ | – | 6.1 | 121 |
| 516 | 406 | CT Priv Eq Ord | 480* | -5 | 5.8 | 681 |
| 345⅞ | 266⅝ | CT UK Cap & Inc | 343 | +2 | 3.6 | 355 |
| 98 | 71 | CT UKHighIncTst | 96¼* | +2¼ | 5.8 | 100 |
| 590 | 448⅝ | Dunedin Ent | 503½ | – | 2.0 | 627 |
| 786 | 629 | Edinburgh Inv Tr ● | 778 | -3 | 3.5 | 842 |
| 165⅝ | 120¾ | Edin Worldwide ● | 163¾ | +⅜ | – | 172 |
| 92¼ | 73 | European Assets | 86¾* | -1¾ | 6.8 | 99 |
| 1066⅝ | 825¾ | **F&C Inv Trust** | 1050* | -6 | 1.4 | 1136 |
| 549⅞ | 473¼ | Fidelity Asian V | 498 | +2 | 2.9 | 552 |
| 246 | 181¼ | Fidlty Chna Sp Sits ● | 193* | +2 | 3.3 | 207 |
| 412½ | 311½ | Fidelity Euro Tst ● | 398 | -5 | 2.1 | 415 |
| 186½ | 151 | Fidelity Japan Tst | 172½ | -2½ | – | 201 |
| 335½ | 252 | Fidelity Sp V ● | 330 | -4 | 2.9 | 352 |
| 908 | 788¾ | Finsbury Gwth ● | 847 | -9 | 2.3 | 931 |
| 172¾ | 128¼ | Glbl Small Co Trust ● | 171¾* | +⅜ | 1.6 | 187 |
| 171½ | 136 | Hend High Inc | 166½ | -½ | 6.3 | 185 |
| 172½ | 148½ | Hend Intl Inc | 165* | -1 | 4.7 | 187 |
| 987⅜ | 626 | Hend Smaller Co ● | 970 | -3 | 2.8 | 1058 |
| 238 | 169 | Hend Opp | 222 | -3 | 3.2 | 252 |
| 2305 | 1590 | Herald Inv ● | 2280 | +15 | – | 2499 |
| 550 | 357 | HgCapital ● | 548 | +9 | 1.2 | 525 |
| 141 | 111 | HICL Infrastructure ● | 129* | +2 | 6.4 | 157 |
| 1352 | 1046 | ICG Enterprise Tst ● | 1340 | – | 2.6 | 1924 |
| 748 | 623 | JPM Claverh'se | 742* | – | 4.8 | 780 |
| 110½ | 84¾ | JPM Eur G&I | 105 | -1 | 4.1 | 117 |
| 562 | 435 | JPM Japanese ● | 550 | -3 | 1.2 | 595 |
| 332 | 283¾ | JPM Jpn SmCp G&I | 327½* | -½ | 4.3 | 356 |
| 729¾ | 554¾ | **Land Secs** | 635½ | – | 6.3 | – |
| 135 | 103¾ | Lowland Inv | 132* | – | 4.8 | 151 |
| 254 | 179 | Majedie | 233 | +3 | 3.3 | 270 |
| 399 | 294¾ | Mtn Currie Port | 361 | -7 | 1.2 | 371 |
| 269 | 177¼ | Mercantile InvTr ● | 260½* | -3 | 3.0 | 283 |
| 605 | 476 | Merchants Tst ● | 597* | -3 | 4.8 | 596 |
| 1218 | 880 | Monks ● | 1176 | -2 | 0.2 | 1299 |
| 908 | 766⅝ | Murray Income ● | 898 | -1 | 4.3 | 984 |
| 263½ | 218½ | Murray Intl ● | 261* | +½ | 4.4 | 274 |
| 64¾ | 52 | Northern 2 VCT | 53½* | – | 5.6 | 56 |
| 86¾ | 82½ | Northern 3 VCT | 83* | – | 5.1 | 87 |
| 59¼ | 54 | Nthn Venture | 56* | – | 5.7 | 59 |
| 390 | 338 | Pacific Assets | 387 | +1 | 1.0 | 429 |
| 336 | 257 | Pantheon ● | 330½ | +6 | – | 491 |
| 137 | 87 | PremierMitonGlb | 107½ | – | 7.2 | 128 |
| 2030 | 1696 | RIT Cap Ptnrs ● | 1920 | +6 | 2.0 | 2508 |
| 284 | 260¾ | Ruffer Inv Pref ● | 279 | +2½ | 1.3 | 290 |
| 472 | 382 | Schroder Asian TR | 458 | +4 | 2.5 | 491 |
| 540 | 450 | Scot American ● | 532 | -2 | 2.7 | 560 |
| 946⅛ | 634 | **Scot Mortgage** | 851½ | -13 | 0.5 | 946 |
| 156 | 101⅛ | Shaftesbury Capital ● | 150¾ | -1½ | 2.2 | 3.3 |
| 1484 | 1162¼ | Smithson Inv Tst ● | 1452 | -26 | – | 1631 |
| 227 | 207 | STS Global Income | 221 | -1 | 3.0 | 225 |
| 168 | 140⅜ | Tmpletn Em Mt ● | 165⅝ | +⅜ | 3.0 | 186 |
| 349 | 253 | TR Property ● | 345* | +5 | 4.6 | 350 |
| 135¼ | 121 | UIL Fin ZDP 2024 | 134 | +½ | – | 137 |
| 123 | 105 | UIL Fin ZDP 2026 | 121½ | – | – | 136 |
| 241 | 203¼ | Utilico Emerg | 223 | – | 3.9 | 268 |
| 277 | 209 | Witan ● | 276 | +3 | 2.3 | 286 |
| 372½ | 286 | Worldw HealthTr ● | 367 | +1 | 0.8 | 389 |

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

## Media -1.70%

| 52 week High | Low (p) | Stock | Price (p) | +/- | Yld | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 849 | 584¾ | **Auto Trader** | 810¼ | -4¾ | 1.2 | 28.8 |
| 750 | 365 | Bloomsbury | 742* | -2 | 2.0 | 18.7 |
| 886 | 684 | **Informa** | 857¼ | -12 | 2.2 | 28.5 |
| 89 | 55½ | ITV ● | 80¼ | -⅞ | 6.2 | 15.4 |
| 1069⅜ | 809¾ | **Pearson** | 1062 | +6 | 2.2 | 20.0 |
| 112¾ | 58½ | Reach | 107⅝ | +2 | 6.8 | 15.8 |
| 3694⅜ | 2462 | **RELX** | 3590 | -83 | 1.7 | 38.2 |
| 603 | 457¾ | **Rightmove** | 573 | -3¼ | 1.6 | 23.4 |
| 859 | 656 | **WPP** | 736¼ | -14¾ | 5.4 | 11.8 |

## Mining -1.37%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2813 | 1630 | **Anglo Amer** | 2321 | -29 | 2.8 | – |
| 2425 | 1280 | **Antofagasta** | 1925 | -95 | 1.5 | 29.1 |
| 2707½ | 2069 | BHP Group | 2135 | -10 | 5.6 | 10.7 |
| 134¾ | 77¼ | Centamin ● | 123¼ | -3½ | 2.7 | 19.8 |
| 81 | 81 | Evraz # | 81 | – | – | 0.5 |
| 647½ | 435¼ | **Fresnillo** | 591½ | +3½ | 1.4 | 23.9 |
| 506¾ | 365¼ | **Glencore** | 415¼ | -14% | 2.4 | 15.6 |
| 195 | 74¾ | Hochschild Mng ● | 181¾ | -¾ | – | -23.2 |
| 445½ | 291 | Kenmare Res | 337½ | +10½ | 13.4 | 3.1 |
| 5910 | 4509½ | **Rio Tinto** | 5004 | -22 | 6.8 | 10.3 |

## Oil & Gas -0.72%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 562¼ | 404¾ | **BP** | 453⅜ | -5 | 5.0 | 6.6 |
| 18⅜ | 11⅛ | EnQuest | 13 | -¾ | – | -10.4 |
| 465⅞ | 227 | Hunting ● | 458 | -1 | 1.8 | 7.9 |
| 87½ | 8¼ | Petrofac | 15¼ | -⅛ | – | -0.3 |
| 2961 | 2289 | **Shell** | 2825 | -15 | 3.8 | 12.5 |
| 213¾ | 126⅞ | Wood Grp (John) ● | 200¼ | -3¾ | – | -15.9 |

## Pharmaceuticals +1.07%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12704 | 9461 | **AstraZeneca** | 12512 | +144 | 1.9 | 41.7 |
| 2466 | 1478 | Genus ● | 1824 | -2 | 1.8 | 35.9 |
| 1823½ | 1330¼ | **GSK** | 1526 | +14 | 3.9 | 12.5 |
| 2222 | 1711 | **Hikma** | 1900 | -4 | 3.0 | 28.3 |
| 1895 | 653 | Indivior | 1057 | -13 | – | – |

## Property +0.65%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10¼ | 6 | Alina Hldgs | 8 | – | – | 22 |
| 49⅛ | 37½ | Assura ● | 41⅝ | +⅜ | 8.1 | – |
| 1272 | 901 | Big Yellow Gp ● | 1220 | +10 | 3.7 | – |
| 446¾ | 287¼ | Brit Land ● | 411¼ | -⅜ | 5.5 | – |
| 68⅜ | 48¾ | Cap&Regional | 67¾ | +2¼ | 8.6 | – |
| 2452 | 1766 | Derwent Ldn ● | 2310 | +12 | 3.4 | – |
| 381 | 291 | Gt Portland Est ● | 349½ | -½ | 3.6 | – |
| 278¾ | 216¼ | Grainger ● | 242½ | +1½ | 2.8 | 69.3 |
| 32 | 20½ | Hammerson ● | 29 | +¼ | 5.3 | – |
| 272⅜ | 181 | Helical | 225½* | +1½ | 2.1 | -1.5 |
| 949 | 675 | **Segro** | 924 | +8¼ | 3.1 | – |
| 165 | 110 | Town Centre | 140 | -½ | – | – |
| 173 | 127⅞ | Tritax Big Box ● | 165¾ | +¼ | 4.4 | 180 |
| 92⅛ | 68 | Warehouse REIT | 87 | +1 | 7.4 | 125 |

## Retailers +1.07%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24¾ | 13 | Brown (N) | 23½ | +½ | – | – |
| 83¼ | 43 | Currys ● | 82 | +¾ | – | 5.5 |
| 1335½ | 959 | Dunelm ● | 1241 | +8 | 6.3 | 16.5 |
| 949½ | 771½ | **Frasers Group** | 876½ | -19 | – | 10.1 |
| 3194 | 2244 | Greggs ● | 3140 | +6 | 2.1 | 22.3 |
| 244¾ | 125 | Halfords | 152¾ | -1¼ | 5.2 | 19.6 |
| 956½ | 612 | **Howden Joinery** | 930 | -10½ | 2.3 | 20.0 |
| 177¼ | 103 | **JD Sports Fash** | 132½ | +⅞ | 0.7 | 12.9 |
| 283¾ | 198¼ | **Kingfisher** | 281⅜ | +5¼ | 4.4 | 15.5 |
| 341½ | 201¼ | **Marks & Spen** | 331¼ | +2⅝ | 0.9 | 15.1 |
| 8½ | 3½ | Mothercare | 4⅛ | ... | – | – |
| 9918 | 6724 | **Next** | 9830* | +756 | 2.1 | 17.1 |
| 957⅞ | 278½ | Ocado ● | 401¾ | -3¼ | – | -10.5 |
| 814 | 280½ | Pinewood Tech | 352½ | -3 | – | 3.0 |
| 161½ | 100¼ | Saga | 106 | -3½ | – | -1.3 |
| 311¼ | 243¾ | **Sainsbury J** | 275¾ | +⅝ | 4.7 | 46.7 |
| 1532 | 1069 | Smith WH ● | 1312* | -8 | 2.4 | 21.6 |
| 335¼ | 217½ | **Tesco** | 330½ | -1½ | 3.7 | 19.7 |

## Support services -2.27%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6180 | 4437 | **Ashtead Gp** | 5458 | -144 | 1.5 | 19.1 |
| 3306 | 2680 | **Bunzl** | 3230 | -28 | 2.1 | 20.6 |
| 28½ | 12¾ | Capita | 19¼ | -¼ | – | -1.8 |
| 20¾ | 12½ | Carillion # | 14¼ | – | – | 0.5 |
| 6075 | 4171 | **DCC** | 5240 | -120 | 3.8 | 15.9 |
| 107 | 46½ | De La Rue | 98¾ | -1¼ | – | -9.6 |
| 191¼ | 130¼ | Essentra ● | 171 | – | 2.1 | 95.0 |
| 3796 | 2366 | **Experian** | 3579 | -93 | 1.3 | 34.9 |
| 17412 | 16802 | Ferguson Ent | 16920 | – | – | 22.2 |
| 5145 | 3746 | **Intertek Group** | 4954 | -96 | 2.3 | 26.9 |
| 211 | 122½ | Int'l Workplace ● | 171½ | -1¼ | 0.6 | -8.0 |
| 172 | 107¼ | Johnson Serv | 158¾ | -4¼ | 1.8 | 24.8 |
| 125 | 90¾ | MITIE Gp ● | 120½* | -¾ | 3.3 | 12.3 |
| 632¾ | 387¼ | **Rentokil** | 463¼ | -11 | 2.0 | 30.6 |
| 588 | 394 | Ricardo Gp | 520 | -12 | 2.4 | -59.8 |
| 472 | 344 | Robt Walters | 368 | -1 | 6.4 | 18.3 |
| 196⅜ | 138 | Serco Group ● | 179¾ | -12¼ | 2.0 | 9.8 |
| 39⅜ | 20⅜ | SIG | 24 | -½ | – | -6.3 |
| 976 | 684¼ | Travis P ● | 935 | -23 | 1.9 | 51.7 |

## Telecommunications -1.07%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 151¼ | 101¾ | **BT Group** | 138¾ | -2¼ | 5.8 | 15.9 |
| 1932 | 1356 | Telecom Plus ● | 1822 | -78 | 4.6 | 20.3 |
| 82½ | 62¾ | **Vodafone** | 72½* | -¾ | 10.6 | 20.3 |

## Tobaccos +1.62%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2816¼ | 2233 | **Brit Am Tob** | 2797* | +52 | 8.4 | -4.3 |
| 2190 | 1553½ | **Imp Brands** | 2158 | +14 | 6.9 | 8.5 |

## Transport +0.40%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 350 | 209¾ | Int'l Dist Services ● | 347 | +2 | 0.6 | -23.8 |
| 445 | 310 | ZIGUP ● | 423 | -1 | 6.1 | 7.7 |

## Travel & Leisure -1.73%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1400 | 793 | Carnival ● | 1159½ | -46 | – | -247.2 |
| 591⅛ | 350 | **easyJet** | 431⅛ | -19 | 1.0 | 10.0 |
| 1414½ | 553 | **Entain** | 555 | -16 | 3.2 | -3.7 |
| 189 | 135 | FirstGroup ● | 171½* | -4¼ | 3.2 | -71.3 |
| 17980 | 12020 | Flutter Entrtmt | 15255 | -120 | – | -28.3 |
| 753⅜ | 540 | Fullers 'A' | 716 | -16 | 2.5 | 47.2 |
| 1875⅞ | 137 | **IAG Intl Cons Air** | 160 | -5¾ | – | 3.5 |
| 8790 | 5548 | **Intercont Hotels** | 7620 | -220 | 1.6 | 22.0 |
| 320 | 195 | Mitchells&But ● | 317 | +6 | – | -452.9 |
| 95⅞ | 45½ | Mobico Group | 56½ | +¼ | – | -1.9 |
| 571 | 365¾ | Playtech ● | 561 | -4 | – | 19.2 |
| 102 | 60⅜ | Rank Group | 69¼ | -1¼ | – | -3.4 |
| 862½ | 587 | Wetherspoon ● | 756 | +9½ | – | 15.9 |
| 3714 | 2797¼ | **Whitbread** | 2901 | -9 | 3.3 | 18.0 |

## AIM +0.78%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62½ | 25¼ | Afentra | 52% | -1¼ | – | -56.1 |
| 1139¼ | 840 | Arbuthnot | 975 | +2½ | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| 2150 | 1425⅞ | BrooksMacdonald | 2010 | +60 | 3.8 | 17.5 |
| ¾ | ⅛ | Cambria Africa # | ¼ | – | – | -9.6 |
| 235 | 150¼ | Central Asia Met | 195¼ | -2% | 9.2 | 12.2 |
| 388¾ | 126⅞ | Ceres Power | 212 | -⅝ | – | -7.6 |
| 1495 | 947 | Churchill China | 1190 | – | 3.0 | 17.0 |
| 450 | 290 | CML Micro | 307½ | -2½ | 3.6 | 23.7 |
| 874½ | 456 | Cohort | 844 | +4 | 1.8 | 22.3 |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Deltex Medical | ⅛ | – | – | -1.3 |
| 137⅛ | 75 | Eleco | 135 | +1½ | 0.6 | 42.2 |
| 56 | 23¼ | Futura Medical | 36 | +1¾ | – | -16.3 |
| 41¼ | 14 | Hornby | 24 | – | – | -3.4 |
| 228¼ | 166¾ | James Halstead | 191 | +3 | 4.3 | 18.7 |
| 76¾ | 32¼ | LifeScienceREIT | 33¾ | +¼ | 5.9 | 81 |
| 550 | 183¼ | Mpac Group | 500 | – | – | 38.2 |
| 1180 | 600 | MS Intl | 1115* | – | 1.7 | 15.7 |
| 83 | 48⅛ | Premier Miton | 73½* | +4 | 8.2 | 29.4 |
| 59 | 10¾ | SRT Marine Sys | 30½ | – | – | – |
| 74 | 37½ | Tribal Gp | 59¾ | -½ | 1.1 | 23.9 |
| 28 | 14 | Union Jack Oil | 17½ | -½ | 1.4 | 22.2 |
| 1¼ | ¾ | Xtract Resources | ¾ | +⅛ | – | -12.9 |
| 1200 | 919 | Young & Co – A | 1015* | +17 | 2.1 | 53.7 |
| 878 | 580 | Young & Co – N/V | 700* | -10 | 3.1 | 37.1 |

The Alternative Investment Market is for young and growing companies. Shares may carry higher risks than those with a full quotation, and may be difficult to sell.

