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The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Britain shuts up shop over riots threat

MPs urged to work from home, GPs close and businesses board up to avoid disorder

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

MPs were advised to work from home, GP surgeries closed and shops were boarded up yesterday as Britain braced for more than 100 far-Right rallies.

Almost 4,000 specially trained public order officers were deployed on the streets and another 2,000 placed on standby in anticipation of unrest across the country.

However, widespread far-Right rallies failed to materialise last night, and demonstrators were outnumbered by crowds of counter-protesters, including Muslim groups and anti-fascist activists, in parts of London, Birmingham and Brighton.

Earlier in the day, GP surgeries closed early amid fears that staff and patients could be caught up in the unrest, and City workers were told to leave the office.

Ahead of planned protests, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Commons Speaker, wrote to MPs encouraging them to stay away from work if they feared that they could be targeted by demonstrators.

Shops in Walthamstow, north London, Middlesbrough and Southend closed early or were boarded up in anticipation of disorder. In Southend, the Cliffs Pavilion theatre also cancelled two of its performances but police warned people to ignore social media rumours of protests in the town.

Canterbury Cathedral closed its grounds four hours early as a "safety precaution" ahead of possible riots.

In Portsmouth, nearly 50 far-Right supporters gathered outside a UK Border Agency office near the cross-Channel ferry port, while in Aldershot police had to step in to separate opposing groups who were shouting at each other.

Speaking in Rotherham at a hotel housing migrants that was damaged during riots on Sunday, Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, said people

should "stay away" from any unrest. She said: "I know that the public will be anxious about the reports of potential more unrest, but the police will be there to respond to any violence and criminality that we see on our streets."

"There is no place for that on our UK streets and the police will do their job, like they have done exceptionally well under very difficult circumstances like I have seen here and witnessed today what they have faced: missiles being thrown at them, attacks."

"Other police will be there to keep the public safe and there is no excuse for thuggery and criminality on the streets."

Police sources said forces were braced for a "very busy night" of activity and warned members of the public to stay away from the gatherings or risk arrest. Police also warned that those taking part would be identifiable even if they covered their faces.

Deputy Asst Commissioner Andy Valentine of the Metropolitan Police said: "We will not tolerate any disorder and will make arrests. We are also using a range of specialist teams including mounted units, dog handlers, intelligence experts and evidence gatherers."

"We will be using retrospective facial recognition to help officers identify those behind criminal disorder. This technology can be used even when offenders are wearing masks."

Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, the National Police Chiefs' Council chairman, said no one was "invisible in a crowd". He said: "Officers across the country are looking at intelligence, CCTV footage, body-worn cameras and will continue to do so. If you are not arrested now, you will be in future."

A list of more than 30 immigration centres, legal offices and asylum hotels had been shared by far-Right supporters as targets for the rallies. Stephen Parkinson, Director of Public Prosecutions, said the very act of sharing the list as



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potential targets for disorder could come under the scope of terrorism charges.

Mr Parkinson said terror legislation was already being used in one case.

In the City of London, workers were dismissed at lunchtime amid fears disorder could prevent them from getting home safely. One office worker said he and his colleagues were told to leave their office near Liverpool Street because of "planned riots" and would work from home for the rest of the week.

In Middlesbrough, the scene of widespread disorder at the weekend, many businesses closed early with some boarding up windows. A Cleveland Police spokesman reassured the community, saying: "The force is resourced and well-equipped to manage any additional disorder, and we will be using all powers that are available to us to help us prevent disorder." The ongoing disorder

is thought to be having an impact on businesses in the areas worst affected.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) said it was doing what it could to help small firms worried about being caught up in the unrest. Martin McTague, of the FSB, said: "Local authorities, insurance companies and politicians of all stripes need to be ready to support their small businesses to rebuild, recover and get back on their feet."

There were also fears criminals could use planned riots as cover to loot retail premises, with warnings that Oxford Circus could be targeted.

By 7pm yesterday hundreds of counter-protesters had gathered at sites across the country. In Walthamstow, a crowd amassed carrying banners of "Oppose Tommy Robinson" and "Refugees Welcome" amid fears far-Right agitators would target an immigration

A Samaritans charity shop was boarded up in Southend, Essex, as businesses prepared for further disorder on the streets

lawyer's office in the town centre. Several miles away, anti-fascist protesters gathered by the old fire station in Hackney, with one sign reading "We are all refugees". The largest far-Right demonstration took place in Portsmouth, where men wearing balaclavas clashed with police officers and blocked traffic.

Far-Right protests failed to materialise in Birmingham, Sheffield and Brentford, west London, where it was feared they would target a migrant advice centre.

More than 1,300 specialist public order officers were ready to be deployed across London to quell disorder, the Metropolitan Police said. It is understood that the King is being briefed on a daily basis about the national unrest.

Additional reporting by Connor Stringer, Neil Johnston, Patrick Sauer, Steve Bird, Max Stephens and Albert Tai

NHS service to help transgender patients return to the sex they were at birth

By Michael Searles HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS is to launch its first ever service for trans patients wanting to return to the gender they were born as.

It comes in the wake of the Cass Review, an independent report into transgender services, which found children were being hurried down "affirmative" pathways involving powerful drugs and medical interventions.

The review made a series of recommendations to the NHS, including to provide care for trans patients who had changed their mind after transitioning, and warned health leaders not to use the same medicines who were previously

involved in their care. NHS England published its plans to "transform" care for gender-questioning children yesterday and accepted the recommendations of the Dr Hilary Cass review in full. This includes developing the first NHS service to treat transgender patients who want to return to their gender at birth.

NHS officials said the next step was to "define an NHS pathway for those individuals who choose to detransition" because currently no guidance on how to care for them exists. The health service said: "There is no defined clinical pathway in the NHS for individuals who are considering detransition. NHS England will establish a programme of work

to explore the issues around a detransition pathway by October 2024."

It said this would include examining the rate at which patients detransition and their reasons for doing so, as these are currently unknown, and would recognise "that individuals who choose to detransition may not wish to re-engage with the services they were previously under" as per the recommendations.

Dr Cass said a lack of long-term figures made it impossible to know how frequently people detransitioned, although anecdotally it was "increasing". The lack of long-term evidence

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Red Rum and Raisin, anyone? Horse milk ice cream is healthier choice, say scientists

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

ICE CREAM vans could soon offer cones with a twist after food scientists discovered the dessert is healthier if made with horse milk.

Traditionally, ice cream is made from cow's milk and cream, but Polish experts have found that switching it for horse milk brings a range of health benefits.

The milk contains beneficial substances such as lactoferrin, a protein found in human breast milk which boosts the immune system, and lysozyme, an antimicrobial enzyme that helps fight off disease. It is also lower in fat. In a study, experts at the Faculty of Food Sciences and Fisheries, West

Pomeranian University of Technology, in Szczecin, Poland attempted to create a healthier ice cream.

They found horse milk contained more health boosting properties, while maintaining a pleasing colour, consistency, creaminess, smoothness and aroma. The study suggested it could prevent stomach and respiratory problems.

Dr Katarzyna Szkolnicka, of the department of toxicology, dairy technology and food storage, said: "Mare's milk is much more similar to human milk than cow's milk. It also causes fewer allergies than cow's milk."

"Mare's milk is a good source of polyunsaturated fatty acids and other bioactive substances like lactoferrin and

lysozyme. It may be useful for treatment or prevention of gastrointestinal tract and respiratory system disorders."

Mare's milk, taken from horses or donkeys, is already consumed in central Asia, and is traditionally used in fermented drinks such as "koumiss", which is mildly alcoholic. It is also used in the "chigee" and "airag" drinks of Mongolia and China.

Dr Szkolnicka added: "We think that both mare's milk and ice cream from this milk should find a group of customers just like sheep and goat milk."

Horse milk can be bought in some shops in the UK, mostly in powdered form. The study was published in the journal *PLoS One*.

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NEWS

Children flee sea after sighting of 10ft shark

A 10ft shark was filmed swimming at a harbour in Cornwall yesterday, causing children in the sea to scream and flee when it approached them in shallow water. The juvenile basking shark could be seen gliding through the water at St Ives Harbour. According to reports, a group of about 30 children panicked and ran out of the sea when they saw the shark's dorsal fin some 20ft away. However, basking sharks, which can grow to 26ft long, are harmless to humans.

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BUSINESS

Glencore clings to coal as City rejects ESG

FTSE 100 mining giant Glencore has axed plans to sell off its coal business after City shareholders rejected them. Glencore said investors had changed their minds on the environmental benefits of spinning off the coal mines, adding that the cash generated by the operations was too good to let go. Gary Nagle, the chief executive, said: "The ESG [environmental, social and governance] pendulum has swung back. Cash is king," Mr Nagle added: "Sense is now starting to prevail."

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SPORT

Hockey director quit after players' mutiny

Danny Kerry, who coached Great Britain's women to Olympic gold in 2016, quit as GB Hockey's performance director shortly before the Paris Games after a mutiny from players, it can be revealed. Mr Kerry was due to take up the role next month. Both the men and women's players felt "blindsided" by the decision and sent a letter to Nick Pink, England and GB Hockey's chief executive, to express their "extreme disappointment" in Mr Kerry's return, according to one senior player.

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Winter fuel cut will cause 'real hardship'

NEWS BULLETIN

Scrapping payments for 10 million is worse than ditching triple lock, says former pensions minister

By Cameron Henderson

LABOUR'S cuts to winter fuel payments are worse than ditching the triple lock, a former Conservative pensions minister has said.

Baroness Altmann said Rachel Reeves's decision to scrap the payments for 10 million pensioners was the "wrong political choice" and would cause "real hardship" for many.

Last month, Labour announced that it would no longer offer winter fuel payments to all pensioners and only pro-

vide the allowance to people already claiming means-tested benefits.

Baroness Altmann, who worked as a pensions minister under David Cameron and now sits in the House of Lords, said withholding the payment from millions of pensioners was worse than scrapping the triple lock.

In its manifesto, Labour pledged to retain the triple lock, which means that state pensions rise every year in line with the highest of three measures – inflation, average earnings or by 2.5 per cent. However, Baroness Altmann said scrapping winter fuel payments had "made a mockery" of that pledge.

She said that, for the oldest pensioners, the Government's tax raid was equivalent to a 3.3 per cent cut in their pensions. Meanwhile, those under 80 will see a 2.2 per cent fall in the money

they are paid. Baroness Altmann said: "This is the wrong political choice – pensioners should not be targeted to fix the fiscal deficit. Pensioners are not all well off and many struggle to make ends meet, living frugally on far less than most younger people.

"I do hope the Government will recognise that this is not right, it will cause real hardship and needs to be urgently reconsidered. Saving the £1.4 billion this year by making pensioners pay for the fiscal overspend is a political choice, and in my view it is the wrong one."

Previously, all 11.4 million pensioners received an extra £200 to help heat their homes every winter, with people aged over 80 granted a blanket £300 payment. Under Labour's plans – a major departure from previous manifesto pledges – almost 10 million pen-

sioners are set to lose out for the first time this winter.

Ms Reeves said it was "fair and right" to withhold the payment from millions of pensioners. Only 1.5 million households will receive the payments going forward.