## Americans -0.56%

| 52 week High | Low | Stock | Price | +/- | Grs Yd | Cvr |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47⅞ | 31¾ | Intl Paper $ | 46¼ | -¼ | 4.0 | 0.7 |
| 217½ | 135¼ | JP Morgan Ch $ | 208½ | -4¼ | 2.2 | 3.6 |
| 176 | 143½ | Johnson&John $ | 159¾ | +1¼ | 3.1 | 1.4 |
| 35 | 27¾ | Keurig Dr Pep $ | 34½ | -¼ | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| 80⅝ | 66 | Manpower $ | 73¼ | -3¼ | 4.0 | 0.4 |
| 30 | 21¾ | Marathon Oil $ | 27½ | -½ | 1.6 | 5.5 |
| 302⅝ | 243½ | McDonalds $ | 264¼ | -1¼ | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| 134⅝ | 99¼ | Merck $ | 113½ | +⅜ | 2.7 | 0.3 |
| 468⅜ | 309½ | Microsoft $ | 419¼ | +⅞ | 0.7 | 4.0 |
| 37¼ | 25¼ | Pfizer $ | 30⅝ | ... | 5.5 | 0.0 |
| 170⅞ | 141½ | Procter & Gamble $ | 164¼ | +3½ | 2.5 | 1.6 |
| 118¼ | 68½ | Raytheon Tech $ | 116½ | -1 | 2.2 | 1.0 |
| 317¾ | 249 | Rockwell $ | 262⅞ | -15¼ | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| 351⅝ | 184 | Trane Tech $ | 332⅛ | -2¼ | 1.0 | 2.8 |
| 181⅛ | 58¼ | Wal Mart Strs $ | 69¼ | +½ | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| 123¾ | 78¾ | Walt Disney $ | 93¼ | -½ | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| 19¾ | 10¼ | Xerox Hldgs $ | 10½ | -¼ | 9.5 | 1.5 |

## Europeans -1.73%

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 77⅞ | 55¼ | AkzoNobel € | 56¼ | -⅞ | 3.5 | 2.3 |
| 115⅜ | 85½ | BMW € | 83¾ | -2% | 7.2 | 3.1 |
| 18⅝ | 13¼ | Carrefour € | 13⅞ | ... | 6.3 | 2.1 |
| 78⅛ | 51⅜ | Continental AG € | 55½ | -1¼ | 4.0 | 2.6 |
| 77½ | 55¼ | Daimler € | 59⅜ | -1% | 8.9 | 2.5 |
| 63¾ | 50¾ | Danone € | 59⅜ | -⅞ | 3.5 | 0.6 |
| 47 | 36 | Deutsche Post € | 38⅝ | -2% | 4.8 | 2.4 |
| 24½ | 18½ | Deutsche Tele € | 24 | -¼ | 3.2 | 1.1 |
| 97½ | 81½ | Heineken € | 81¾ | -⅝ | 2.1 | 2.7 |
| 886⅜ | 644 | LVMH € | 642 | -11 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| 85⅛ | 54⅜ | LafargeHolcim SFr | 82¼ | – | 3.4 | 1.9 |
| 9¼ | 5⅜ | Lufthansa € | 5⅜ | -⅛ | 5.3 | 9.9 |
| 3¼ | 2¼ | Nokia OYJ € | 3⅜ | ... | 3.3 | 1.0 |
| 38½ | 26½ | Michelin € | 36 | -⅛ | 3.8 | 2.1 |
| 202¼ | 120¼ | Pernod Ricard € | 122¾ | -1¼ | 4.1 | 1.2 |
| 29¼ | 16½ | Philips (Kon) € | 26 | -⅛ | – | – |
| 188⅞ | 119½ | Siemens € | 164½ | -4¾ | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| 28 | 20¼ | Societe Gen € | 21¾

# With the stock market primed for improved performance, now is the time to buy UK shares

ROBERT STEPHENS
QUESTOR
WEALTH PRESERVER PORTFOLIO

## Long-time favourite The Merchants Trust leads the way as an additon to the portfolio as the outlook for the world economy is increasingly upbeat

*Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules*

Few investors are excited about the prospects for the FTSE 100. Understandably, they look at its paltry gains over recent years and deduce that more of the same is ahead.

However, its performance has not always been so disappointing. Between its inception in 1984 and the end of the 20th century, for example, the index generated annualised capital growth of almost 13pc. And while its sub-1pc annual capital returns since the millennium are undoubtedly extremely poor, Questor is upbeat about the FTSE 100's future prospects.

After all, bargain basement valuations for globally-focused companies that are performing well cannot be justified in perpetuity. Therefore, we are increasing our wealth preserver portfolio's exposure to large-cap UK stocks via the addition of The Merchants Trust.

It is a long-time favourite of Questor but has never previously been included in the portfolio. Since our original tip in February 2020, the company has produced a 18pc capital return. Over the past five years, meanwhile, its share price is up 50pc. This compares favourably with a 31pc gain for its benchmark, the FTSE All-Share index, over the same period.

Although the trust currently trades at a slight premium to net asset value, a large proportion of its holdings offer substantial discounts to intrinsic value.

**The Merchants Trust**

**BUY**

Since our original tip in February 2020, the company has produced a 18pc capital return. Over the past five years, meanwhile, its share price is up 50pc

Major positions include globally focused companies such as GSK, BP and Rio Tinto, which are extremely cheap in this column's view. They offer significant upward rerating potential as their operating conditions improve.

Indeed, over 80pc of the sales of FTSE 100 members are generated outside the UK. Given that the painful period of rampant inflation, monetary policy tightening and restricted GDP growth is now coming to an end across developed economies, the outlook for the world economy is increasingly upbeat. With 54pc of the trust's holdings being FTSE 100 companies, it is well placed to benefit from a better global economic growth rate.

Furthermore, it is in a strong position to capitalise on the UK economy's bright future. Around 39pc of the trust's holdings are FTSE 250 companies, which tend to have a more domestic focus than their larger peers. Given the UK's relatively stable political outlook, modest inflation and the prospect of interest rate cuts, mid-cap stocks are set to experience improved performance over the coming years.

The company's relatively high gearing ratio of 11pc could prove to be a useful ally in a rising stock market. Although it equates to a trade-off in terms of higher volatility, Questor's long-term focus means it is a price well worth paying. With the company's 10 largest holdings comprising 35pc of the entire portfolio and it having 52 positions in total, concentration risk is also not unduly high.

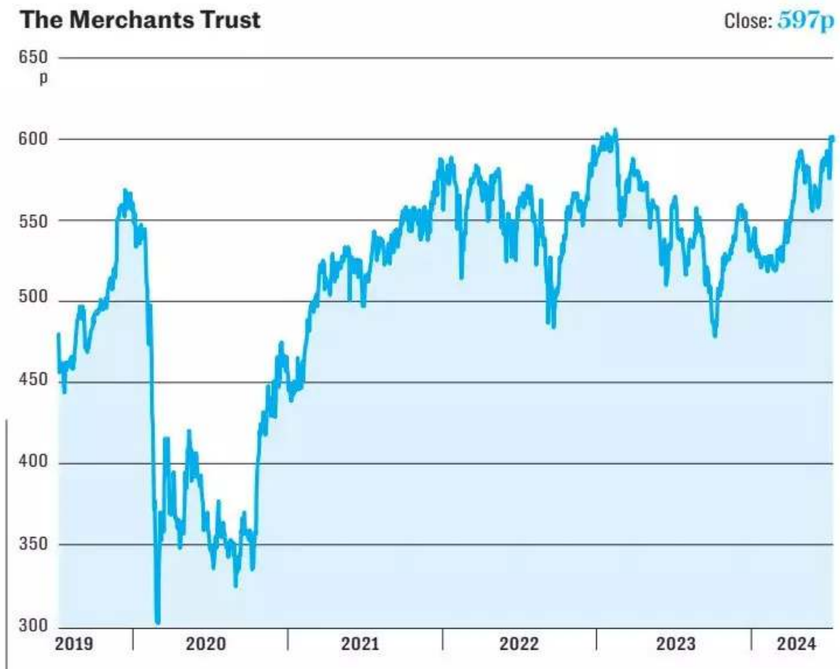
Alongside its capital return potential, the trust offers significant income return prospects. Indeed, its aim is to deliver above-average income and dividend growth alongside long-term capital returns. This ethos aligns with our wealth preserver portfolio's focus, which is to deliver inflation-beating total returns.

Furthermore, the company's strategy of seeking to purchase businesses with solid fundamentals when they offer good value for money chimes with this column's underlying approach. To fund the addition of Merchants, our index-linked gilt will be sold. It has produced a 19pc loss since first being included in the portfolio in May 2021. Its sale aligns with our ongoing plan to shift the wealth preserver portfolio further towards equities. Clearly, the portfolio is already somewhat dependent on the performance of the UK stock market. It has existing positions in the Schroder UK Mid Cap Fund and individual companies, as well as some exposure to UK shares via the Brunner investment trust. The inclusion of Merchants, however, increases our capacity to benefit from the improved performance of a broader range of FTSE All-Share index members.

'Alongside its capital return potential, the trust offers significant income return prospects'

Certainly, the UK stock market's growth rate has been extremely poor in recent years. But with a global tilt, dirt-cheap valuations and an upbeat economic outlook, Questor believes it is only a matter of time before it begins to deliver much-improved returns. With Merchants having an excellent track record of outperformance, a sound strategy and generous gearing, it is well placed to capitalise over the long term.

**Questor says**: buy
**Ticker**: MRCH
**Share price at close**: 597p




**Key numbers**

- Market value: £897m
- Year of listing: 1889
- Premium: 1pc
- Avg discount over past year: 1pc
- Yield (Jan 2024): 4.8pc
- Most recent year's dividend: 28.4p
- Gearing: 11pc
- Annual charge (Jan 2024): 0.55pc

## Shell profits hit $14bn amid shift back to oil and gas

Shell's profits have hit $14bn (£11bn) in the first half of the year as the energy behemoth accelerated its shift away from renewables back to oil and gas.

The FTSE 100 oil giant announced a better than expected $6.3bn of adjusted earnings during the second quarter of the year.

It also announced it was extending its share buyback plan of $3.5bn over the next three months.

Half-year and second-quarter profits were down compared with last year as the impact of the energy crisis triggered by Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine subsides. Shell posted a $187m loss in its renewables business, while it reduced its pipeline of renewable projects from 4.6GW to 3.8GW for the past half year.

## Retailer Next raises forecast after online overseas sales surge

Next expects to make an extra £20m in profit this year after an unexpected surge in overseas sales this spring.

In a trading update, the clothes retailer raised its profit guidance for 2024 from £960m to £980m, which will be up by 6.7pc year-on-year, after a surprise jump in sales in its second quarter. Instead of an expected fall of 0.3pc in the second quarter, Next's full price sales jumped by 3.2pc year on year, exceeding expectations by £42m.

This was driven by a 21.9pc boom in online international sales. UK full price sales climbed by a lesser 0.4pc.

Overall sales across the first half of the year were up by 4.4pc year on year, higher than the 2.5pc Next expected. Next will report its results for the first half of the year on Sept 19.

## Toyoto earnings rise despite scandal that halted production

Toyota reported a rise in first-quarter profits despite a certification scandal that halted production in Japan for several months, as it was boosted by a weak yen and cost-cutting.

The world's largest carmaker by sales said net income rose 1.7pc to 1.33 trillion yen (£6.9bn) while operating profit jumped 16.7pc to 1.31trillion yen. Revenues climbed 12.2pc to 11.8trillion yen. Toyota also kept unchanged its full-year forecasts, predicting net profit of 3.57 trillion yen, marking a drop of 27.8pc, on sales of 46 trillion yen, which would be a gain of 2pc.

The government in June instructed five carmakers – Toyota, Honda, Mazda, Suzuki and Yamaha – to stop delivering certain models within Japan because of certification issues.

## Optimism pumps up manufacturing level to two-year high

Britain's manufacturing sector saw activity jump to a two-year high in July amid surging optimism after Labour's landslide victory, a report has shown.

The closely watched S&P Global UK manufacturing PMI survey recorded a reading of 52.1 for July, up from 50.9 in June. The sector has now remained above the 50 mark – which indicates growth – for the past three months.

The report said growth in production lifted to its highest level since February 2022, while new orders likewise strengthened.

Rob Dobson, director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said: "Hopes for an economic revival took confidence to one of its highest levels for two-and-a-half years, with 60pc of companies now forecasting output will rise."

## Hugo Boss to focus on cutting costs as market slows

Suit maker Hugo Boss is plotting a cost-saving drive after profits slumped more than 40pc in the latest three-month period.

The German company said it had been unable to completely escape the "rapid slowdown" in growth across the luxury industry, with the market having "deteriorated substantially" in the first half of 2024.

Operating profits were down at €70m (£59m) in the three months to the end of June compared to €121m a year earlier, as fewer shoppers came into stores. However, shares were up more than 5pc after it said it would be focusing on improving profitability.

Daniel Grieder, the chief executive, said it had already taken measures to make operations more efficient.

## Increase in defence spending lifts BAE Systems arms sales

BAE Systems has increased its guidance for the year as geopolitical tensions fuel defence spending.

The FTSE 100 arms giant said its order numbers grew on the back of "high" demand globally and told investors sales grew to £13.4bn for the six months to June 30, up 13pc on the same period a year earlier.

Sales were boosted by strong defence spending in key markets as customers sought to address "the rising threat environment".

Growth was also lifted by its £4.4bn acquisition of US defence firm Ball Aerospace. BAE's order book at the end of June had increased by £1.6bn to a total of £59.6bn. As a result, it now expects sales growth of 14pc for 2024, upgrading from a prediction of 12pc.

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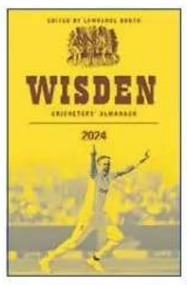
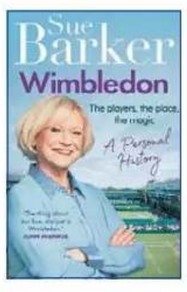
## Stars of cricket and tennis from a British war hero to a Serbian legend




**Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2024**

Wisden has been published every year since 1864. Highlights from this year's edition include Gideon Haigh on the men's Ashes, Mike Brearley on the leadership of Ben Stokes, Jonathan Liew on the departure of Stuart Broad, and Michael Collins on English cricket's equity problem. As ever, it includes Notes by the Editor, Cricketers of the Year awards, obituaries, and details of every first-class game in every cricket nation last year. There are reports and scorecards for all Tests and ODIs, plus opinion, features and records.

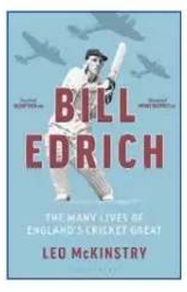
**£60**




**Wimbledon: A personal history**

Sue Barker first walked through those wrought-iron gates aged 13 in 1969 to play in the National Schools event. She returned every year for the next half century – as a junior aged 15, as a semi-finalist and Grand-Slam winner ranked No.3 in the world, as a BBC broadcaster for 30 years, and for the first time as a fan in 2023. Sue paints an intimate portrait of Wimbledon past and present, full of stories and behind-the-scenes details, and touched throughout by stardust.

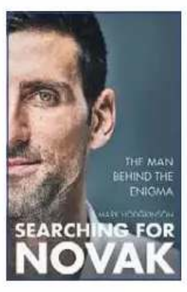
**£18.99 (RRP £22)**




**Bill Edrich: The Many Lives of England's Cricket Great**

Bill Edrich was one of the biggest cricket stars of his time, earning the title of Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1940. He also played football for Norwich City and Spurs in the 1930s. As an RAF pilot, Edrich received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in a daring raid over Cologne in 1941. He married five times and was known for his amorous escapades, drinking and partying. This compelling biography reveals the story of one of cricket's greatest characters.

**£18.99 (RRP £22)**




**Searching for Novak: The man behind the enigma**

No player has won more Grand Slam singles titles than Novak Djokovic. Based on fresh interviews with his friends, mentors, former coaches and rivals, this is an in-depth exploration of one of the most controversial sporting characters ever. From a bomb shelter in Belgrade to an immigration detention centre in Melbourne, this book uncovers the unconventional beliefs that have propelled him to greatness. *Searching for Novak* shows how his relentless pursuit of perfection allowed him to rewrite tennis history.

**£18.99 (RRP £22)**

**books.telegraph.co.uk** **0808 196 6794**

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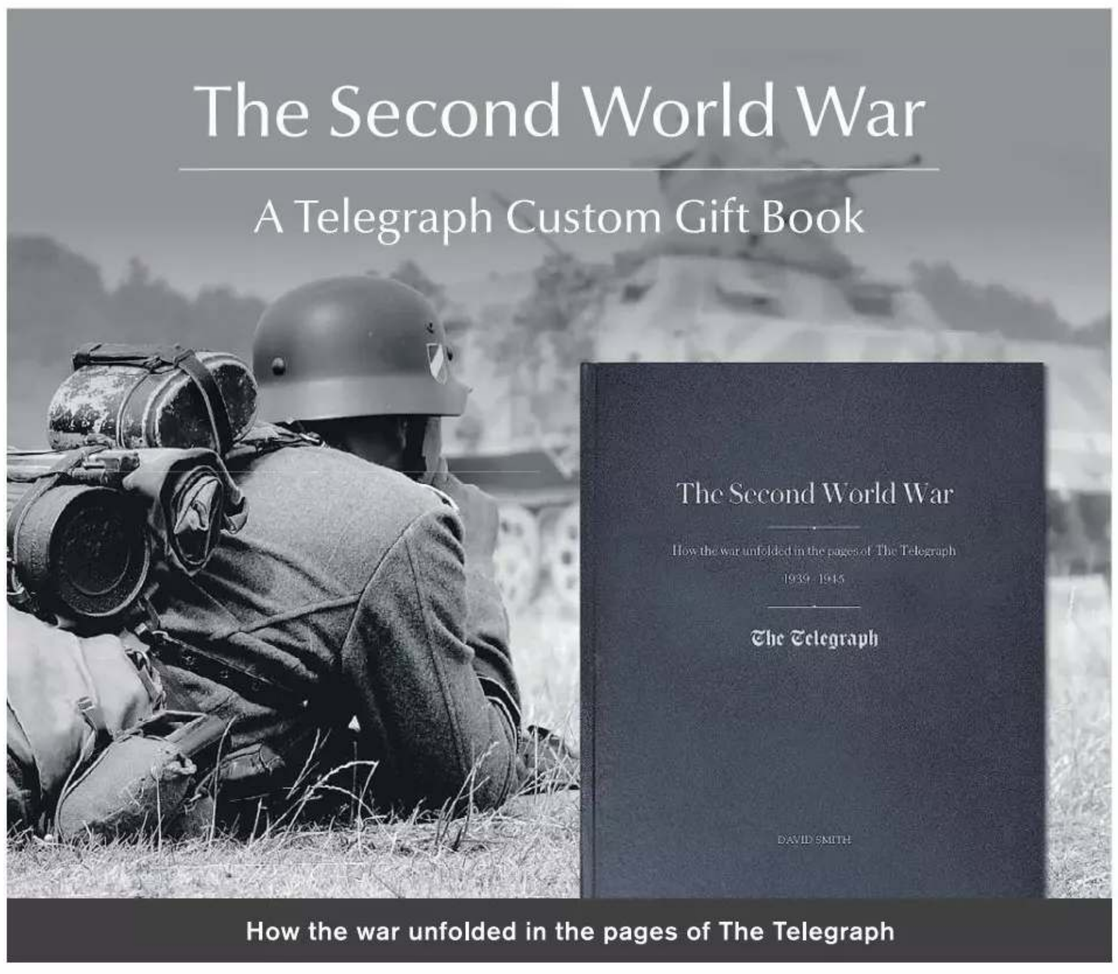


**How the war unfolded in the pages of The Telegraph**

At 11.15am on September 3, 1939, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared that Britain was at war with Germany. So began the deadliest conflict in history. The Daily Telegraph reported on the Second World War with typical tenacity, as you will see from the pages of the newspaper reproduced in this book. Covering all the major events from 1939 to 1945, the book offers a blow by blow account as observed at the time.

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# Court & Social

## Court Circular

ST JAMES'S PALACE
*August 1st*
The Princess Royal, Member, International Olympic Committee, and President, British Olympic Association, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, today attended the XXXIII Olympic Games in Marseille, France.

### Today's birthdays

**Mr John Gale**, theatre producer, is 95; **Sir Michael Davies**, Clerk of the Parliaments, 1997-2003, 84; **Dame Rose Tremain**, novelist and playwright, 81; **Dr Jean Wilson**, president, Church Monuments Society, 2013-18, 79; **Col Lord Shuttleworth**, Lord-Lieutenant for Lancashire, 76; **Sir Peter Torry**, former diplomat, 76; **Mr Paul Gray**, Chairman, HM Revenue and Customs, 2006-07, 76; **Mr John Talbot**, Chairman, English National Ballet, 2004-12, 75; **Sir Anthony Seldon**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Buckingham, 2015-20, 71; **Mr Alan Bishop**, Chief Executive, Southbank Centre, 2009-17, 71; and **Sir Paul Marshall**, financier; chairman, GB News, 2021-22, 65.

Today is the anniversary of the death of Thomas Gainsborough, painter, in 1788, and Alexander Graham Bell, inventor, in 1922.

### Forthcoming marriages

**Mr H. MacLeod and Miss H. Bub**
The engagement is announced between Hamish, third son of Mr Alastair MacLeod and the late Mrs MacLeod, of Forres, Moray, and Hannah, daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Bub, of Schwerin, Germany.
*Online ref: W0027080*

**Mr T.R. Perks and Miss S.K. DeMaine**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Perks, of Brisley, Norfolk, and Sophie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter DeMaine, of Ilkley, Yorkshire.
*Online ref: W0027094*

### Legal news

**Lord Justice Green** has been appointed as Senior Presiding Judge for a two-year term, with effect from 1 October 2024, in succession to Lord Justice Edis, whose two-year term ends on September 30 2024.

**Mrs Justice Yip** has been appointed as Deputy Senior Presiding Judge of England and Wales for a two-year term, with effect from 1 October 2024.

### Other notice

**Plymouth Naval Retired Officers Association**
Brig Mike Tanner, Naval Base Commander Devonport, hosted the Plymouth Naval Retired Officers Association at a reception held yesterday evening at Drake House, HMS Drake.

### Bridge news

The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Bridge Associations have jointly held a weekend of Green Point Swiss events at the Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye, **writes Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**. The winners are as follows:

**Swiss Pairs**
**1st** Alan Wearmouth and Tony Hill 85 VPs.
**2nd** Karen Dewar and Adrian Fontes 84 VPs.
**3rd** Alastair Catchpole and Steve Evans 83 VPs.

**Swiss Teams**
**1st** David S Jones, Rob Lawy, Jack Terry and Ian Walsh 83 VPs.
**2nd** Ashok Kwatra, Arun Nanda, Lesley Harrison and Paul Lilley 81 VPs.
**3rd** Tony Hill, Allan Sanis, Judith Sanis and Brian Lilley 79 VPs.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

## The Daily Telegraph.

LONDON, SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 1924

# LONDON TERRITORIALS AT WORK AND PLAY.

## NEWS FROM THE CAMP.

## IMMENSE ENTHUSIASM.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL REPINGTON. WORTHING, FRIDAY.

The best news that I can give London of its Territorial soldiers is that they are dry and happy. The drenching of last Monday has been forgotten with warm weather and a drying wind. Work, impracticable on Monday, began on Tuesday, and has been continuous ever since.

**I have already explained that the whole of Sir Geoffrey Feilding's 56th or 1st London Division, except the gunners, sappers, and the 168th or 2nd London Brigade, are in camp near Shoreham, Worthing, and intermediate stations. It is a pity that the 2nd London Brigade had to go to Felixstowe, but no camp was available for them here. The gunners are at their practice camps and the sappers at Chatham, but Divisional Signals are here, and the other divisional services.**

To each London Brigade there are allotted four battalion areas on the Downs for training. Very fine ground it is, and on heights like Cissbury Ring there is an invigorating air which has few equals at this time of year. Usually the battalions do an hour's drill before breakfast, are out again from nine to one, and finish work with another hour after dinner.

**Sometimes the cookers go out and the men have their food on the ground. The remainder of the day is spent in cleaning arms, clothing, accoutrements, in bathing, and in sports, or visits to neighbouring towns and places of amusement. The commanders of the various units are determined to give the men a real good time after work is done, and the reports which should reach London about the camp of 1924 should attract many recruits.**

## TRAINING.

The training of the infantry is at present in its elementary stages, but it all takes place on the Downs, where the going is perfect, and the companies are coming on well. In a few days the men will be very fit indeed, and there is scarcely any sickness. In Colonel Campbell's Third Brigade there is no hard-and-fast programme, for the work depends upon the weather, while Colonel Paynter's First Brigade is being taught battle drill and movement under artillery fire. The only work that I have observed in camp itself has been that of the battalion signallers, but Colonel Campbell's brigade major, Viscount Marsham, has taken the massed bands of the brigade in hand to give a treat later on to the owners and tenants of the land hereabouts, and if the regimental adjutant of the Coldstram Guards cannot drill massed bands I do not know who can.

**The services of the division, and especially the Army Service Corps, the Army Medical, and the Ordnance, are kept on the stretch all the time. So far as I have been able to observe they all do their work well and zealously. I have heard no criticism of them at all. As for Colonel Howard's Divisional Signals, they are indefatigable. They ran a field telegraph air line between the widely separated brigades yesterday, and are very busy with wireless, over which Lieutenant A. C. Willway presides. There are some 170 men in the Signals here, with seventy horses. What with inter-brigade air lines, telephones, flag-wagging, and wireless, the Signals are kept pretty busy, and the charge of so many horses is a bit of a strain.**

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Marchment, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Pryce-Jones, D.S.O., M.V.O., Lieut.-Colonel H. F. Clark, M.C., and Lieut.-Colonel Duncan-Teape command the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Battalions, City of London Regiment, while the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Battalions of the London Regiment are under Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Langworthy-Parry, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel P. Simner, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel F. S. Hammond, D.S.O., and Lieut.-Colonel W. Long. Practically all of the senior officers and most of the lieutenants have seen service in the war. So have many of the N.C.O.'s. The London Territorials served on all fronts during the war except Mesopotamia, and their battle honours include some of the stiffest battles and warmest corners of the campaign. Therefore, I think it borders on the ridiculous to criticise them as though they were pre-war Territorials or Volunteers. They pride themselves now on being soldiers, and Heaven knows they have won the name.

**When I asked one officer what work he was doing on the training area one morning, he replied, "I am teaching my recruits to become soldiers!" The Press and the public can certainly help the Territorial Army in a number of ways with regard to organisation numbers, leave for camp, and so forth, but I find the affected air of superiority assumed by some people towards the Second Line nowadays very much out of place.**

## PERSONAL SACRIFICES.

Personally, I never cease to marvel at the results which the cadres obtain, and there is scarcely a Regular officer here, from generals to young staff officers, who does not tell me that he is astounded at the enthusiasm, the devotion to duty, and the personal sacrifices which many Territorial officers make for the credit of their regiments and the good of the country. A little later on I may look at the reverse of the Territorial Medal, but certainly the faults which exist in this Army cannot be repaired by its own cadres. It is the country which must interest itself in them, and I must say that, considering what these soldiers have done for us, and are still trying to do, we should be very ungrateful if we did not help them whenever and wherever we can.

**Colonels Campbell and Paynter spend their mornings on the training ground watching the work. Major-General Sir Geoffrey Feilding and his General Staff Officer, Brevet Major F. Chalmer, D.S.O., M.C., of the Black Watch, are either on the training ground or going round the Services and the Divisional Signals. Next week they will have to go to Felixstowe to see the end of the work of the 2nd London Brigade, and we shall miss them here very much.**

But it is already quite clear that the London Territorial soldiers are out to make the most of their training, and that their keenness and good temper are above proof. I could wish that some of the London borough mayors might come down to see the men and identify themselves with this Army. Those employers who make no difficulties about the attendance of their employees at camp would also be very welcome. On the other hand, those who prevent their men from joining the Territorials, or from attending camps, are very short-sighted, for history does not record the name of a nation which has been great in trade but has lacked defenders.

## 'THE DAILY TELEGRAPH' AT WEMBLEY.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEWSPAPER.

An interesting film, entitled "Twenty-four Hours in the Life of a Great Newspaper," will, on and after Monday, August 11, be shown free to the public daily in the theatre of Filmit Ltd at Wembley. The film depicts in a vivid manner the production of The Daily Telegraph, from the manufacture of the paper at the Dartford mills to the issue from the publishing office in Fleet Street, and is the first comprehensive pictorial representation of the inner life of a newspaper to be show in England. Not only are all the mechanical processes shown, but also the working and the organisation for the gathering of news and arranging it in a manner which is helpful and attractive to the reader. The theatre of Messrs. Filmit Ltd. is in Avenue 14, Bay 16, in the Palace of Engineering.

**Facing the "Postman's Gate" entrance to the Palace of Industry at the Exhibition, conveniently adjacent to Messrs. Lyons's Industry Café West, is the Blue and White Kiosk of The Daily Telegraph, officially known as "Laka Side West No. 2." Here may be obtained, in addition to The Daily Telegraph, copies of "The Homefinder" and "Everybody's Book of the Queen's Dolls' House" (5s).**

In the Palace of Industry is a miniature machine which shows the complete process of paper-making, from the "beating" of the raw material to the production of the finished article – a sheet of paper 30in wide, which is manufactured at speeds varying from 20ft to 100ft per minute. This plant, although only a small-scale reproduction, occupies a space of 100ft by 20ft, and is being shown by the Papermakers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland. A representative of The Daily Telegraph from the adjacent stall of The Daily Telegraph Paper Mills will be pleased to explain the operation of the machine to our readers from the hours of 11.30 a.m. to one p.m., and two p.m. to five p.m.

Bridge Hand

## Tempting misdefence

*By* **Tom Townsend**

**Dealer West**
**Vulnerability East-West**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A K 4 3<br>♥ J 10<br>♦ A Q 5<br>♣ Q 8 7 5 | |
| ♠ J 10<br>♥ A K 9 6 4 3<br>♦ 9 6 4 2<br>♣ J | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ 7 2<br>♥ 8 7 5 2<br>♦ K 8 7 3<br>♣ A 10 2 |
| | ♠ Q 9 8 6 5<br>♥ Q<br>♦ J 10<br>♣ K 9 6 4 3 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2♥(1) | dble(2) | 3♥(3) | 3♠ |
| pass | 4♠(4) | pass | pass |
| pass | | | |

(1) Weak two-bid
(2) For take-out
(3) Increasing the barrage
(4) Not clearcut at pairs

Contract 4♠
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♥K

FROM Monday week, after Brian Senior's stint, more deals from the European Championships in Denmark. Today's is from the Scarborough Swiss Pairs, won by Jason Hackett and John Samson. They edged out Robert Miller and Daniel Baines on split tie.

The vast majority reached 4♠ despite the pre-emption. Either East passed, allowing a jump to 3♠ by South; or, someone stretched to 4♠ after a raise.

West typically led the ♥K, received a count signal from East, and switched to the ♣J. South ducked in dummy.

Suppose East ducks, preserving his ♣A10 over the ♣Q. This is tempting, but wrong. South wins in hand, crosses to the ♠A, and ruffs a heart. He draws trumps and plays a club. East scores his two club tricks, but finds himself endplayed in this position:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ K 4<br>♥ none<br>♦ A Q 5<br>♣ 8 | |
| ♠ none<br>♥ A 9 6<br>♦ 9 6 4 2<br>♣ none | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ none<br>♥ 8 5<br>♦ K 8 7 3<br>♣ none |
| | ♠ 9 8<br>♥ none<br>♦ J 10<br>♣ 9 6 | |

Rather than a diamond round to the ♦AQ, East leads a third heart. This concedes a ruff and discard. South drops a diamond from hand, ruffs in dummy and claims. He can even do it the other way round if he prefers, more annoyingly for the defence: pitch a diamond from dummy, ruff in hand, and park the ♦Q on his fifth club.

To beat 4♠, East must take his ♣A at trick two, and deal West a club ruff. He still makes the ♦K for one down. In practice, 4♠ went down at 10 tables, and made at 22. Should East get this right? Yes. On this dummy, a club switch is dangerous. Why would West lead one if not singleton?

In the old days, before "ace for attitude, King for count" became prevalent, King from ace-King was unusual. It was either AK doubleton, or the preface to a singleton. That would have saved East from error.

**Final Result** 4♠ made, N/S +420
**Par Result** 4♠ off one, N/S -50

Chess

## Prime prodigies

*By* **Malcolm Pein**

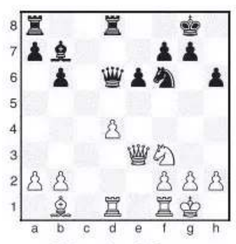
IT WAS another great day for England's prodigies in round five of the 110th British Chess Championships at Hull City Hall. Shreyas Royal had already defeated David Howell with black in round four, and he should have defeated Gawain Jones with white. The game was agreed drawn in a sharp position, at Jones's proposal, but the final position looked winning for Royal. Royal and Jones shared the lead on 4.5/5 with Ameet Ghasi, who ended Stuart Conquest's fine run.

Bodhana Sivanandam, nine, from Harrow, drew a long game against GM Nigel Davies, her first draw with a GM in a FIDE-rated Classical game. Davies, playing on his 64th birthday, missed a couple of clear wins, and the youngster hung on to reach 2.5/5.