'Taking away that £300 suggests the Government sees pensioners as an easy target to raid'

Asked at a press conference on whether she was "picking on pensioners", the Chancellor said that "in the circumstances I found myself in, these are the fair and right decisions".

The changes to winter fuel payments

will come into effect from November, and Baroness Altmann urged the Government to delay them in order to give pensioners a chance to plan their bills.

"Taking away that £300 from the over-80s, with no warning, suggests the Government sees pensioners as an easy target to raid and maybe does not realise that a few hundred pounds is not trivial but is a significant sum for many pensioners already struggling to make ends meet," she said.

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

Ms Reeves said she was forced into difficult decisions after discovering that pressures on day-to-day Whitehall budgets were £21.9 billion higher than previously thought. She plans to make £5.5 billion in savings this year

Landlords sell up over fears of Labour tax raid

Landlords are selling up over fears Labour is plotting a capital gains tax raid that could add an average £11,000 to their bills.

The number of new landlords instructing estate agents across the country fell 16 per cent in the three months to July, but in some areas the drop was much more stark.

In East Anglia, instructions were down 59pc and in the East Midlands they were down 37pc, more than double the fall of a year ago.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' latest market survey said the prospect of an increasingly unfair tax regime have diminished the appeal of being a buy-to-let investor.

Jay Slater's funeral targeted by scammers

Scammers are charging mourners for fake live streams of Jay Slater's funeral, a charity has said.

A number of social media accounts have claimed to offer live video coverage of the funeral service of the 19-year-old who died in Tenerife.

Slater, an apprentice bricklayer from Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, died from traumatic head injuries after falling on to rocks in the Rural de Teno Park on June 17. His body was not found for 29 days. His funeral will be held at Accrington Crematorium Chapel on Saturday at 10.30am. LBT Global, an overseas crisis support charity, said the scams were so typical of the vile trolling this family has suffered.

Motorbike overtook in crash that killed family

A crash that left six people dead and a girl orphaned unfolded after an overtaking motorbike collided "head-on" with a car, an inquest heard.

Shane Roller, 33, Shannan Morgan, 30, and their daughters Rubie Morgan-Roller, nine, and Lillie Morgan-Roller, four, were killed in the crash on the A61 near Wakefield on July 21.

The couple had another daughter, 11, who was not with them.

Husband and wife Christopher and Janine Barton, who were both travelling on the motorcycle, also died in the crash, Wakefield Coroner's Court heard. The driver of another car was arrested and bailed on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Huw Edwards' BBC Baftas under review

The BBC will keep the Bafta it won for its royal coverage fronted by Huw Edwards.

Individual gongs awarded to the disgraced newsreader remain under review.

The academy is reviewing seven individual presenter prizes handed to Edwards by the Bafta Cymru Awards between 2002 to 2017.

A Bafta spokesman said: "Like everyone in the industry and country we were shocked by the news – given the seriousness of this abhorrent crime, we are reviewing."

The Bafta won for Edwards' coverage of Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011, will remain.

The Daily Telegraph

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Blade of Honour
Gurkha Museum assistant curator Doug Henderson admires the Kukri which L-Cpl Tuljung Gurung used to fight off two insurgents in Afghanistan in 2013, bravery which won him the Military Cross. It is part of a 50th anniversary exhibition at the museum celebrating the Gurkhas which is open to the public until Aug 29.



Stakeknife inquiry chairman 'concerned' by MI5's late disclosure of information

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE chairman of the criminal investigation into the activities of "Stakeknife" has said he is "concerned" over the late disclosure by MI5 of material which could contain new leads.

It has emerged that MI5 handed over previously undisclosed material around the activities of the man thought to have been the Army's top agent inside the IRA in April and July, eight years after the inquiry began.

Operation Kenova, a major investigation into his activities, published its interim report in April. It found more lives were probably lost than saved by the actions of the agent but did not lead to any prosecutions.

Freddie Scappaticci, who died last year aged 77, is widely believed to have been Stakeknife. It comes after court cases pertaining to Northern Ireland's troubled past under the terms of the previous government's Legacy Bill were discontinued. Some 32 people,

including former police, ex-military personnel and people linked with the IRA, were considered for prosecution on charges ranging from murder to perjury as a result of the Kenova investigation. Northern Ireland's Public Prosecution Service found insufficient

'The material does appear to cast doubt on some witness evidence obtained by Kenova'

evidence to pursue any cases.

Sir Iain Livingstone, a senior police officer who chaired the investigation, has written to Hilary Benn, the Northern Ireland Secretary, raising his concern at the late disclosure.

An initial assessment suggests the files contain "significant new material which appears to point to new investigative leads not previously known", he added.

MI5 came across the two files while digitising its historical records, *The Times* reported. The service informed Kenova immediately upon discovery of the first file when it was found in April this year, the newspaper said.

Sir Iain said he has asked for all of it to be analysed and checked for information that could have helped the inquiry in its work.

He said that while the material "does not indicate further murders of individuals that involved the agent Stakeknife", it "does appear to cast doubt on some of the documents and witness evidence obtained by Kenova and some statements made in the Interim Report. This includes information provided by the security service around the dates when they became aware of the agent Stakeknife".

The chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland said it is "unacceptable" that MI5 is providing material to the investigation so long after all documents were requested.

Trial into use of puberty blockers to begin next year

Continued from Page 1

was also why the review said puberty blockers should not be prescribed outside of a clinical trial.

That trial is to begin from early next year, the NHS confirmed, with the first patients enrolled from April next year.

This will be the only way to legally access puberty blockers in the UK after the High Court upheld a ban that extended to private prescriptions after it was introduced in May.