Supratit Banerjee, 10, of Sutton, another of England's primary-school stars, was the beneficiary of a blunder by IM Jack Rudd, who was blitzing his moves out, more or less instantly, as he often does, and overlooked an important detail:

**S Banerjee – J Rudd**
*Scandinavian Defence*
**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Ne5 Be6 7.Bc4 Bxc4 8.Nxc4 Qa6 9.Qe2 Nbd7??** (See board left) **10.Nd6+ 1-0** Black loses at least the exchange and two pawns. After 10...Kd8 11.Nxf7+ Ke8 12.Qxa6 bxa6 13.Nxh8 his position is also a total wreck.

The round before, after playing very soundly in an IQP position, Banerjee stood better and received another gift: P Rohan – S Banerjee, White has just played **20.Rcd1?** Black to play and win and secure a decisive advantage:



**S Royal – G Jones**
*King's Indian Smyslov System*
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0–0 5.Bg5 c5 6.d5 h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.Nd2 g5 9.Bg3 Nh5 10.e3 Nxg3 11.hxg3 e6 12.Bd3 f5 13.g4 fxg4 14.Qc2 Nd7 15.dxe6 Ne5 16.Bf5 Qe8 17.0–0–0 Bxe6 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Nde4 Nxc4 20.Nxg5 d5 21.Bg6 Rxf2 22.Qxf2 Qxg6 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Rxd5 Rf8 25.Qe2 Bxc3 26.Qxc4 Qxe3+ 27.Kb1 Bd4 28.Rd7 b6 draw** 29.Qc2 followed by Rxa7 looks good.

**Answer:**
**20...Ng4 21.Qd3** (Losing a piece for an illusory attack, but after 21.Qa3 Qxa3 22.bxa3 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Nf6 **22.Qxg7 Qh5 0-1**
**Ke7 26.Qxg7 Qh5 0-1**
**23.g3 Bxd1 24.Rxd1 Qd5 25.Qh8+** Kf8 description) **21...Bxf3 22.Qh7+** White's pawn structure defies


# Announcements

**Email:** announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk **Book online:** announcements.telegraph.co.uk

## Births

**SPENDLOVE**.—On 22nd July 2024, to Fenella, a son, George Wilfred Orme.
*Online Ref: W0027128*

## Deaths

**GILL**.—Audrey Elizabeth (née Rich) died peacefully, aged 94, at St Barnabas Hospice in a Hospital, Grantham, on 24th July. Widow of Stanford and beloved mother of Catherine and Richard. Private family cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Orston at 1 p.m. on Tuesday 13th August. All are welcome. Family flowers only. No black. Enquiries to A W Lymn, Family Funeral Service, 12 High Street, Bottesford NG13 0AA.
*Online Ref: W0027073*

**HORDERN**.—(Susan) Lady, died peacefully after a short illness on July 27th. Much loved wife of the late Sir Peter and devoted mother of James, Vicky, and of Andrew who died in 2009. Adored grandmother of five. Private funeral to be followed by a memorial service to celebrate the lives of both Peter and Susan in October.
*Online Ref: W0027121*

**JOHNSON**.—Dr Thomas Brian William died peacefully on 20th July 2024, aged 84 years. Beloved father, grandfather and brother. A private funeral service will be held. A memorial service will be held at St Giles Parish Church, Wrexham later this year. Enquiries to Caldecott and Sons Funeral Directors. Telephone: 01978 261764.
*Online Ref: W0027136*

**SPILMAN**.—John Ellerker JP DL, former High Sheriff of Humberside. On Friday 19th July 2024 at the Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby, John, aged 84 years, died peacefully surrounded by family. Dearly loved husband of Patricia, adored father of Joanna and David, and cherished father-in-law of Kittie. A private funeral will take place in Aylesby, and a Service of Thanksgiving will be held to celebrate his life at Grimsby Minster on Thursday 22nd August at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu, if desired, to Parkinson's UK.
*Online Ref: W0026984*

**WORBOYS**.—Audrey Margaret (née Peterson), 03.08.1927-13.07.2024. Wife of Raymond John Worboys (d. 2008). Died peacefully in her sleep at Reigate Grange, Surrey.
*Online Ref: W0027109*

## Personal

### Text for the day

**LET YOUR** conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.
*Hebrews 13.5-6 (AV)*

### Legal Notices

**CR -2024-002093**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANIES COURT (ChD)**

**IN THE MATTER OF GB GROUP PLC**

**-AND-**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Part 8 Claim Form was issued in the High Court of Justice on 23 July 2024 for an order confirming the cancellation of the amount standing to the credit of the share premium account of GB Group Plc (the "Company").

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that the application is directed to be heard before an Insolvency and Company Court Judge at the Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NL on 13 August 2024.

ANY CREDITOR or shareholder of the Company who wishes to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the cancellation should appear at the time of the hearing.

A copy of the Claim Form will be provided to any person who requires it by the Company's solicitors.

Dated 02 August 2024

ASHURST LLP

London Fruit & Wool Exchange
1 Duval Square
London
E1 6PW

Ref:
WCHALK/PRYANB/1000-193-212

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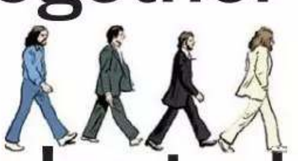

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# Brian Wilson

## Platoon commander who survived a savage assault in Normandy but was badly wounded in Holland

BRIAN WILSON, who has died aged 99, narrowly survived an attack during the Normandy campaign which must have seemed like the realisation of a 20-year old infantry officer's worst nightmare; despite being severely wounded in the war, he subsequently had a successful career in the Colonial Service.

In August 1944 he was a platoon commander serving with 3rd Battalion The Irish Guards (3 IG) when the battalion, commanded by Lt Col JOE "Joe" Vandeleur, was ordered to take on the tip of 11th Armoured Division's deep salient at Sourdeval, near Vire.

At midnight on August 9 the battalion relieved the Royal Norfolks and Monmouthshires and moved into their position just below the crest of a razor-back ridge, the site of the tiny hamlet of Sourdeval.

The whole area was under constant shell and machine-gun fire from the high ground and was a graveyard of burnt-out vehicles and charred orchards. The Germans had attacked several times and caused heavy losses among the defenders. The stench of death was everywhere.

At dawn the next day, the Germans started shelling again. Early that evening they attacked the two forward companies but the Guardsmen drove them off. Reconnaissance patrols had shown that they were up against battle-hardened German paratroopers.

Late that night, the battalion was ordered to attack the following morning, August 11, and cut the main road from Vassy to Vire. They were to be the centre of a divisional offensive directed southwards, but the only support that they could be given was a squadron of 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards' tanks.

They attacked at 0900 hours. As they crossed the crest of the ridge, the Guardsmen came under devastating fire and the Coldstream's tanks were destroyed one after the other by the German tanks and guns.

Ripe cornfields stretched down the slope to the stream at the bottom of the valley. Beyond the stream, the ground rose for 500 yards to the line of the main road. There was no cover. A man on this rise could see anything that moved on the slope in front of him.

"Shells and mortars crashed down," Wilson said afterwards. "Men screamed when they were hit. The enemy could clearly observe us. A blinding orange flame rocked me backwards. I felt a stab in my chest. A mortar bomb had exploded a few feet away and left me living." A burst of automatic fire kicked up the dust between his arm and his body, missing him by inches.

For a long hour, two companies, strung out in open order, walked steadily down the hill through cornfields swept by Spandau "enfilade" fire (along the line of soldiers). The clatter was punctuated by the thump of mortar bombs and the crack of snipers' rifles. Snipers picked off anyone who showed any sign of commanding.

Mortar bombs set fire to the corn but the Guardsmen kept on advancing through a swirl of smoke and flame. The wounded fell where they lay or, if they could, crawled to where the corn was still standing.

Stretcher-bearers dumped their equipment and worked frantically to move the unconscious until they, too, dropped in the corn.

After four hours the attack stalled. Wilson believed himself to be the sole remaining officer with the remnants of two companies. He radioed Battalion HQ and asked for permission to withdraw. Thirty-one had

been killed, including three officers, and 66 wounded. His platoon had been reduced to four men.

Brian Denis Wilson was born to Irish parents in Penang, Malaya, on June 12 1924. His father, a solicitor, was formerly an officer in the Suffolk Regiment and was badly wounded in France in the First World War. Young Brian was educated at Charterhouse, where he captained the hockey side.

He was awarded an Exhibition to read law at Brasenose College, Oxford, but went down after two terms and joined the Irish Guards in the summer of 1943. He completed his basic training at Pirbright Barracks, Surrey, before going to the Officer Cadet Training Unit at Aldershot. Commissioned into the Irish Guards in January 1944, in April he was posted to 3 IG at Malton, Yorkshire.

On July 27, some seven weeks after D-Day, he embarked on a Landing Ship Infantry at Newhaven and joined 3 IG in Normandy as a platoon commander. He quickly recovered from being wounded during the battle at Sourdeval, and on one occasion had a lucky escape when talking to a brother officer as bullets from a machine gun passed between them.

After the break-out from Normandy, the battalion made a rapid advance eastwards; Wilson recalled encountering drunken French "Résistants" who tried to grab the insignia on his uniform for souvenirs. Following the liberation of Brussels, on September 10 the Irish Guards Group captured Joe's Bridge, a strategically important crossing point over the Bocholt-Herentals Canal at Lommel in northern Belgium.

Wilson always maintained that the Guards Armoured Division should not have halted their rapid advance for six days but should have pushed on to the Arnhem road bridge and provided vital support to the airborne troops in the ill-fated Operation Market Garden.

On September 21, during heavy shelling, Wilson's right foot was blown off. He managed to hop into a slit trench and give himself a shot of morphia. While he was being put on a stretcher, two more shells landed nearby. At the advance dressing station, a bustling room full of trestle tables and orderlies, he was still in great pain. A doctor gave him a shot of Pentothal and he passed out.

After a move to an American airborne hospital and then a British casualty clearing station, he was flown to Brussels and then to England. He was at Leamington Spa Hospital for eight months before a further move to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. His leg was badly infected and had to be re-amputated six inches below the knee. Three months after leaving the hospital, he was fitted with a prosthetic leg.

Wilson was released from the Army in November 1945. In December 1948 he joined the Colonial Administrative Service (later re-named Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service) and was posted to Hong Kong as a cadet officer. He was promoted through various ministries starting as District Officer (DO) in the New Territories, and alternated between the departments of Home Affairs, Resettlement, and Defence.

In 1971, having become Commissioner for Transport, he pressed for restricting licences for private cars and advocated further measures to reduce future traffic congestion.

On one hot weekend, he was stripped to the waist and gardening outside his DO's married quarters when a van drew up. The man in the back was hammering and banging on the sides and Wilson was required to sign a warrant for his committal for observation in a mental hospital. Unfortunately, he signed the form in the wrong place and he received a directive from the psychiatric specialist, a man with a distinct sense of humour, informing him that he had committed himself and that a room was being prepared for him.

Wilson was Director Urban Services from 1975 until 1983, when he retired. He was appointed CBE in 1977 and to the Légion d'honneur in 2002. He much enjoyed his term as chair of the Antiquities Advisory Committee, and during his tenure several important sites were preserved. He was held in great respect and affection by all who worked with him.

In retirement, he lived in Perth, Western Australia, and enjoyed birdwatching and conservation, gardening, and supporting opera and ballet. After his wife's death in 1991 he began to travel widely and went on more than 40 birdwatching tours in remote parts of the world.

He published *The Trodden Way* (2005), an account of his childhood and his life in Hong Kong, as well as *The Ever Open Eye* (2014), an account of his experiences in Normandy, and *The Beating Heart*, a collection of postwar poems.

Brian Wilson married, in 1948, Margaret Phillips. Their son died of motor neurone disease in 2006 and he is survived by his two daughters.

***Brian Wilson, born June 12 1924, died May 22 2024***

**Wilson, above, as a young officer, and right, with his mother in 1946: in September 1944 in Belgium his right foot had been blown off during heavy shelling**

# Sir Roderick Carnegie

## Australian mining executive known as 'Rod the God'

SIR RODERICK CARNEGIE, who has died aged 91, was an Australian business leader once described as "the closest thing to royalty in Melbourne" – and a celebrated Oxford rower in his youth.

"Rod the God", as he was known, built a high-flying reputation in the mining industry, but unlike most of its big men he was never a hands-on mining engineer. A McKinsey consultant by background, he joined CRA Ltd in 1970 and was its chairman and chief executive from 1974 to 1986.

CRA, an acronym of Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, was the major operating subsidiary of the historic London-based Rio Tinto company. During Carnegie's era, CRA had major interests across Australia in iron ore, bauxite, coal and diamonds, as well as copper and gold on Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea.

Carnegie owed his rapid promotion within CRA to the patronage of Sir Val Duncan (Rio Tinto's chairman until his death in 1975), but he was never London's man. He pursued "Australianisation" for CRA, seeking to reduce the influence of the parent, whose holding reduced for a time to 49 per cent.

A progressive thinker, he also argued eloquently for the wider modernisation of Australian business, including greater engagement with emerging Asian economies and the dilution of traditional links with the UK. But after a series of boardroom ructions he was ousted in July 1986 and CRA was later reabsorbed into Rio Tinto.

Roderick Howard Carnegie was born in Melbourne on November 27 1932 to Douglas Carnegie, a cattle breeder whose family were also piano importers, and his wife Margaret, née Allen, a leading art collector.

Brought up among the prominent business families who were his parents' friends, Rod was educated at Geelong Grammar School, followed by the University of Melbourne, New College, Oxford,where he took a diploma in agricultural economics, and Harvard Business School, completing an MBA in 1959.

At Oxford he captained the university boat club, where he imposed a radical training regime, including weightlifting, running and 20 miles of rowing per day. In the 1957 Boat Race, with

**Captained Oxford and rowed at No 7 in the 1957 Boat Race**

Carnegie at No 7, Oxford sprinted to an early lead but fell back after their biggest man collapsed. Victory went to Cambridge but, as *Time* magazine reported it, "Rod Carnegie's revolution had not really failed: it had jolted the staid foundation of British rowing."

After Harvard, Carnegie joined the management consultancy McKinsey & Co in New York, where the firm's guiding light Marvin Bower later recalled a "very brilliant young Australian" whose only "fault" was his refusal to become an American.

Carnegie opened McKinsey's Australian office in 1963 – with Rio Tinto as an early client – but returned to New York as a director from 1967 to 1970, when he was lured back to Melbourne as CRA's finance director, rising to managing director two years later.

After leaving CRA, Carnegie was a director of many Australian companies, ranging from ANZ Banking to John Fairfax Holdings, and an adviser *inter alia* to IBM, JP Morgan & Co, General Motors and the World Bank. He was president of the Business Council of Australia and chaired an advisory committee on Australia's relations with Japan.

Knighted in 1978, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2003.

Rod Carnegie married, in 1959, Carmen Clarke, whose uncle Sir Rupert Clarke was a vice-chairman of CRA and whose forebear William "Big" Clarke (1805-1874) was the richest landowner in the then colony of Victoria. According to one local report, Carmen's style and Carnegie's "dashing good looks and business acumen" made them "a sort of corporate Camelot".

Carmen died in 2008; Sir Rod is survived by their three sons.

***Roderick Carnegie, born November 27 1932, died July 14 2024***

# Eliyahu Rips

## Unworldly mathematician who found codes in the Torah that seemed to predict the future

ELIYAHU RIPS, who has died aged 75, was a brilliant mathematician who claimed to have found codes hidden in the Torah that predicted the future, most sensationally the date of Saddam Hussein's first Scud missile attack on Israel in 1991.

Rips's startling analysis, which seemed tantamount to scientific proof of a miracle, was published in 1994 in *Statistical Science* under the unassuming title "Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Book of Genesis".

The idea was seized upon by the investigative journalist Michael Drosnin, who used the computer program Rips's team had devised for analysing scripture to predict the assassination of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, 12 months before it happened.

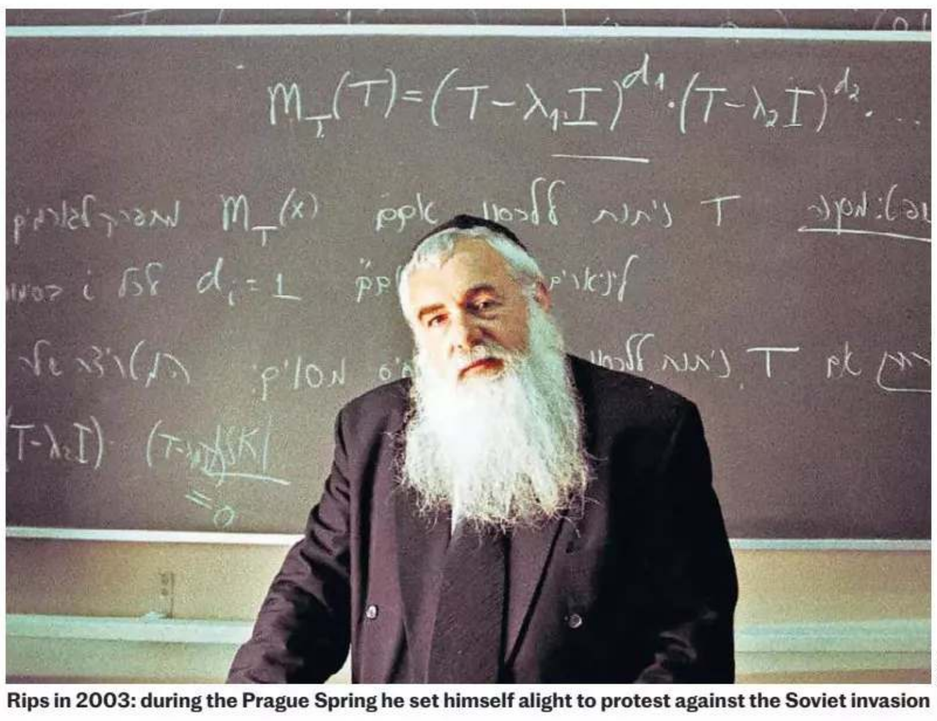
After that Drosnin became messianic, and in his 1997 book *The Bible Code*, serialised extravagantly in the *Daily Mail*, he claimed to have found Torah predictions for the assassination of JFK, the Moon landings and the death of Princess Diana.

It became a runaway bestseller, as did its sequel *The Bible Code II* (2002), which found a retrospective prediction of 9/11 and claimed that Armageddon was slated for 2006.

Pressure mounted on the scientific establishment to debunk this New Age craze, but the stumbling block was Rips, Drosnin's unworldly boffin, whose wild, white beard and black robes placed him firmly in the lineage of Jewish mystics, but with the added charisma of the emerging science of computing.

He was also a man of unimpeachable integrity. Born in Riga on December 12 1948 to Holocaust survivors, he had been a 19-year-old mathematics student at the time of the 1968 Prague Spring. When the Soviet tanks rolled in, Rips felt "buried alive", he recalled, and he decided to burn himself to death in protest, as the student Jan Palach had done in Prague.

Rips doused himself in petrol and unfurled a banner saying "I Protest against the Occupation of Czechoslovakia". But some passing sailors extinguished the fire,



**Rips in 2003: during the Prague Spring he set himself alight to protest against the Soviet invasion**

BBC

leaving Rips badly burnt but alive. He was consigned to a Soviet psychiatric prison for two years.

To pass the time, on a piece of lavatory paper supplied by a guard, he refuted a widely accepted proof of a mathematical problem called the dimension subgroup conjecture. This feat stunned western mathematicians, who petitioned the Soviet Union for his release.

In 1972 he was permitted to emigrate to Israel, where his interest was piqued by a phenomenon that had engaged Jewish mystics since the Middle Ages (and had obsessed Isaac Newton). Taking every 50th letter in Genesis, starting with the first "t", the word TORAH is spelt out. The same pattern occurs in Exodus. This is known as a "skip code".

Rips began working with Doron Witztum, and together they built a computer program to search for other skip codes, and found the word "CHANUKAH" interlocking as if in a crossword puzzle with "HASHMONI" (the Hasmoneans, who witnessed the miracle of the lights). However, the Torah was written centuries before the events of the Chanukah story, in 164 BC.

Rips then put to the test the Torah's seeming power to predict the future. In 1991, on the brink of the first Gulf War, he searched the Torah for a "SADDAM" skip code. Nearby were the words: "fire on the third of Shevat" – a date that would fall on January 18.

When Saddam's first Scud missile arrived in the early hours of January 18, Rips felt a jubilation not widely shared with his compatriots.

His 1994 *Statistical Science* article, co-written with Witztum and Yoav Rosenberg, was based on an empirical test they had then constructed, showing that the encoded names of famous medieval rabbis occurred in the Torah in close proximity to their birth or death dates, and that this "compactness" was unlikely, to the tune of 62,500 to 1.

*Statistical Science*'s editor Robert Kass expected his moderators to give the article short shrift and was astonished when they could find no holes in the science. Fearing he would become a laughing stock he tried a third moderator, but to no avail, and he was forced to publish.

After Drosnin's *Bible Code* circus, however, the problem came to the attention of the probability theorist Brendan McKay, who showed that any text would throw up similarly spooky juxtapositions. (In *Moby Dick* he found "LADY DIANA" next to "mortal in these jaws of death".)

McKay then set about attacking Rips's original experiment, pointing out that the famous rabbis' names could be spelt in various ways. When he ran the rabbi list with variant spellings, the statistical significance evaporated. A test run in 2004 by the BBC programme *Horizon*, looking for clusters of the rabbis' names and dates with their places of birth, found no particular pattern.

Rips stood by his idea, which he felt had been hijacked and made ridiculous by Drosnin, and came to believe that "all attempts to extract messages from Torah codes, or to make predictions based on them, are futile and are of no value. The only conclusion that can be drawn from the scientific research regarding the Torah codes is that they exist and that they are not a mere coincidence." But in this belief he became increasingly isolated.

In 1997 Eliyahu Rips was awarded the Ig Nobel Prize in Literature. In mathematics, his greatest impact was in the field of geometric group theory, where he gave his name to the "Rips machine" and the Vietoris-Rips complex.

***Eliyahu Rips, born December 12 1948, died July 19 2024***

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## Television reviews Anita Singh

# Margolyes' crude routine is getting pretty tiresome

Miriam Margolyes heads off on another opinionated adventure Down Under

The world divides into those who think Miriam Margolyes is delightfully straight-talking, and those who think she is unforgivably rude. Her encounter with an influencer from the coastal resort of Byron Bay, in **Miriam Margolyes: A New Australian Adventure** (BBC Two), is the perfect test.

The influencer arrives in what looks to be a pair of silk pyjamas. "Do you like my outfit?" he asks. "Not much," Margolyes bluntly replies, before launching into her first question: "You have been described to me as an influencer. What the f--k is that?"

As I say, you will either hoot with laughter at this or tut at her bad manners. Actually, this encounter takes place in the second of three episodes, so if you make it that far you're probably a Margolyes fan.

In the first episode, Margolyes visits Perth. Yet you will learn very little about Perth, because this series is an opportunity for the programme-makers to put Margolyes on screen and let her say whatever she likes.

The actress was granted Australian citizenship in 2013 and has made other programmes about the country. For reasons unexplained, she harbours "a little antagonism towards Perth", which one suspects might be down to honking snobbery, a suspicion raised when she meets British expat members of the Jaguar Car Club and asks: "Who will admit to being working class here?"

Margolyes has a nice day out on the water with the skipper of Australia's blind sailing team. She also learns about the "stolen generation" of indigenous children, which was an informative piece of history. And she delivers a positive message that, even in your eighties, you should keep pushing on and meeting new people.

But the rest of it is simply an opportunity for Margolyes to talk about sex. Meeting a backpacker who sleeps on a single mattress in the back of her car, Margolyes asks: "What happens if you get a groin excitement?" She goes to the home of an escort and looks at her collection of sex toys. I'm not sure that Perth has any more of a sex industry than Pontefract or Plymouth, so why was this included, except to giggle at Margolyes reminiscing about being "young and moist"? As for an episode-two diversion into vaginal steaming – well, decorum prevents me from telling you what she said about that.

At 83, Margolyes finds herself in demand precisely because she says things like this, so who can blame her for playing up to it? But for those who aren't in the fan club, it's tiresome.

**Fantasmas** (Sky Comedy) is the oddest show of the year. But its creator, Julio Torres, is trying to be odd. The oddness is the point. An example of what I mean: it's set in an alternative universe which has a Studio 54-style nightclub for gay hamsters in fetishwear. Imagine *The Mighty Boosh*, but American and expensive.

I didn't like *The Mighty Boosh*, which means I don't like this, but perhaps surrealist humour is your thing. Torres is a writer for *Saturday Night Live* in the US, and is the writer, director, executive producer and star of *Fantasmas*. It begins with him turning up for an interview at Crayola, where a panel asks him to do impressions of various colours before he pitches his big idea: making a clear crayon.

We are introduced to characters in his life, including his vampish agent, his robot companion and his driver. In each episode we're taken inside the shows that Julio is watching, and these play out as sketches, with capitalism and the workplace as a theme.

Occasionally, these are funny, such as the influencer (Jaboukie Young-White) who makes content sponsored by an "all-gender-inclusive germ killer"; when his friend points out that he won't be young forever and TikTok won't provide a life-long career, he sobs: "You're insane!" More often, though, the sketches, including a spoof of *The Real Housewives* franchise which features Emma Stone, aren't funny.

Stone, one of the executive producers, isn't the only big name. Torres has pulling power – Tilda Swinton voices some water in a toilet bowl. Meanwhile, Steve Buscemi plays the letter "Q" as an angry punk who thinks that he should be hanging out at the end of the alphabet with the renegade "W", "X", "Y" and "Z" instead of being stuck between the mainstream "P" and "R". This plays out in a comedy club, where he's one of the acts and complains about his billing: "You've got me sandwiched between these two normies! I'm not accessible like that, that's why you've got to put me on late."

The Buscemi sketch is an example of Torres's inventive writing. But it's all a bit self-consciously hip for me.

**Miriam Margolyes: A New Australian Adventure** ★★
**Fantasmas** ★★

## What to watch

### SIR CLIFF RICHARD AT THE BBC
*BBC Four, from 10.05pm*

Have a sing and dance along with one of Britain's most beloved singers in tonight's clip show

A late-evening line-up of Cliff Richard clips and concerts gets under way with a 2020 assemblage of performances from the BBC archive. The party mood sets in early thanks to hits ranging from 1958's *Move It* through to *The Millennium Prayer*. There's no mention, of course, of the star's recent difficult relationship with the BBC following theirs (and the police's) misguided investigation into him in 2014. Instead of rehashing such serious content, the night is intended to serve as a fun celebration of his career as a peerless entertainer; did you know Richard is the third top-selling artist in UK Singles Chart history, behind only The Beatles and Elvis, has won three Brit awards, and holds the record (with Presley) as the only act to make the UK chart in all of its first six decades (1950s-2000s)? After the BBC performance clips comes concert film **Cliff in London**, recorded at the Apollo Victoria Theatre in 1980, which is chock full of classic favourites from *Livin' Doll* to *Green Light* and *Carrie*. Finally, the opportunity to catch his celebrated gig **Live at the Albert Hall**, from 1994, where he performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. It's a Friday night tribute worthy of a British icon. ***Poppie Platt***

### ARTS

**BBC Proms**
*BBC Four, 8pm*
A stunning performance from the Royal Albert Hall, by the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Nicholas Collon, of Olivier Messiaen's electrifying *Turangalîla-Symphony*. The classic sits alongside the world premiere of composer Anna Clyne's *The Gorgeous Nothings*, an ethereal, emotionally charged piece inspired by the poetry of American trailblazer Emily Dickinson and featuring the renowned a capella vocal group The Swingles, who formed in Paris, France in the 1960s.

Nicholas Collon conducts Messiaen at the Proms

### COMEDY

**Mum**
*BBC Two, 10pm*
Catch a repeat of Stefan Golaszewski's stunning 2019 family sitcom. In tonight's opening episode, it's the morning of Cathy's (Lesley Manville) husband's funeral and she's nervously awaiting the arrival of her family for the wake.

### DOCUMENTARY

**Cowboy Cartel**
*Apple TV+*
*Narcos* meets *No Country for Old Men* in this stylish four-part border-country documentary about the infiltration and corruption of the lucrative Texas horse racing industry by a violent Mexican drugs gang – and the tireless efforts of US law enforcement to take them down. With heroes, villains and life-or-death moments, it builds and builds into a thrilling tale.

**Champions: Full Gallop**
*ITV1, 9pm*
Excitement is high as more than 70,000 racegoers descend on Cheltenham for four days of racing. One of the biggest meets of the National Hunt calendar, Cheltenham is key for anyone hoping for glory in the trainers' championship – such as up-and-comer Dan Skelton, who's keen to give his former boss Paul Nicholls a run for his money.

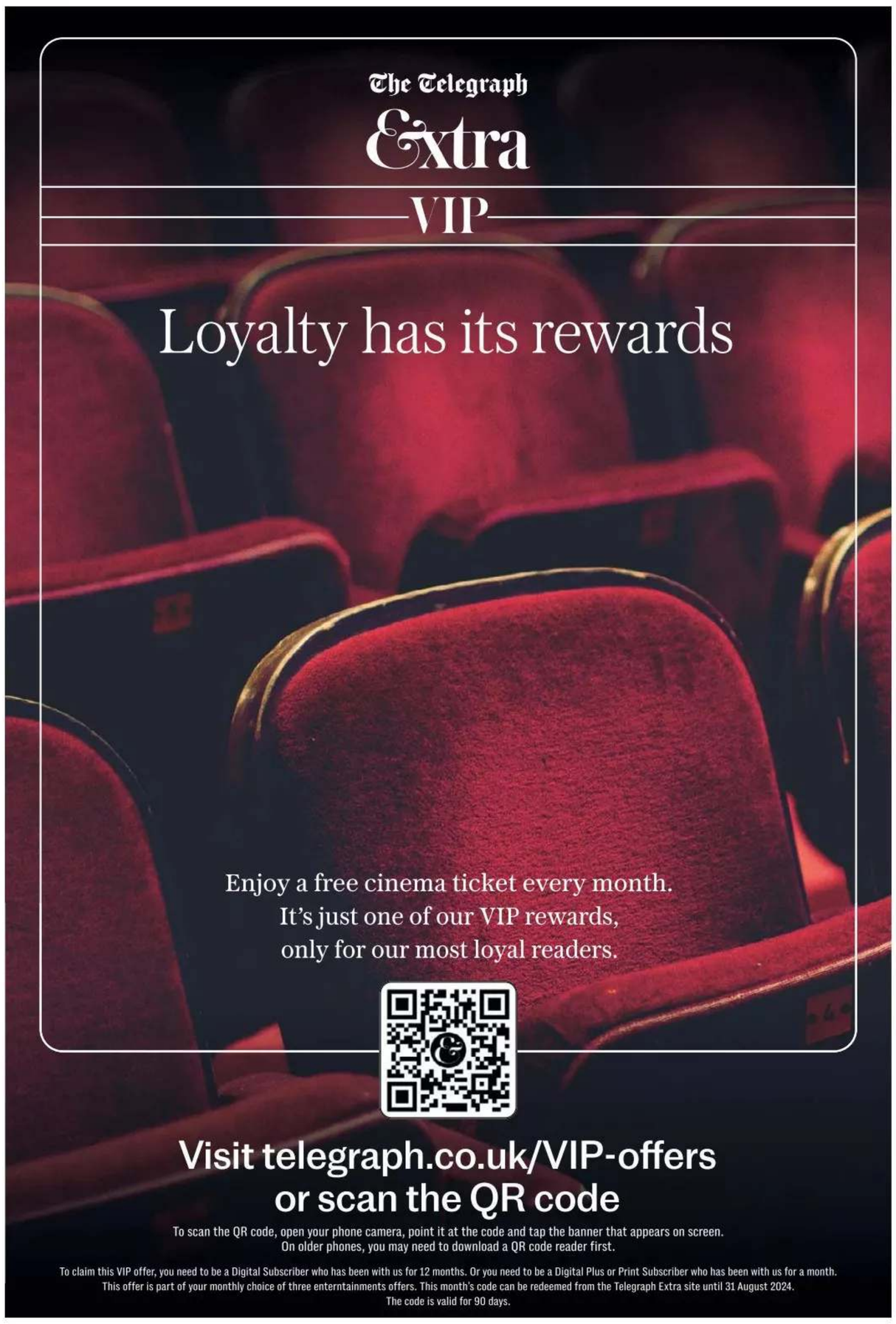
### DRAMA

**The Claremont Murders**
*More4, 9pm*
A powerful two-part Australian true-crime drama about the decades-long police investigation into the disappearance, in the 1990s, of three young women from the wealthy Perth suburb of Claremont. Tonight, as the police investigation gets underway, detectives reluctantly begin to suspect a serial killer is on the loose in their quiet community.