Prof Sir Stephen Powis, NHS medical director, hailed Dr Cass's "invaluable" work and said the plans outlined by the health service would ensure a "fundamentally different and safer model of care for children".

He said: "The plan published today now fully maps out this new service for children and young people and their families, which will be led by evidence and ongoing research to ensure their needs are fully met."

In its update, the health service also confirmed it would publish a review into

adult services by the end of the year after Dr Cass heard concerns from staff and patients that extended beyond the remit of her review into children's services.

That review will be led by Dr David Levy, the medical director for Lancashire and South Cumbria integrated care board, and look to improve care.

Prof James Palmer, NHS medical director for specialised commissioning, said it was "clear our services for adults need focus too" and that the review would "address poor experience but also learn from good experiences of care".

The NHS will also look at setting up an early adulthood service for trans patients aged 17-25, who had until now been sent straight to adult clinics where gender assessments are less holistic.

Dr Cass found that children were being given powerful cross sex hormones at adult clinics from the age of 17, while there was also evidence people changed their mind up until about the age of 25, as she advocated an "unhurried" model of care.

The juvenile basking shark can be seen in shallow waters of St Ives' harbour, in Cornwall



'They didn't realise it was harmless so they started screaming and got straight out of the water'

Just when you thought it was safe to go in...

Juvenile basking shark enters shallow waters in St Ives, sending swimmers running to the shore

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A 10FT SHARK caused children in the sea to scream in terror when it approached them in shallow water in Cornwall.

The juvenile basking shark could clearly be seen gliding through the clear water at St Ives Harbour.

In a scene reminiscent to Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*, the group of about 30 youngsters panicked and ran out of the sea when they saw the shark's dorsal fin about 20ft away.

However, basking sharks – which can grow to 26ft long – are completely harmless to humans.

The young specimen in St Ives swam next to a harbour wall and beach where

the young children and teenagers were having a dip at 9pm on Tuesday.

Andy Narbett, of Tiger Lilly Boat Trip St Ives, who took the photos, said: "I had finished my trips for the day and was walking around the harbour front when I spotted the juvenile basking shark next to the harbour wall.

"It was incredible to see it so close and very rare as we haven't seen any basking sharks for some years in the bay. The poor kids who were in the water must have only been 20ft from it. "They didn't realise it was harmless so they started screaming and got straight out of the shallow water.

"At a guess there were 20 kids playing on the small beach and eight in the water on paddle boards. I went on social media and joked afterwards that *Jaws* had entered the harbour!"

People took to social media to comment on the sighting, with one joking: "We're gunna need a bigger boat."

Basking sharks pose no threat to humans and feed only on plankton.

They used to be fished for their meat, fins and liver oil until the species became protected in 1998.

They are the UK's biggest fish and can weigh more than 10,000lbs at their full size. They are the second biggest fish in the world after the whale shark.

Basking sharks are one of only three shark species to feed on plankton and come in to shallow water in the spring and summer months to feed.

It comes after a shark may have been spotted swimming near London's Hammersmith Bridge.

Charlotte Webb said she was walking alongside the Thames with a friend when they saw what they initially believed was a bean bag floating on the water.

They filmed the shape and, after conducting their own research, concluded that it was a shark about 5ft long.

An expert told *The Telegraph* that the sighting "is potentially a great sign of life within the Thames that should be celebrated". At least five different spe-

cies of shark are known to live in the Thames estuary, including the endangered tope shark, starry smooth-hound and spurdog, according to the Greater Thames Shark Project, run by the Zoological Society of London.

The tope and starry smoothhounds "give birth to live young" and it is believed they use the estuary as "nursery habitats for young shark pups".

However, the sighting – over 40 miles from the estuary – does raise the question how it might have arrived there.

Richard Peirce, a shark conservationist and chairman of the Shark Trust, suggested it might have become lost or disoriented following high tides the night before.

Dr Hannah Rudd, a marine scientist, told *The Telegraph*: "At least five different species of shark are known to live in the Thames Estuary... These sharks pose little to no risk to humans and should not be feared.

"While it is difficult to ID the exact species from the video, if it is indeed a



Basking sharks, which feed only on plankton, are harmless to humans

how they are using the habitats within the estuary. The Zoological Society of London is working with recreational anglers through the Greater Thames Shark Project to find out more about these species."

A spokesman for the Shark Project said: "A key part of the UK's proud natural biodiversity, sharks are at far greater risk from humans than we are from them, and inaccurate, negative portrayals of these fantastic animals create a major barrier to global conservation efforts."

It comes after two men in Wales were circled by a 7ft shark in their fishing boat. Ryan Baynes, 46, and Ashley Bragg, 40, were horrified when they saw the dorsal fin.

They then realised they had only one oar to get them back to dry land.

Mr Baynes told *The Sun*: "As soon as we saw the fin, we panicked... We definitely needed a bigger boat."

"An engine and another oar would have been helpful, too."

Woman falls 30ft through Blackpool pier with 'huge thud'

Seaside attraction closed to public after incident as fall victim in her 50s taken to hospital for treatment

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

BLACKPOOL Central Pier is closed after a woman in her 50s fell through the tourist attraction onto the beach.

Emergency services raced to the pier at around 4.30pm on Tuesday after the woman fell around 30ft through the structure onto the sand with a "huge thud".

She was taken to hospital and the extent of her injuries remain unclear, police said.

Blackpool council said it had launched an investigation into the incident and confirmed that the pier, opened in 1868, was still closed to the public on Wednesday.

A witness who was at the beach with his children said: "I was walking the beach with my kids and heard a thud – a huge thud next to me, nearly on top of my head."

"A lady ploughed to the floor, smashing through the Central Pier. I was absolutely terrified... I thought she was dead."

A North West Ambulance Service spokesman said: "We were called to an incident after reports that a patient had fallen approximately 30ft through the pier."

"We responded with an ambulance, a critical care paramedic team, an advanced paramedic, and an operational commander. A woman in her 50s received initial treatment for her injuries before being extricated and taken to the hospital."

A council spokesman told *The Telegraph*: "On Tuesday afternoon, we were

A woman in her 50s is tended to on the beach, main, after falling through Blackpool Central Pier, inset. A witness said that she 'ploughed' to the floor, landing on the sand with a 'huge thud'

notified of an incident at Central Pier. An investigation is now under way, and we have requested support from the health and safety executive. At this time, the pier is closed on a voluntary basis."

A spokesman for the Blackpool Pier Company, which owns the Central Pier, said: "Following yesterday's incident at Central Pier, we are working with the local authority, and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

"Our thoughts remain with the person involved, and we wish her a speedy recovery."

On Tuesday, a Lancashire Police spokesman said: "We have received a report of a woman having fallen through a section of the pier in Blackpool at around 4.30pm today. The woman has been taken to hospital with injuries. The pier is currently closed."

According to *The Sun*, the woman was queuing with her children for a ride when she fell. The newspaper reported that a witness said: "Myself and my husband watched this and I was one of the first to attend to the lady with two other women."

"I stayed until the ambulance came and left my details with the police who said they would call to update me but I haven't heard anything."

"We can't stop thinking about her and the poor children. I was underneath when she fell."

On social media, the incident was branded an "accident waiting to happen".

Onlookers said it looked as though she had fallen through a "trap door" in the boards close to the cafe on the Central Pier, the *Lancashire Post* reported.

The location for the North pier was chosen for its proximity to Blackpool North station, according to WMF.org. Its central and south piers were opened years later.



A lady ploughed to the floor, smashing through the Central Pier. I was absolutely terrified

Arrest 'Allahu Akbar' protesters, Jenrick urges

Muslim parliamentarians accuse Tory leadership hopeful of 'nasty divisive rhetoric and Islamophobia'

By Cameron Henderson

ROBERT JENRICK has said that police should "immediately arrest" any protesters shouting "Allahu Akbar", prompting a row with Muslim parliamentarians.

Speaking to Sky News yesterday morning, Mr Jenrick said it was "quite wrong" that pro-Palestinian protesters had been allowed to chant "Allahu Akbar", which means God is great, without being arrested.

"I have been very critical of police in the past, particularly around the attitude of some police forces to the protests we saw since 7 October," he said.

"I thought it was quite wrong that somebody could shout 'Allahu Akbar' on the streets of London and not be immediately arrested, project genocidal chants onto Big Ben and not be immediately arrested.

"That attitude is wrong and I'll always call out the police for it."

His comments came amid allegations of two-tier policing, with critics claiming the police treat Left-Wing protesters with more leniency than Right-wing ones. The Tory leadership candidate's

remarks were met with criticism from prominent Muslim parliamentarians including Conservative peer Sayeeda Warsi and the Labour MP Naz Shah, who accused Mr Jenrick of "textbook Islamophobia".

Baroness Warsi wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "Every day before we start parliamentary business in the Commons and Lords, we say a prayer and praise God - we say our parliamentary version of Allahu Akbars at the heart of democracy - a process Robert Jenrick is a part of. This language from Jenrick is more of his usual nasty divisive rhetoric - he is such a tool."

Mr Shah, the MP for Bradford West, said: "This is complete ignorance and textbook Islamophobia from Robert Jenrick. It literally equates every Muslim in the world with extremism... It's a basic Islamic saying that every Muslim in the world says in prayer.

"Imagine in this climate, either being that ignorant or deliberately trying to stigmatise all Muslims.

"He should apologise and speak to Muslim communities and learn more about our faith."

Mr Jenrick then took to Twitter to clarify his position, claiming that the phrase is fine if "spoken peacefully" but said that chanting it in a "threatening" way is an offence.

"Allahu Akbar" is spoken peacefully and spiritually by millions of British Muslims in their daily lives," he said.



A rioter is arrested in Sunderland; a march against a planned far-Right demonstration in Walthamstow

"But the aggressive chanting below is intimidatory and threatening. And it's an offence under Sections 4 and 5 of the Public Order Act.

"Extremists routinely abuse common expressions for their own shameful ends. All violence must end. All violence must be called out."

Mr Jenrick is vying with Kemi Badenoch as the bookmakers' favourite in

the Tory leadership contest. He was communities secretary under Boris Johnson, a health minister under Liz Truss and then immigration minister under Rishi Sunak.

However, he resigned from the immigration post in December 2023, warning that Mr Sunak's Rwanda deportation plan was not strong enough and would fail to stop small boat crossings.

'Extremists routinely abuse common expressions for their own shameful ends'

Addressing concerns over two-tier policing, Mr Jenrick told *The Daily T* that communities must not be left to "police themselves".

He said: "[Police] must be robustly enforcing the law without fear or favour. I don't want them to be squeamish or selective in the way in which they do that.

"I don't think that policing should be dictated by community leaders. We shouldn't be leaving communities to police themselves.

"The police should be on our streets right now in the affected communities, keeping the public safe."

His comments came in response to an interview with West Midlands Police in which Supt Emyln Richards told Sky News that the force had responded to the requests of members of the community to be allowed to police protests "within themselves".

Mr Jenrick also accused the Prime Minister of being "scared" to clamp down on retaliatory protests.

He said: "I also think that the retaliatory protests and riots by sectarian groups, smaller in number, are equally disgraceful. And it concerns me that some of our political leaders, the Prime Minister in particular, appeared to be scared of saying so.