The Claremont Murders dramatises a shocking case

### FACTUAL

**Terror at 30,000 Feet**
*Channel 5, 9pm*
Just what you need before boarding a plane for your summer holiday. The story of Britannia Airways flight 226A from Cardiff, which crashed with 236 passengers on board (one person died) while attempting to land in terrible weather at Girona in 1999. Special effects and eye-witness testimony reveal the full horror of what it was like onboard.
***Gerard O'Donovan***

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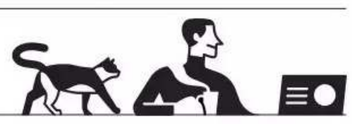
## Radio choice



**BBC Proms 2024**
*Radio 3, 8pm*

One of 2024's most hotly anticipated – and debated – Proms sees divisive pop star Sam Smith take to the stage with the BBC Concert Orchestra to perform their exalted debut album, *In the Lonely Hour*, in full. With their belting, powerful vocals soaring around the Royal Albert Hall, it promises to be a special evening. Spare an ear, too, for **UK Garage Classical with DJ Spoony** (*Radio 2, 9pm*), which celebrates 30 years of British garage music with orchestral arrangements of its biggest, most danceable hits, by Katie Chatburn and the Ignition Orchestra, in a concert (also at the Royal Albert Hall) from May.
***Gerard O'Donovan***

### RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

**6.57am** Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1's Dance Weekend **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Radio 1's Dance Weekend **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12: 45 **1.00** Radio 1 in Ibiza with Vick and Katie **4.00** The Official Chart on Radio 1 with Jack Saunders **5.45** Newsbeat @ 17: 45 **6.00** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **6.30** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **7.00** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **7.30** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **8.10** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **8.50** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **9.30** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **10.15** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **11.00** Radio 1 Dance in Ibiza **12.00** Radio 1's Essential Mix **2.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **3.00** Radio 1's Dance Anthems **4.00 - 7.00am** Radio 1 Dance Morning

### RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

**6.30am** The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years. The host plays back-to-back tunes **4.00** Sara Cox. The host takes listeners' calls for All Request Friday **7.00** Michelle Visage. A selection of hits from across the pop music genre **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits. Feelgood party classics **9.00 UK Garage Classical with DJ Spoony See Radio choice 11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** CMA Fest **2.00** CMA Fest **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 2 in Concert: Paul Young

### RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHZ

**6.30am** Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Musical Olympians – Ethel Smyth **5.00** In Tune **7.30** Classical Mixtape. Music by Handel and Scarlatti **8.00 BBC Proms 2024 See Radio choice 10.15** Late Junction. Jennifer Lucy Allan fires the starting gun on a musical Olympics **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** Desert Island Discs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Status **12.00** News **12.04pm** Rare Earth. People with fresh ideas to combat rising sea levels **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** NatureBang **2.00** The Archers. Things are eventful at Brookfield **2.15** Drama: The Skies Are Watching. By Jon Frechette. Last in the series **2.45** Communicating with Ros Atkins. Ros Atkins talks to Martin Lewis on communicating efficiently **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time. Experts answer listeners' queries in Exeter **3.45** Short Works. White Ferrari, by Caleb Azumah Nelson **4.00** Last Word. A selection of obituaries **4.30** Sideways. Part four of four. Matthew Syed questions the ethics of space exploration **5.00** PM. Anita Anand presents news headlines **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Catherine Bohart: TL;DR. Catherine Bohart unpacks the news agenda **7.00** The Archers. George accepts an invitation **7.15** Screenshot. The depiction of mermaids on screen **8.00** Any Questions? **8.50** A Point of View **9.00** Voice in the Machine **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Giovanni's Room **11.00** Americast **11.30** The Science of – Knife Crime **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** Frontlines of Journalism

### RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

**6.00am** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** 5 Live Olympics **3.30** 5 Live Olympics **6.30** 5 Live Olympics **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Lisa McCormick **5.00** 5 Live Boxing **5.30 - 6.00am** 5 Live Sport

### 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** Classic FM at the Movies with Jonathan Ross **9.00** Perfect Pitch with Karthi Gnanasegaram **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00 - 7.00am** Sam Pittis

### WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

**8.00am** News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** Unexpected Elements **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** Heart and Soul **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **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** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** Unexpected Elements **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** Unexpected Elements **5.00** The Newsroom **5.30** Dear Daughter **5.50 - 6.00am** More or Less

### RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

**6.00am** Lord Jim **6.30** Berkely Mather – Returned Without Thanks **7.00** Second Thoughts **7.30** Share and Share Alike **8.00** Daliso Chaponda: Citizen of Nowhere **8.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **8.45** Shifting the Leaves **9.00** Time of the Week **9.30** Wow! How Did They Do That? **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Soul Music **10.30** James Baldwin's Last Amen **11.00** Lord Jim **11.30** Berkely Mather – Returned Without Thanks **12.00** Second Thoughts **12.30pm** Share and Share Alike **1.00** Daliso Chaponda: Citizen of Nowhere **1.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **1.45** Shifting the Leaves **2.00** All the Way from Memphis **2.30** Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me **3.00** James Baldwin's Last Amen **4.00** Soul Music **4.30** James Baldwin's Last Amen **5.00** Lord Jim **5.30** Berkely Mather – Returned Without Thanks **6.00** Second Thoughts **6.30** Share and Share Alike **7.00** Daliso Chaponda: Citizen of Nowhere **7.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **7.45** Shifting the Leaves **8.00** All the Way from Memphis **8.30** Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me **9.00** James Baldwin's Last Amen **10.00** Time of the Week **10.30** The Million Pound Radio Show **11.00** Absolute Power **11.30** As Told to Craig Brown **12.00** Soul Music **12.30am** James Baldwin's Last Amen **1.00** Lord Jim **1.30** Berkely Mather – Returned Without Thanks **2.00** Second Thoughts **2.30** Share and Share Alike **3.00** Daliso Chaponda: Citizen of Nowhere **3.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **3.45** Shifting the Leaves **4.00** All the Way from Memphis **4.30** Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me **5.00 - 6.00am** James Baldwin's Last Amen

# Today's television

## Main channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

### BBC One

**6.00 am** Breakfast (S) **8.00** Olympics: Paris 2024. Athletics takes centre stage for the first time at the Paris Games this morning, while Team GB will hope to capitalise on some golden opportunities for diving and rowing medals (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** Hazel Irvine introduces further live coverage of the equestrian jumping team final at the Chateau de Versailles, along with the badminton's mixed doubles and men's heavyweight judo (S)
**6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather** (S)
**6.30 Regional News; Weather** (S)

**Olympics: trampolinist Bryony Page**

**7.00 Olympics: Paris 2024** Gabby Logan and Clare Balding host an evening of Olympic action as athletics and swimming share the spotlight, with Britain tipped to increase their medal haul in the pool, as well as men's and women's BMX Racing finals. The much-anticipated men's 50m freestyle final kicks things off at 7.30 at La Defense Arena. That's followed by the women's 200m backstroke final at 7.39 before a star-studded men's 200m individual medley at 7.49. Over at the Stade de France, the men's 10,000m final is the main attraction in the athletics this evening at 8.20, while the women's 800m event gets under way. There's also British interest at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines BMX Stadium (S)
**10.00 BBC News at Ten** (S)
**10.30 Regional News; Weather** (S)
**10.40 Olympics: Paris 2024 – Tonight at the Games** Isa Guha and Mark Chapman look back on a frenetic day of Olympic action (S)
**12.00 FILM: Pride** (2014) Fact-based drama starring Ben Schnetzer **See Film choice 2.00 - 6.00am** News

### BBC Two

**6.30 am** Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **7.00** Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure (R) (S) (SL) **7.30** Sign Zone: Big Little Crimes (R) (S) (SL) **8.00** 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 (AD) (R) (S)
**12.15 pm Bargain Hunt** (AD) (R) (S)
**1.00 Olympics: Paris 2024** (S)
**1.45 Make Me a Dealer** (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** (S)

**Mum**

**7.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** Malorie Blackman, Matt Dawson, Chris McCausland and Ranvir Singh take part (R) (S)
**7.30 Beechgrove Garden** (S)
**8.00 Gardeners' World** Monty Don prunes his philadelphus, while Sue Kent assesses her summer borders (S)
**9.00 Miriam Margolyes: A New Australian Adventure** New series. The actress explores one of her favourite countries **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
**10.00 Mum** Comedy starring Lesley Manville **See What to watch** (AD) (R) (S)
**10.30 Newsnight** (S)
**11.05 FILM: Official Secrets** (2019) Fact-based drama starring Keira Knightley **See Film choice 12.50am** Sign Zone: The Apartheid Killer **2.05** Sign Zone: Why Trains Crash **3.05 - 6.25am** 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 four 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)

**Champions: Full Gallop**

**7.30 Emmerdale** Police arrive at Home Farm inquiring about Rose (AD) (S)
**8.00 Coronation Street** Max comforts Lauren after she is mugged at the precinct (AD) (S)
**9.00 Champions: Full Gallop** Cameras focus on trainer Paul Nicholls **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
**10.00 News; Weather** (S)
**10.30 Regional News; Weather** (S)
**10.45 FILM: For Your Eyes Only** (1981) James Bond spy thriller starring Roger Moore (AD) (S)
**12.55 am** Shop on TV **3.00** Love & Death **3.55** Unwind with ITV **5.10 - 6.00am** Jimmy & Shivi's Farmhouse Breakfast

### Channel 4

**6.25 am** Cheers (R) (S) **6.50** Cheers (R) (S) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.05** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.35** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.05** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.35** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.05** The Simpsons (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)

**Lake District Rescue**

**7.00 Channel 4 News** (S)
**8.00 Lake District Rescue** A fallen scrambler is precariously lodged at the edge of a waterfall. Last in the series (AD) (R) (S)
**9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** Alan Carr and Munya Chawawa take on Sarah Millican and Gary Delaney (S)
**10.00 Jimmy Carr's I Literally Just Told You** (S)
**11.05** Gogglebox **12.10am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00** FILM: Friends with Benefits (2011) **2.50** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **3.35** Come Dine with Me **4.00** Come Dine with Me **4.25** Come Dine with Me **4.50** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes **4.55** Come Dine with Me **5.20** Come Dine with Me **5.45 - 6.05am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It

### 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)
**2.20 FILM: Deadly Divorce Party** (2022, TVM) Thriller starring Glenda Braganza (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)

**Terror at 30,000 Feet**

**7.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** Inspector Anton Sullivan receives a hug from a stranded motorist (AD) (R) (S)
**7.55 5 News Update** (S)
**8.00 Motorway: Hell on the Highway** Cameras focus on disasters caused by drivers making misjudgements at junctions (S)
**9.00 Terror at 30,000 Feet** The dramatic case of a holiday flight from Cardiff to the Costa Brava **See What to watch** (S)
**10.00 When Movies Go Horribly Wrong** Sean Pertwee narrates tales of movies making waves for all the wrong reasons (R) (S)
**1.00 am** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Carol Klein's Great British Gardens **3.50** Health Foods: Are They a Con? **4.40** Wildlife SOS **5.05** House Doctor **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam **5.45 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

## Film choice

**Rebel Moon – Part Two: Director's Cut** *(2024)*
*Netflix* ★★

*Star Wars* fans, look away now – Zach Snyder's rip-off is back. The *Justice League* director's space-opera passion project this time centres on a group of heroes who vow to fight against intergalactic baddies the Imperium. Sofia Boutella and Charlie Hunnam star. For more CGI-heavy action, **Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes** is streaming on Disney+ now.

**Trolls Band Together** *(2023)*
*Sky Cinema Premiere, 4pm* ★★★★

What a delightful, neon-hued barrage of family friendly chaos *Trolls* is. This third instalment in the hit DreamWorks franchise goes full *Smurfs* via way of *Pitch Perfect*, as pink troll Poppy (voiced by Anna Kendrick) and BFF Branch (Justin Timberlake) chase former glories. Looking for more animated fun? New *SpongeBob Squarepants* film **Saving Bikini Bottom** is on Netflix from today.

**Official Secrets** *(2019)*
*BBC Two, 11.05pm* ★★★★

Keira Knightley stars in this political thriller relating the true story of Katharine Gun, a linguist working for GCHQ who, before the 2003 invasion of Iraq, leaked a memo from the National Security Agency exposing a surveillance operation targeting the UN security council. Ralph Fiennes, Matt Smith, Matthew Goode and Rhys Ifans are among its sprawling cast; Gavin Hood directs.

*with* Camilla TOMINEY *and* Kamal AHMED
Telegraph app
Podcasts
Spotify
Listen now

## Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

### BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108

**7.00 pm** TOTP: 1979
**7.30** TOTP: 1989
**8.00 BBC Proms** **See What to watch**
**10.05 Sir Cliff Richard at the BBC** **See What to watch**
**11.05 Cliff in London** **See What to watch**
**12.00 Cliff Richard: Live at the Albert Hall** **See What to watch**
**12.50 am** TOTP: 1979
**1.20** TOTP: 1989
**1.50** Sir Cliff Richard at the BBC
**2.50 - 3.45am** Cliff in London

### ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 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** Doc Martin
**9.00** Midsomer Murders
**11.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot
**12.40 am** Upstairs, Downstairs
**1.35** Upstairs, Downstairs
**2.30 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

**11.25 am** BattleBots
**12.25 pm** Dempsey and Makepeace
**1.30** The Champions
**2.35** Kojak
**3.40** Minder
**4.50** The Professionals
**5.55** River Monsters
**6.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights
**8.00** River Monsters
**9.00 FILM:** Rocky Balboa (2006) Boxing drama starring Sylvester Stallone
**11.10** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite
**1.05 am** Minder
**2.00** The Professionals
**2.55** Unwind with ITV
**3.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 123

**1.00 pm** Tales of the Unexpected
**2.00** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting
**3.00** Celebrity Portrait Artist of the Year
**4.00** Discovering: Kate Winslet
**5.00** The Joy of Painting
**6.00** Tales of the Unexpected
**7.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir
**8.00** Pink Floyd: The Endless River
**9.00** Have You Got It Yet? The Story of Syd Barrett and Pink Floyd
**10.45** Pink Floyd: P.U.L.S.E
**12.05 am** Genesis: Sum Of The Parts
**2.00 - 3.00am** Phil Collins: Going Back to Detroit

### Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

**11.15 am** Britannia
**12.20 pm** Game of Thrones
**1.35** The Sopranos
**2.40** The Sopranos
**3.45** Riviera
**4.45** Riviera
**5.45** Britannia
**6.45** Britannia
**7.45** Game of Thrones
**9.00** Chernobyl
**10.10** House of the Dragon
**11.30** The Last of Us
**12.55 am** The Wire
**1.55** The Leftovers
**3.00 - 4.10am** Game of Thrones

### Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

**11.00 am** Alpha and Omega (2010)
**12.45 pm** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008)
**2.35** Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011) Animated comedy sequel with the voice of Jack Black
**4.20** The Karate Kid (1984) Martial arts drama starring Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita
**6.45** Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017) Fantasy action comedy starring Dwayne Johnson
**9.00** Moonfall (2022) Sci-fi thriller starring Patrick Wilson and Halle Berry
**11.35** Event Horizon (1997)
**1.25 - 3.35am** How to Talk to Girls at Parties (2017)

### U&Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116

**11.40 am** The Bill
**12.40 pm** Classic EastEnders
**1.20** Classic EastEnders
**2.00** London's Burning
**3.00** Born and Bred
**4.10** Howards' Way
**5.20** Birds of a Feather
**6.05** Desmond's
**6.40** Are You Being Served?
**7.20** Last of the Summer Wine
**8.00** Father Brown
**9.00** Father Brown
**10.00** New Tricks
**11.00** Silent Witness
**1.30 am** Footballers' Wives
**3.00 - 4.00am** Classic Holby City

### 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 **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornish Christmas **7.00** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Battle in the Box **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 **8.40** The Vicar of Dibley **9.20** Harry Enfield and Chums **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **12.00** The Thin Blue Line **12.40am** The Vicar of Dibley **1.20** Harry Enfield and Chums **2.00** Men Behaving Badly **2.30-4.00am** Mrs Brown's Boys

### ITV2

**Noon** Dress to Impress **1.00pm** In with a Shout **2.00** Celebrity Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** In with a Shout **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00 FILM:** Horrible Bosses (2011) Comedy starring Jason Bateman **11.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **1.00am** Bob's Burgers **2.00** Deal or No Deal **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

### More4

**11.25am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00 The Claremont Murders** **See What to watch** **11.00** 24 Hours in A&E **12.00** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes **12.05am** 24 Hours in A&E **1.10** Emergency Helicopter Medics **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20-3.50am** Food Unwrapped

### PBS America

**Noon** 1968: The Year That Changed America **1.00pm** Icons of Conquest **2.20** Ancient Apocalypse **3.25** Nazi Town, USA **4.35** Hitler's Power **5.40** 1968: The Year That Changed America **6.35** Ancient Apocalypse **7.45** Nazi Town, USA **8.50** Hitler's Power **9.55** 1968: The Year That Changed America **10.50** Nazi Town, USA **12.00** Hitler's Power **1.10am** Grand Tours of Scotland **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

### Talking Pictures TV

**24 hours, including at:**
**10.25am FILM:** Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold (1986) Action adventure sequel starring Richard Chamberlain **12.30pm** The Four Just Men **1.00 FILM:** Lady in the Fog (1952, b/w) Murder mystery starring Cesar Romero **2.40 FILM:** Bindle (1966) Comedy starring Alfie Bass **3.55 FILM:** Woman in a Dressing Gown (1957, b/w) Drama starring Anthony Quayle **5.50 FILM:** Third Party Risk (1954, b/w) Crime drama starring Lloyd Bridges **7.20 FILM:** Life with the Lyons (1954) Comedy starring Bebe Daniels **9.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **9.10** Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense **10.40** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **10.45 FILM:** The Upturned Glass (1947, b/w) Drama starring James Mason **12.30am FILM:** Kings Go Forth (1958, b/w) Drama starring Frank Sinatra **2.45-4.40am FILM:** Underworld USA (1961, b/w) Revenge thriller starring Cliff Robertson

### U&Yesterday

**Noon** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** World War Two from Above **5.00** Adolf Hitler's War **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **8.00** Jay's Yorkshire Workshop **9.00** Secrets of the London Underground **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00am** Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made **2.00** Inside the Factory: Cereal **3.00-6.10am** Teleshopping

### Sky Sports Main Event

**Noon** Transfer Talk **1.00pm** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **2.30** The Hundred Live. Oval Invincibles Women v Northern Superchargers Women (start-time 3.00pm) **6.00** The Hundred Live. Oval Invincibles Men v Northern Superchargers Men (start-time 6.30pm) **7.30** Live Betfred Super League. Warrington Wolves v Hull Kingston Rovers (kick-off 8.00pm) **10.15** Live Tennis. The Mubadala Citi DC Open **12.00-4.00am** Live Tennis. The Mubadala Citi DC Open

### Sky Sports Premier League

**Noon** Transfer Talk **1.00pm** Premier League Best Goals **2.00** SNF **3.30** Premier League Highlights **4.00** SNF **5.00** The Transfer Show **5.30** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **6.00** Premier League Review **7.00** Premier League Stories **7.30** PL 100: Thierry Henry **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **8.30** Premier League Stories **9.00** Southgate: Life As England Manager **9.30** Premier League Best Goals **10.00** Class of '92: Full Time **11.00** PL Retro **1.00am** Premier League Years **3.00-4.00am** PL Greatest Games