"I think sometimes the police are more concerned about community relations than they are about robust and fair enforcement of the law."



Act now to remove harmful riot content, regulator tells social media companies

By Ben Riley-Smith POLITICAL EDITOR

SOCIAL media companies should "act now" to remove harmful online content about the UK rioting, the regulator Ofcom has said.

The Government has accused social media companies of fuelling the protests, which were prompted by false claims that the suspect in the killing of three girls in Southport was an asylum seeker.

Riots have since spread across the country, leading to more than 400 arrests during 10 days of civil disorder. Police are braced for more than 100 far-Right demonstrations and 30 counter-protests yesterday.

Gill Whitehead, Ofcom's group director for online safety, called for tougher

action to stop posts that "stir up hatred" and "provoke violence".

She said: "In a few months, new safety duties under the the Online Safety Act will be in place, but you can act now - there is no need to wait to make your sites and apps safer for users.

"Under Ofcom regulations that pre-date the Online Safety Act, UK-based video-sharing platforms must protect their users from videos likely to incite violence or hatred.

"We therefore expect video-sharing platforms to ensure their systems and processes are effective in anticipating and responding to the potential spread of harmful video material stemming from the recent events."

Under current laws, it is already illegal to incite violence online. Once the

'We've seen a lot of fake information being shared on online platforms, we've seen a lot of hate'

Online Safety Act is implemented, firms could be fined up to £18 million or their executives could face criminal action if they fail to comply with requirements to keep people safe.

The law is yet to be implemented, with Ofcom consulting on the exact specifics of what will be required.

Ms Whitehead also called for action on any online posts which break laws that are already in place.

It comes after Elon Musk, owner of X, formerly Twitter, and Sir Keir Starmer clashed following the tech boss's claims that Britain was heading for "civil war".

The claim was rejected by the Prime Minister's official spokesman, who said there was "no justification" for it.

Musk has criticised Sir Keir a number of times, including calling him "two-

tier Keir" in a nod to allegations that British police handle different types of protests or riots differently. Police chiefs have dismissed the two-tier claims as "nonsense".

Senior government figures have previously accused far-Right thugs and Russian-linked online sites of "whipping up" violence on the internet.

Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, warned people not to spread "online misinformation" when asked for her views on Musk's posts. Yesterday, she said: "All social media companies have responsibilities as well to deal with fake news. We've seen a lot of fake information being shared on online platforms, we've seen a lot of hate.

"People have a responsibility to not conduct themselves and to amplify that but actually to deal with the online misinformation. But also not to spread that hate. We don't want to see that, whether that's online or offline."

In Birmingham, hundreds of Muslims, including men in balaclavas and masks, formed a protective ring around a local mosque and shops on Monday after rumours of a planned march by the far-Right.

Peter Kyle, the Science Secretary, has held talks with executives from X, YouTube, Meta, Google and TikTok about the "spread of hateful misinformation and incitement" about the riots.

'Truly appalling' Anti-Semitic incidents at record high as charity vows to protect Jewish communities

Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain reached a record high for the first six months of the year as the Israel-Hamas war continues, figures have shown.

The Community Security Trust said the 1,978 incidents recorded between January and June were a doubling of the number for the same period last year - 964 - and the highest total reported in the first six months of any year. The number of anti-Semitic incidents recorded in its report is 44 per cent higher than the previous half-year record of 1,371 in 2021.

Yvette Cooper, the Home

Secretary, called the figures "truly appalling".

The Community Security Trust, a charity that monitors anti-Semitism and provides security for the Jewish community in Britain, said rhetoric or imagery referencing Israel, Gaza, the Hamas attack or the war appeared in more than half - 1,026 - of the incidents recorded.

Mark Gardner, its chief executive, said the figures represented a "disgraceful surge in British anti-Semitism", adding: "It happens across society, including in schools, campuses, places

of work, public transport and on the streets.

"We note that whilst such hatreds may target Jews first, they quickly turn upon others also. CST will continue its steadfast protection of our British Jewish communities, driven by our values of community, security and trust."

The report, published yesterday, included case studies of reported incidents. It said that in February, a girl at a non-Jewish school in Kent had been called a "dirty Jew" by boys in her class.

Albert Tait

Secret anti-lockdown agency to monitor social media during riots

By Ben Riley-Smith and Gordon Rayner

A SECRET government agency used to “spy on” anti-lockdown campaigners during the pandemic has been deployed to monitor social media amid the riots, *The Telegraph* has learnt.

The Counter Disinformation Unit (CDU), now rebranded as the National Security Online Information Team (NSOIT), has been given the task months after MPs called for an independent review of its activities. Cam-

aigners have expressed concern that NSOIT is playing a central role in the riot response despite outstanding questions over whether it is fit for purpose.

Peter Kyle, the Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary, has asked NSOIT to monitor online activity discussing the deaths of the three children killed in Southport and the rioting, after public disorder followed untrue claims on social media about the suspect.

The unit has “trusted flagger status”, which effectively gives it privileged

access to social media moderators who make decisions on whether posts should be taken down, it is understood.

The CDU was set up in March 2020 to combat what the Boris Johnson government described as “false coronavirus information online” but, as *The Telegraph* later revealed, it was also used to crack down on dissent from those who disagreed with official policy.

Among those who were monitored by the unit were the epidemiologist Carl Heneghan, who opposed blanket lockdowns; Molly Kingsley, who cam-

paigned to keep schools open during the pandemic, and David Davis, the Conservative MP who called for the CDU to be shut down.

Big Brother Watch, the civil liberties group, described the CDU as “one of the most opaque units in government outside of the security services” and accused it of “spying on” free speech.

Silkie Carlo, its director, has now questioned whether it, rather than another agency, should be used in the response to the riots.

She said “There are serious questions

as to whether NSOIT is fit for this task, given its chilling track record of monitoring the lawful and accurate speech of journalists, scientists, parliamentarians, human rights advocates and members of the public during the pandemic when they rightly questioned the government’s pandemic management.

“It’s worrying to see NSOIT brought into action shortly after its controversial activities were exposed, and before it has been subject to the important independent review the culture committee called for.”

Ms Carlo described NSOIT as “a deceptively named shadowy Whitehall cell which operates far beyond national security” and said that if the Government were to stray into censoring lawful free speech it could “inflammate tensions and distrust rather than promote social harmony”.

A report by the House of Commons culture, media and sport committee published in April questioned “the lack of transparency and accountability of [NSOIT] and the appropriateness of its reach.”

I’m a fool, says rioter jailed for punching officer in face

One of three men sent to prison in Liverpool accepted his behaviour had been appalling

By Janet Eastham

A RIOTER who told police he was a “fool” for getting involved in disorder at a mosque has been sent to prison for three years.

Derek Drummond was jailed for three years at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday after pleading guilty to violent disorder and assaulting an emergency worker.

The 58-year-old haulier screamed “s---houses, s---houses” at police as they tried to put on their protective gear during a riot in the Merseyside town last Tuesday before attacking a male officer who was attempting to protect colleagues, and punching him in the face.

Following a public appeal, Drummond handed himself into police and said he was “a fool”.

He is the first rioter to be jailed on a violent disorder charge.

He said he attended the Southport vigil before getting caught up in the riots and “letting his family down,” MailOnline reported. Drummond accepted his behaviour was “appalling”

The unusual speed at which accused rioters are being processed through the court system is perhaps aided by the large amount of potentially incriminating footage available to the police, a significant portion of which appears to have been broadcast by those charged with offences.

In addition to Drummond, two rioters who took part in the violent rallies in Liverpool on Saturday were also jailed at Liverpool Crown Court after pleading guilty to violent disorder.

Declan Geiran, 29, wrote off a police van after he set a seatbelt on fire while the vehicle was parked in the city centre.

Footage uploaded to TikTok showed Geiran at the open window on the driver’s side as he set the seatbelt alight and smoke billowed out, the court heard.

He was swiftly tracked on CCTV footage and arrested a short time later.

Geiran, who has 13 previous convictions, was handed a two-and-a-half year sentence.

Brendan Carville, defending, told the court that his client had an emotionally unstable personality disorder and was “not a clever man”.

He added: “He doesn’t understand what far-Right and far-Left means. He simply went along with the flow.”

Mr Carville also represented the third rioter sentenced in Liverpool today, 40-year old Liam James Riley.

On Saturday Riley was ordered to move back by police who were being pelted with missiles and rocks by an “aggressive, chanting” group of about 100 people.

While others retreated, Riley – who the prosecution said was “clearly drunk” – stood against officers, shouting and waving his arms around”.

He was arrested after he verbally abused one officer as he called him a “traitor” and a “Muslim lover”.

Mr Carville said Riley had no previous convictions and described him as a “loner”.

He said Riley went to a number of pubs and then “stupidly became involved” with disorder.

He added: “In many respects, he is a very foolish man.” He was jailed for 20 months.

Jonathan Egan, the senior district crown prosecutor, said: “The three men sentenced today are the tip of the iceberg, and just the start of what will be a very painful process for many who foolishly chose to involve themselves in violent unrest.”

“Many of those involved will be sent to prison for a long time.”

One of the five people appearing in court in Plymouth charged with violent disorder was Lucas Ormond Skeaping.

The 29-year-old, who entered a guilty plea, was caught on his own GoPro camera throwing a full bottle of coke and a rock towards protesters.

Meanwhile, at Manchester magistrates’ court Aaron Johnson, 32, pleaded guilty to inciting racial hatred by using racist language on a live stream he broadcast to “millions of people” from outside a hotel which was thought to



Tory councillor’s wife Lucie Connolly later apologised for her social media post and her husband insisted it was a ‘stupid spur-of-the-moment tweet’ that was quickly deleted

Derek Drummond, 58, said he had ‘let his family down’ by getting caught up in the violence



but could not give any explanation, telling detectives: “I’m absolutely ashamed of the way I acted. I’ve let Southport down, I’ve let the kids down. I’ve let my family down and I’m not here to deny anything”.

Courts across the country yesterday heard pleas from those accused of participation in riots which broke out following a fatal knife attack on three girls in Southport last Monday.

The riots are understood to have been largely influenced by the far-Right, however not all those appearing in the dock were suspected Tommy Robinson supporters.

In Birmingham a 46-year-old man seen carrying a wooden stick on Sky News at a counter-protest on Monday pleaded not guilty to possessing an offensive weapon.

Shehraz Sarwar claimed he had a “reasonable excuse” to carry the item as a religious staff.

A 20-minute hearing at Birmingham magistrates’ court was told Sarwar claims to have carried the stick locally for more than 11 years and is a “well-known character” in the Saltley and Alum Rock areas.

Sarwar, who is not accused of any involvement in violent disorder, said “I never done nothing, judge” and “Give me a chance” as he was remanded in custody.

contain asylum seekers.

Prosecutor Laura Peers told the court: “Members of staff became aware of the defendant live-streaming from his mobile phone onto YouTube.”

Ms Peers said Johnson was aggressive towards hotel staff, and told them “he would smash their faces in”.

Four more men appeared in the same court accused of violent disorder, including Liam Ryan, 28, who cried as he pleaded guilty to the charge.