### TNT Sports 1

**9.45am** Live: One Day International Cricket. Sri Lanka v India **6.30pm** MLB: Off the Bat **7.00** Live MLB. Chicago Cubs v St Louis Cardinals (start-time 7.20pm) **10.15** MLB Plays of the Week **10.45** Born Racers **12.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **1.00am** Live: WWE Friday Night SmackDown. Wrestling action **3.00** World Rally Championship **3.30** TNT Sports Reload **4.00-4.30am** Fight Week

### Discovery

**Noon** Wheeler Dealers **1.00pm** Treehouse Masters **2.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **3.00** Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch **4.00** Flying Wild Alaska **5.00** Salvage Hunters **6.00** Iron Resurrection **7.00** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail **8.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Moonshiners **10.00** Blowing Up History **11.00** Outback Truckers **12.00** Mysteries of the Deep **1.00am** Moonshiners **2.00** Blowing Up History **3.00-4.00am** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail

### Sky Cinema Premiere

**24 hours, including at:**
**10.50am** Robin and the Hoods (2024) Comedy starring Naomie Harris and Darcy Ewart **12.35pm** Jericho Ridge (2023) Thriller starring Nikki Amuka-Bird **2.15** What Happens Later (2023) Romantic comedy starring Meg Ryan and David Duchovny **4.00 Trolls Band Together** (2023) **See Film choice** **5.45** Mean Girls (2024) Musical adaptation of the 2004 cult classic starring Angourie Rice **7.45** The Cinema List: True Stories **8.00** Jericho Ridge (2023) Thriller starring Nikki Amuka-Bird **9.45** Eileen (2023) Thriller starring Thomasin McKenzie and Anne Hathaway **11.30** The Nun II (2023) Horror sequel starring Taissa Farmiga **1.30am** Manodrome (2023) Thriller starring Jesse Eisenberg **3.10-4.50am** Please Don't Destroy: The Treasure of Foggy Mountain (2023) Comedy starring Conan O'Brien

### Sky Documentaries

**Noon** Very Ralph **2.00pm FILM:** Adrienne (2021) **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Brad Pitt **6.00** The Vietnam War **7.00** Fatboy Slim: Right Here, Right Now **8.50** My Icon: Natasha Jonas **9.00** Kings from Queens: The Run DMC Story **10.00 FILM:** Tina (2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career **12.10am FILM:** Steve McQueen: The Lost Movie (2021) Documentary exploring an unfinished movie starring Steve McQueen **2.00 FILM:** Magic & Bird: A Courtship of Rivals (2010) **3.50-4.00am** My Icon: Shaun Gayle

### Sky History

**Noon** Secrets in the Sand **1.00pm** Salvage Kings **2.00** Mountain Men **3.00** Mountain Men: Alaska **4.00** Pawn Stars Do America **6.00** American Pickers **7.00** Forged in Fire **8.00** Auction Kings **9.00** Storage Wars **10.00** Pawn Stars Do America **11.00** The Real Conjuring: Our Story **12.00** Pawn Stars Do America **2.00am** Hitler v Churchill: The Eagle and the Lion **3.00-4.00am** Auction Kings

### Sky Max

**Noon** Supergirl **1.00pm** MacGyver **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** SEAL Team **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** A Discovery of Witches **9.00** A League of Their Own Road Trip: Southeast Asia **10.00** Mr Bigstuff **10.30** The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon **11.45** The Walking Dead **12.45am** The Force: Manchester **1.40** Road Wars **3.05-4.00am** Hawaii Five-0

## Variations

### Northern Ireland

**BBC One:** No variations
**BBC Two:** No variations
**UTV: 7.00 - 7.30pm** UTV Life

### Scotland

**BBC One:** No variations
**BBC Scotland: 7.30pm** Sportscene Live **10.00** Still Game **10.30** Two Doors Down **11.00** TRNSMT 2024 **midnight** Close
**STV: 1.30 - 3.59pm** STV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood **7.00 - 7.30** What's on Scotland **3.55 - 5.10am** Unwind with STV

### Wales

**BBC One:** No variations
**BBC Two: 5.15pm** Saving Lives at Sea **5.30 - 6.00** Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast **7.30 - 8.00pm** SOS: Extreme Rescues
**ITV1 Wales: 7.00 - 7.30pm** Coast & Country

### ITV1 Regions

No variations

### S4C

**6.00am** Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Dau Gi Bach **12.30** Heno Aur **1.00** Cegin Bryn **1.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Gerallt **4.00** Awr Fawr: Nos Da Cyw **4.10** Awr Fawr: Bendibwmbwls **4.20** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd **4.30** Awr Fawr: Guto Gwningen **4.45** Awr Fawr: Kim a Cet a Twrch **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Y Sioe Fwyd **6.30** Garddio a Mwy **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Cynghorddau'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2023 **10.30 - 11.35pm** Cynefin

# Weather & Crosswords

## Forecast

### General situation

A cold front will spread rainy periods into Northern Ireland and Scotland today with showers reaching Wales and northern England in the afternoon. Sunny spells and warm in southern England.

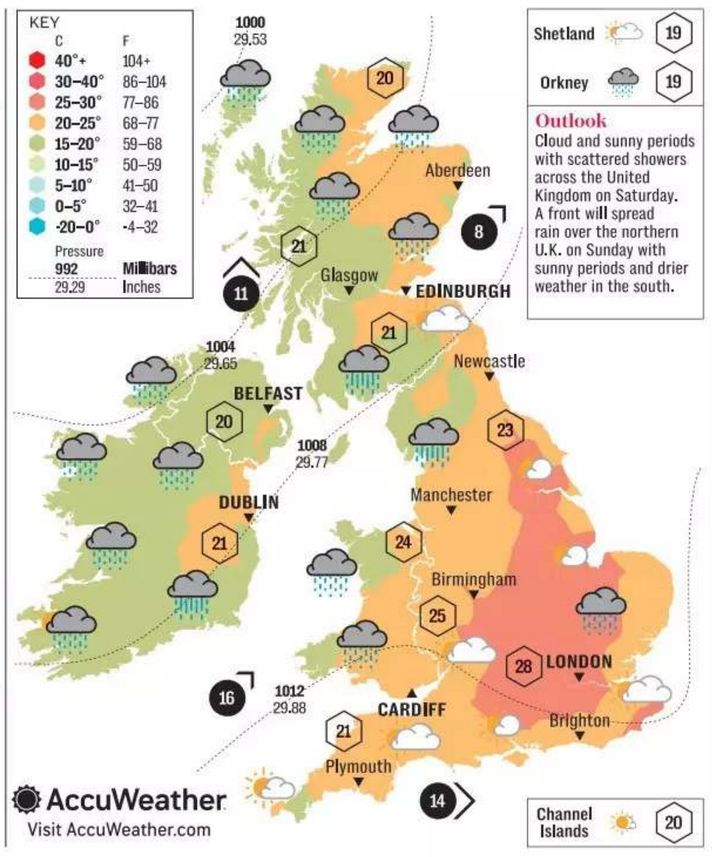
**◆London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Sunny spells and warm today with the odd thundery shower. A gentle westerly wind. Max 75-82F (25-28C). Mostly cloudy tonight with a few showers. Min 58-63F (15-17C).

**◆NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Broken cloud today and tonight with rainy spells. A gentle W to SW wind. Max 65-77F (18-25C). Min 52-60F (11-16C).

**◆Wales:** Sunny periods today; showers in the afternoon and tonight. A moderate W to SW wind. Max 58-75F (15-24C). Min 52-58F (11-15C).

**◆N Ireland:** Periods of rain today. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 55-68F (13-20C). The odd shower tonight. Min 42-54F (6-12C).

**◆SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Broken cloud with rainy spells today and tonight. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 50-73F (10-23C). Min 38-55F (3-13C).

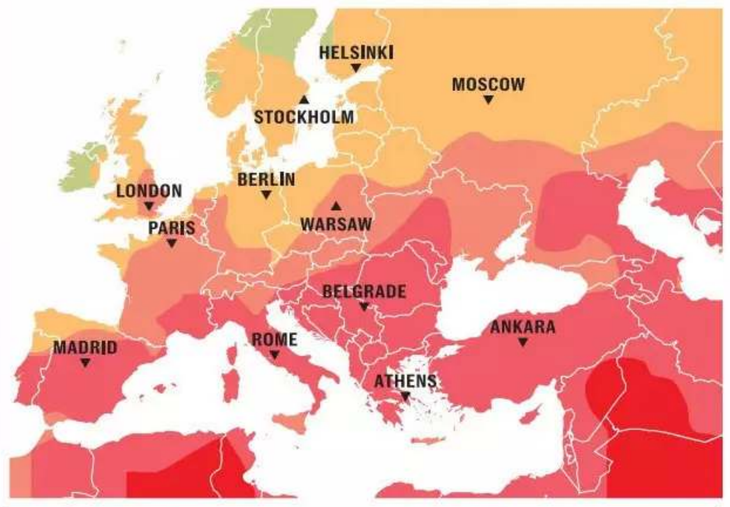



**Outlook** Cloud and sunny periods with scattered showers across the United Kingdom on Saturday. A front will spread rain over the northern U.K. on Sunday with sunny periods and drier weather in the south.

### Four day forecast

### European readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

| | Max °C | Min °C | Daytime weather |
|---|---|---|---|
| Akrotiri | 33 | 25 | sunny |
| Alicante | 33 | 25 | sunny |
| Amsterdam | 23 | 17 | cloudy |
| Athens | 34 | 25 | sunny |
| Barcelona | 30 | 24 | sunny |
| Bari | 32 | 19 | sunny |
| Belgrade | 35 | 16 | sunny |
| Benidorm | 33 | 24 | sunny |
| Bergen | 18 | 12 | p/cldy |
| Berlin | 29 | 18 | sunny |
| Biarritz | 29 | 21 | cloudy |
| Bodrum | 35 | 25 | sunny |
| Bordeaux | 29 | 22 | p/cldy |
| Brest | 22 | 15 | p/cldy |
| Brussels | 24 | 19 | showers |
| Bucharest | 38 | 17 | p/cldy |
| Budapest | 32 | 14 | showers |
| Cagliari | 36 | 23 | sunny |
| Chamonix | 25 | 17 | storms |
| Copenhagen | 22 | 13 | sunny |
| Corfu | 34 | 23 | sunny |
| Cork | 22 | 12 | p/cldy |
| Corsica | 33 | 21 | sunny |
| Crete | 29 | 24 | sunny |
| Dublin | 22 | 13 | p/cldy |
| Dubrovnik | 30 | 12 | sunny |
| Faro | 28 | 22 | sunny |
| Florence | 37 | 24 | sunny |
| Frankfurt | 28 | 18 | storms |
| Funchal | 27 | 20 | sunny |
| Gdansk | 25 | 12 | sunny |
| Geneva | 30 | 20 | storms |
| Gibraltar | 33 | 24 | sunny |
| Hamburg | 27 | 12 | p/cldy |
| Helsinki | 21 | 13 | showers |
| Innsbruck | 32 | 16 | storms |
| Istanbul | 30 | 21 | sunny |
| Kyiv | 29 | 13 | sunny |
| La Rochelle | 28 | 21 | sunny |
| Lisbon | 27 | 19 | sunny |
| Locarno | 30 | 17 | showers |
| Luxembourg | 24 | 18 | storms |
| Madrid | 39 | 19 | sunny |
| Majorca | 34 | 21 | sunny |
| Malaga | 34 | 23 | sunny |
| Malta | 33 | 24 | sunny |
| Marseille | 36 | 22 | sunny |
| Menorca | 32 | 23 | sunny |
| Milan | 34 | 22 | sunny |
| Monaco | 30 | 24 | sunny |
| Moscow | 20 | 15 | showers |
| Munich | 27 | 16 | windy |
| Naples | 32 | 24 | sunny |
| Nice | 30 | 24 | sunny |
| Nicosia | 39 | 24 | sunny |
| Oporto | 22 | 18 | p/cldy |
| Oslo | 22 | 10 | sunny |
| Palermo | 31 | 25 | sunny |
| Paris | 32 | 18 | p/cldy |
| Perpignan | 37 | 24 | sunny |
| Prague | 29 | 18 | p/cldy |
| Reykjavik | 16 | 9 | rain |
| Rhodes | 34 | 25 | haze |
| Riga | 24 | 15 | p/cldy |
| Rome | 33 | 23 | sunny |
| Saint Malo | 26 | 18 | p/cldy |
| Salzburg | 30 | 19 | storms |
| Santander | 23 | 19 | showers |
| Santiago/Comp. | 22 | 17 | p/cldy |
| Sofia | 33 | 13 | sunny |
| St. Petersburg | 21 | 15 | showers |
| Stockholm | 24 | 11 | sunny |
| Strasbourg | 28 | 19 | rain |
| Tenerife | 27 | 22 | windy |
| Tirana | 37 | 18 | sunny |
| Toulouse | 31 | 21 | p/cldy |
| Valencia | 35 | 24 | sunny |
| Venice | 33 | 24 | rain |
| Vienna | 31 | 19 | p/cldy |
| Vigo | 27 | 17 | p/cldy |
| Vilnius | 23 | 14 | p/cldy |
| Warsaw | 28 | 13 | sunny |
| Zagreb | 34 | 15 | p/cldy |
| Zurich | 25 | 17 | storms |




## Nature Notes

# Pink salmon pose threat to rivers

Britain's rivers are being hit by a "pinko" invasion from Russia. A hotline has been set up so anglers catching a pink salmon can report it.

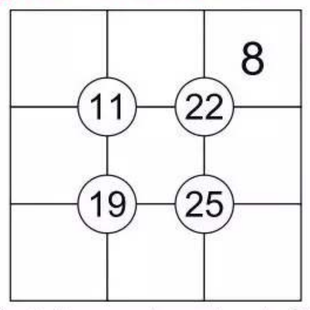
The fish are originally from the Pacific, and not meant to be in our rivers. But some were introduced in Putin's Russia and have made it to UK waterways.

They spread parasites which kill our salmon and the worry is they will harm our fast-vanishing Atlantic salmon, helping to drive it to the edge of extinction as a native breeding species.

In Scotland, generations of anglers including the Queen have fished on legendary salmon beats along the Tay, the Spey and other mighty rivers.

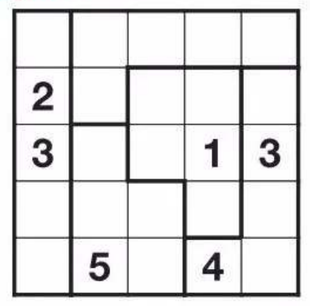
The Spey Fishery Board said in a warning post: "Pink salmon pose various threats to our already under-pressure Atlantic salmon by bullying fish off potential spawning grounds and introducing new parasites to the ecosystem."*

## Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4932




To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions on Monday.

## Suguru NO 2020




The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

**Yesterday's solutions:**

**Sujiko 4931:** 974 / 862 / 351

**Suguru 2019:**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

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### British readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm · *estimated readings

| | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max °C | Min °C | Daytime weather |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 4.2* | 0.00 | 16 | 12 | p/cloudy |
| Aberystwyth | 4.9* | 0.00 | 26 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Antrim | 5.5 | 0.04 | 22 | 15 | showers |
| Aviemore | 2.3 | 0.00 | 16 | 11 | cloudy |
| Barnstaple | 6.7* | 0.00* | 22* | 16* | p/cloudy |
| Barrow-in-Furns. | 4.2* | 0.03 | 22 | 16 | showers |
| Basingstoke | 7.2 | 0.01 | 28 | 17 | p/cloudy |
| Bedford | 5.4* | 0.00 | 28 | 14 | p/cloudy |
| Belfast | 3.8* | 0.21 | 23* | 15* | rain |
| Berwick | 1.9 | 0.00 | 23 | 12 | cloudy |
| Birmingham | 8.0* | 0.10 | 28 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Bodmin | 4.1* | 0.00 | 26 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Bournemouth | 6.0 | 0.00 | 29 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Braintree | 4.4* | 0.00 | 27 | 14 | p/cloudy |
| Brecon | 6.4* | 0.00 | 25 | 13 | p/cloudy |
| Bridlington | 2.1* | 0.00 | 19 | 16 | cloudy |
| Brighton | 3.5* | 0.01 | 27 | 17 | cloudy |
| Bristol | 4.5* | 0.00 | 28* | 18* | p/cloudy |
| Camborne | 4.9 | 0.02 | 21 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Cardiff | 9.5* | 0.02 | 28 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Carlisle | 1.0* | 0.00 | 22 | 14 | cloudy |
| Catterick | 3.1 | 0.23 | 25 | 15 | rain |
| Cheltenham | 2.1* | 0.21 | 29* | 17* | rain |
| Chester | 3.9* | 0.55 | 27 | 16 | rain |
| Coventry | 5.0* | 0.00 | 28* | 16* | p/cloudy |
| Doncaster | 2.4* | 0.35 | 24* | 16* | rain |
| Dover | 2.5* | 0.00 | 24 | 18 | cloudy |
| Dundee | 2.6 | 0.02 | 16 | 11 | cloudy |
| Eastbourne | 3.1 | 0.04 | 27 | 18 | cloudy |
| Edinburgh | 0.5* | 0.01 | 22 | 12 | cloudy |
| Epsom | 3.0* | 0.00 | 27 | 17 | cloudy |
| Falmouth | 7.5* | 0.00 | 24 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Farnborough | 3.0* | 0.18 | 28* | 17* | rain |
| Fort William | 1.5 | 0.00 | 19 | 9 | cloudy |
| Glasgow | 2.3 | 0.03 | 22 | 13 | cloudy |
| Great Malvern | 4.9* | 0.01 | 29 | 17 | p/cloudy |
| Grimsby | 2.9* | 0.00 | 20 | 17 | cloudy |
| Guernsey | 9.6* | 0.01 | 26 | 17 | p/cloudy |
| Hereford | 6.9* | 0.00 | 29 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| High Wycombe | 2.6* | 0.44 | 29* | 16* | rain |
| Holyhead | 8.3 | 0.00 | 21 | 14 | p/cloudy |
| Huddersfield | 2.4* | 0.06 | 23 | 16 | showers |
| Ipswich | 5.3 | 0.00 | 26 | 15 | p/cloudy |
| Isle of Man | 2.4 | 0.00 | 22 | 14 | cloudy |
| Isle of Skye | 0.9* | 0.00 | 17* | 12* | cloudy |
| Isle of Wight | 4.4* | 0.00 | 22 | 19 | p/cloudy |
| Isles of Scilly | 5.4* | 0.00 | 21 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Jersey | 3.7 | 0.00* | 22* | 18* | cloudy |
| Keswick | 0.5* | 0.00 | 24 | 13 | cloudy |
| Kew Gardens | 4.1* | 0.00 | 28* | 18* | p/cloudy |
| King's Lynn | 5.2* | 0.01 | 23 | 15 | p/cloudy |
| Leeds | 2.4* | 0.17 | 24* | 15* | rain |
| Leek | 4.5* | 0.02 | 25 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Leominster | 5.0* | 0.00 | 27 | 17 | p/cloudy |
| Lincoln | 3.6 | 0.00 | 25 | 14 | cloudy |
| Liverpool | 3.5* | 0.55 | 27 | 16 | rain |
| London | 5.0 | 0.00 | 29 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Manchester | 7.1* | 0.16 | 27 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Middlesbrough | 1.9* | 0.41 | 22 | 14 | rain |
| Newcastle | 7.6* | 0.01 | 23 | 13 | p/cloudy |
| Newquay | 4.9 | 0.02 | 21 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Nottingham | 3.9 | 0.03 | 20 | 16 | cloudy |
| Orkney | 6.2 | 0.01 | 18 | 8 | p/cloudy |
| Oxford | 2.9* | 0.44 | 28 | 17 | rain |
| Perth | 0.6* | 0.01 | 22 | 11 | cloudy |
| Peterborough | 5.3 | 0.01 | 27 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Plymouth | 5.3* | 0.00 | 24 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Portsmouth* | 5.1* | 0.00* | 26* | 18* | p/cloudy |
| Prestwick | 3.5 | 0.07 | 19 | 13 | showers |
| Ramsgate | 5.0 | 0.00 | 22 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Rhyl | 5.7* | 0.01 | 22 | 14 | p/cloudy |
| Rugby | 5.1* | 0.03 | 28 | 16 | p/cloudy |
| Salisbury | 5.1* | 0.00 | 29 | 18 | p/cloudy |
| Scunthorpe | 2.2* | 0.20 | 23* | 15* | rain |
| Sheffield | 2.4 | 0.00 | 24 | 16 | cloudy |
| Shetland | 4.9* | 0.01 | 16 | 10 | p/cloudy |
| Shrewsbury | 1.8* | 0.01 | 28 | 16 | cloudy |
| Skegness | 1.9* | 0.02 | 21 | 16 | cloudy |
| Southampton | 3.6* | 0.02 | 28* | 18* | showers |
| Southend-on-Sea | 3.4* | 0.00 | 23 | 16 | cloudy |
| Stockport | 2.9* | 0.16 | 27 | 16 | rain |
| Stornoway | 3.5 | 0.00 | 18 | 8 | cloudy |
| Swansea | 4.6* | 0.00 | 24* | 16* | p/cloudy |
| Swindon | 3.7* | 0.00 | 27 | 18 | cloudy |
| Thirsk | 3.2* | 0.38 | 24 | 15 | rain |
| Tiree | 5.0 | 0.04 | 17 | 12 | p/cloudy |
| Weymouth | 6.0* | 0.00 | 23 | 19 | p/cloudy |
| Whitehaven | 3.0* | 0.00 | 19 | 14 | cloudy |
| Windermere | 2.0* | 0.00 | 22* | 14* | cloudy |
| Worcester | 5.1* | 0.01 | 29 | 17 | p/cloudy |
| Yeovil | 2.6* | 0.04 | 30 | 18 | showers |
| York | 2.3* | 0.00 | 23* | 15* | cloudy |

### World readings

| | Max °C | Min °C | Daytime weather |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accra | 27 | 23 | cloudy |
| Addis Ababa | 24 | 13 | rain |
| Adelaide | 16 | 7 | sunny |
| Alexandria | 32 | 27 | sunny |
| Algiers | 38 | 22 | sunny |
| Amman | 34 | 24 | sunny |
| Anchorage | 16 | 10 | p/cldy |
| Ankara | 30 | 15 | sunny |
| Ascension Is. | 27 | 22 | p/cldy |
| Auckland | 13 | 9 | cloudy |
| Baghdad | 47 | 30 | haze |
| Bahamas | 33 | 27 | showers |
| Bahrain | 42 | 33 | haze |
| Bamako | 33 | 23 | p/cldy |
| Bangkok | 32 | 28 | storms |
| Beijing | 34 | 24 | cloudy |
| Beirut | 31 | 26 | sunny |
| Bermuda | 30 | 27 | p/cldy |
| Bogota | 18 | 9 | p/cldy |
| Bridgetown | 31 | 24 | storms |
| Brisbane | 23 | 7 | sunny |
| Buenos Aires | 19 | 15 | cloudy |
| Cairo | 37 | 27 | sunny |
| Canberra | 13 | -4 | sunny |
| Cape Town | 16 | 8 | sunny |
| Casablanca | 29 | 22 | sunny |
| Chicago | 27 | 24 | storms |
| Christchurch | 9 | -1 | cloudy |
| Colombo | 31 | 28 | storms |
| Damascus | 38 | 18 | sunny |
| Dar es Salaam | 30 | 21 | p/cldy |
| Dhaka | 30 | 26 | storms |
| Dubai | 43 | 35 | haze |
| Falkland Is. | 7 | 4 | rain |
| Harare | 25 | 9 | sunny |
| Havana | 33 | 25 | storms |
| Hong Kong | 32 | 28 | storms |
| Honolulu | 25 | 24 | showers |
| Jakarta | 32 | 25 | p/cldy |
| Jeddah | 41 | 34 | sunny |
| Jerusalem | 32 | 21 | sunny |
| Johannesburg | 20 | 5 | sunny |
| Kabul | 42 | 20 | sunny |
| Karachi | 33 | 29 | showers |
| Kolkata | 29 | 27 | storms |
| Kuala Lumpur | 34 | 25 | p/cldy |
| La Paz | 15 | 0 | sunny |
| Lahore | 31 | 24 | storms |
| Lima | 19 | 16 | p/cldy |
| Los Angeles | 25 | 16 | p/cldy |
| Maldives | 32 | 28 | storms |
| Manila | 33 | 26 | storms |
| Marrakesh | 42 | 25 | p/cldy |
| Melbourne | 16 | 1 | p/cldy |
| Miami | 34 | 29 | storms |
| Montego Bay | 31 | 26 | storms |
| Mumbai | 30 | 26 | rain |
| Nairobi | 25 | 11 | p/cldy |
| New Orleans | 33 | 26 | storms |
| New Delhi | 33 | 25 | storms |
| New York | 33 | 24 | storms |
| Ottawa | 30 | 20 | cloudy |
| Perth | 15 | 8 | sunny |
| Port-of-Spain | 33 | 24 | storms |
| Rio de Janeiro | 25 | 20 | p/cldy |
| Riyadh | 44 | 31 | haze |
| San Francisco | 16 | 12 | p/cldy |
| Santiago | 10 | 8 | cloudy |
| Seattle | 22 | 17 | sunny |
| Seoul | 33 | 27 | p/cldy |
| Seychelles | 30 | 25 | p/cldy |
| Singapore | 32 | 25 | cloudy |
| Sydney | 17 | 7 | showers |
| Taipei City | 34 | 26 | cloudy |
| Tangier | 32 | 21 | sunny |
| Tel Aviv | 34 | 26 | sunny |
| Tokyo | 32 | 27 | p/cldy |
| Toronto | 27 | 22 | storms |
| Tunis | 41 | 24 | sunny |
| Vancouver | 21 | 15 | sunny |
| Washington | 34 | 24 | storms |
| Wellington | 9 | 5 | rain |
| Winnipeg | 29 | 15 | sunny |

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2024

### Atlantic front

**Noon today:** A front will spread rain into the northern and western U.K., with scattered thunderstorms over central Europe.

### Sun & moon (Greenwich)

| | |
|---|---|
| Sun rises | 0528 |
| Sun sets | 2047 |
| Moon rises | 0224 |
| Moon sets | 2026 |
| New moon | Aug 4 |

### Yesterday

| | |
|---|---|
| Warmest | Yeovil 30C (86F) |
| Coldest | Altnaharra 3C (37F) |
| Wettest | Linton on Ouse 0.79 in. |
| Sunniest | Stansted 12.6 hr. |

### Lighting up

| | |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 2120 to 0512 |
| Belfast | 2123 to 0540 |
| Birmingham | 2057 to 0532 |
| London | 2047 to 0529 |
| Manchester | 2102 to 0529 |
| Penzance | 2103 to 0555 |

### High water

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 0032 | 3.8m | 1309 | 3.8m |
| Belfast | 1040 | 3.1m | 2254 | 3.4m |
| Cardiff | 0616 | 10.0m | 1841 | 10.5m |
| Dover | 1042 | 5.8m | 2314 | 5.9m |
| Falmouth | 0432 | 4.3m | 1654 | 4.6m |
| Harwich | 1100 | 3.5m | 2327 | 3.7m |
| Holyhead | 0958 | 4.9m | 2216 | 5.1m |
| Hull | 0523 | 6.4m | 1758 | 6.5m |
| Liverpool | 1036 | 8.1m | 2259 | 8.4m |
| London | 0036 | 6.3m | 1320 | 6.2m |
| Portsmouth | 1101 | 4.2m | 2306 | 4.3m |
| Southampton | 0018 | 3.8m | 1052 | 4.0m |

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### Pollen count

Fungal spores are high. Tree pollen is low. Grass and weed pollen are moderate.

Provided by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

### Sea forecast

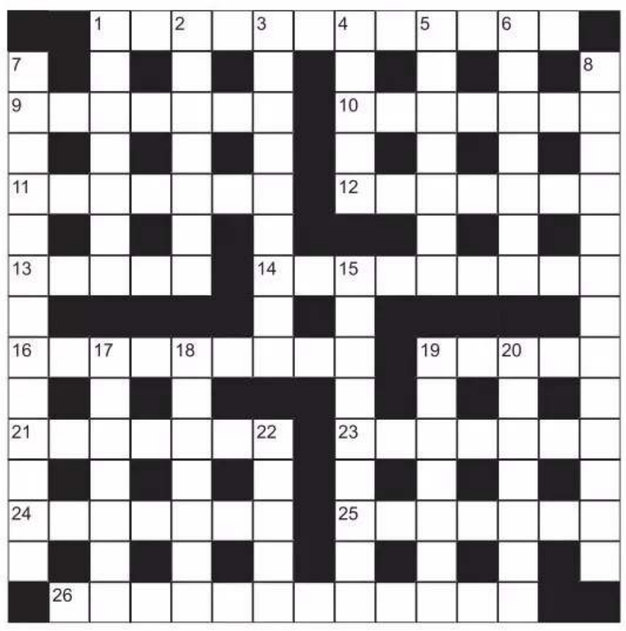
**S North Sea:** A gentle to moderate south-southeasterly wind today. Seas will be high. Visibility will be good.

**Dover Strait, English Channel:** A gentle to moderate southwesterly wind today. Seas will be high on the east; will be very rough on the west. Visibility will be good.

**St. George's Channel:** A moderate to strong south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be poor.

**Irish Sea:** A moderate to strong south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be poor.

## Crossword 30,682 telegraph.co.uk/puzzles



**Across**

**1** Swimmer with partner often seen in newspaper (4,3,5)
**9** Raise hell as youngest to tour exotic city (3,4)
**10** 'Un peu de soda, vin, cidre' – French king's favourite (2,5)
**11** Change seat and dance in place of drinking (7)
**12** Scoffed after label back-to-front becomes issue (7)
**13** Nought in English reading, writing and arithmetic – must be a mistake! (5)
**14** Say I'm up, conscious, oddly attending maiden conference (9)
**16** Line-up of clones tie for corruption (9)
**19** River creature, rat, finally put to flight (5)
**21** Coated in just egg, uncooked round pieces of chicken (7)
**23** Publish splash that's delivered from on high (3-4)
**24** One more ace, not hearts, followed by queen (7)
**25** Recipes may use 1 tsp of this, or say a number (7)
**26** *Sun* pin-up? (8,4)

**Down**

**1** *Helter-Skelter* etc Fab Four originally based round a French song (7)
**2** Creep turned on that woman after close of business (7)
**3** Food social worker needed by 13:01 (9)
**4** Trick using quarter that's increased times ten initially (5)
**5** Try and eat earlier (4,1,2)
**6** Joke and poke one's tongue (7)
**7** These married sisters (8-2-3)
**8** Homer apt, conceivably, to say it's not rocket surgery? (5,8)
**15** Required staff prosecutor to crush Conservative (9)
**17** No parking on drain, one hears! (7)
**18** Playwright's payment from broadcast (7)
**19** Poet's last revolutionary verse expert finds explosive (7)
**20** Madonna's no time for loud, arty rocking (3,4)
**22** Who could lure Your Highness north? (5)

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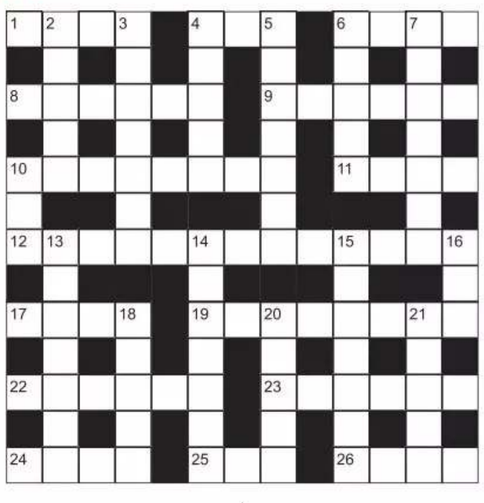
**Help with today's clues** Single clues **0905 757 0120.** All Across/Down clues **0905 757 0121.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke – Helpline **0333 202 3390.**

## Quick Crossword



**Across**

**1** *Star; religious figure* (4)
**4** *Golfer's support* (3)
**6** *Stinging insect* (4)
**8** *Working person* (6)
**9** Modest (6)
**10** Sporty (8)
**11** Goat (anag.) (4)
**12** Group of stars (13)
**17** Pace; rung (4)
**19** Armoured glove (8)
**22** Sporty (6)
**23** Perfect place (6)
**24** Smudge; Britpoppers (4)
**25** Place of iniquity (3)
**26** Badger's 25 (4)

**Down**

**2** Football slogan (5)
**3** To puzzle (7)
**4** Fortune-telling cards (5)
**5** Principled (7)
**6** Complete range, A-Z (5)
**7** Musically lively (7)
**10** Rainbow shape (3)
**13** Of the eyes (7)
**14** Boffin (7)
**15** Body art (7)
**16** Web; take-home (3)
**18** Earlier; religious figure (5)
**20** Reversal (1-4)
**21** Be (5)

**Help with today's Quick Crossword clues** Single clues **0905 757 0122.** Solution **0905 757 0123.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Sat. SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

**Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution**

**Across:** 3 Road, 7 Dial, 8 Hand, 9 Dread, *(Rhode Island Red)* 10 Size, 11 Instil, 13 Bit by bit, 15 Cuts, 16 Rear, 17 Audience, 18 Crayon, 21 Soft, 23 Brief, 24 Easy, 25 Ugly, 26 Exit. **Down:** 1 Mini, 2 Elderberry, 3 Reel, 4 Addicted, 5 Vast, 6 Adolescent, 10 Subtracted, 12 Successful, 14 Brainbox, 19 Also, 20 Hint, 22 Fold.

**Solution No 30,681**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | I | M | P | A | N | Z | E | E | ■ | T | W | O | S |
| O | ■ | N | ■ | R | ■ | U | ■ | V | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | P |
| W | A | S | T | E | ■ | I | N | A | D | V | A | N | C | E |
| S | ■ | I | ■ | C | ■ | S | ■ | D | ■ | I | ■ | S | ■ | L |
| ■ | ■ | P | R | I | V | A | T | E | S | C | H | O | O | L |
| A | ■ | I | ■ | P | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | ■ | M | ■ | B |
| C | O | D | P | I | E | C | E | ■ | T | O | L | E | D | O |
| C | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | ■ | E | ■ | N | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | U |
| U | N | W | R | A | P | ■ | R | O | B | I | N | S | O | N |
| S | ■ | O | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | A | ■ | C | ■ | D |
| T | U | R | N | I | N | G | C | I | R | C | L | E | ■ | ■ |
| O | ■ | S | ■ | O | ■ | R | ■ | S | ■ | R | ■ | P | ■ | L |
| M | U | T | I | N | E | E | R | S | ■ | O | U | T | D | O |
| E | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | U | ■ | S | ■ | I | ■ | S |
| D | I | D | O | ■ | I | N | T | E | R | S | E | C | T | S |

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