Ms Peers’s social media footage showed “a black male being confronted by a large group of white males”, adding that Ryan had “played an active role in the disorder” and could be seen “aiming a punch towards the male involved”.

Not all those charged with violent disorder in connection with rioting appeared to acknowledge the gravity of their situation.

Jake Turton was refused bail when he appeared at Sheffield magistrates’ court

after he was charged in connection with the rioting in Rotherham at the weekend.

As the 38-year-old left the dock, one of his supporters in court shouted “keep it up” and Turton replied: “See you in a bit, lads”, as he gave a thumbs-up sign.

Arrested and bailed on charge of inciting racial hatred Tory councillor’s wife who called for migrant hotels to be set on fire

The wife of a Tory councillor has been arrested and bailed after calling for migrant hotels to be set on fire.

In a post on X last Monday, Lucie Connolly wrote: “Mass deportation now, set fire to all the f---ing hotels full of the b----- for all I care. While you’re at it take the treacherous government [and] politicians with them.”

Mrs Connolly, who was a childminder at the

time, resigned her registration with Ofsted, the regulator, on Tuesday.

It followed Childcare.co.uk, a listing site, confirming that it had suspended a childminder from advertising on the platform after getting information about a “highly inappropriate tweet”.

Mrs Connolly was arrested for inciting racial hatred and taken into custody on

Tuesday before being released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Mrs Connolly, Cllr Raymond Connolly’s wife, is said to have written the post on the same day children were stabbed in an

attack that killed three girls in Southport.

The post continued: “I feel physically sick knowing what these families will now have to endure. If that makes me racist,

so be it.” She later apologised for comments.

Speaking to the BBC, Mr Connolly, who is the vice chairman of the adult social care committee at West Northamptonshire council, said his wife had made one “stupid, spur-of-the-moment tweet out of frustration and quickly deleted it”.

He added: “She’s a good person and she’s not racist.”

Fiona Parker

Southport knife attacker was like ‘crouching tiger’, says survivor

By Alex Barton

A SURVIVOR of the Southport stabbings who attempted to disarm the knifeman likened the attacker to a “crouching tiger”.

Jonathan Hayes, 63, was stabbed in the leg after confronting the attacker who targeted a children’s Taylor Swift-themed dance class on July 29.

The grandfather, whose office is in the same building where the dance class was taking place, said he heard screams and rushed to the scene after hearing one of his colleagues cry out in alarm.

He told BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme that when he opened the door he locked eyes with the attacker, who looked “pretty menacing”.

He said: “I knew immediately that he shouldn’t have been there, wrong guy, wrong place, and then he came at me. I used this phrase to the policeman, I said, ‘I would like to have been more Bruce Willis about the whole thing’, but I wasn’t able to get the knife off him.

“But I don’t believe he managed to

hurt anybody else after, and I think in the interim period, all the children had managed to evacuate the building, apart from those that I believe were locked in the toilet with one of the yoga teachers.”

Mr Hayes said he had surgery after suffering severe wounds following the incident and that he is lucky to have survived. “It only narrowly missed my femoral artery, and I’ve been told if it had caught that I probably wouldn’t be here, so I’m very grateful. But there’s no reason why I don’t think I will make a full recovery. I’ve not even begun to process the horror show that I’ve seen,” he said.

Three young girls died in the attack, with 17-year-old Axel Mugaawa Rudakubana charged with three counts of murder and 10 counts of attempted murder. He will appear at Liverpool Crown Court on October 25.

Speaking about the recent riots that have erupted across the United Kingdom, Mr Hayes said Sir Keir Starmer’s rhetoric about using the “full force of the law” was unhelpful.

He said the Government needs to address the root cause of the issue rather than the symptoms.

“I actually don’t think that the trouble on the Right has got anything at all to do with the Southport stabbings,” Mr Hayes said.

“There appears to be a strong undercurrent of discontent for some time

about the levels of immigration. And this is just a catalyst or a trigger, but I don’t think it’s the root cause.

“I do get dismayed when I hear Keir Starmer talking about the police are going to come down with the full force of the law on these people.

“But they are not actually talking about the root cause, and they need to start listening and understanding that. They need to address the cause rather than the symptoms.”

It comes as Britain braced for another day of unrest with more than 6,000 specialist riot officers on standby amid warnings that far-Right groups are planning to target immigration centres across the country.

Britain’s top prosecutor has warned that rioters face being charged with terror offences.

Stephen Parkinson, the director of public prosecutions, said his team would use every legal power to jail those behind the disorder and that terror legislation was already being used in one case.

Survivors They will suffer ‘devastating, lifelong effects’

The survivors of the attack will suffer “devastating, lifelong effects”, an inquest heard.

An inquest into the deaths of Bebe King, 6, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar, 9, opened yesterday at Bootle Town Hall on Merseyside.

The three girls were stabbed and killed in an attack at a children’s Taylor Swift-themed dance class just before midday in Southport on July 29. However, the

such horrific circumstances.

“The three young children were full of life and energy and will be missed beyond any description my woefully inadequate words may attempt to describe.

“I therefore offer my deepest condolences to Elsie’s, Bebe’s and Alice’s parents, families and friends, and those heartfelt condolences of all of my staff here at the coroner’s court.” Ms

Goulding said the opening of the inquests was a “short, sombre, formal process”.

No family members were present for the hearing, which lasted about 15 minutes.

Five other children and two adults were seriously injured in the attack.

One child remained in hospital, police said on Tuesday, and all other patients have been discharged.

Alex Barton



Jonathan Hayes was stabbed in the leg, only just missing his femoral artery

One in four Gen Z claim mental health issues

Quarter of 18 to 24-year-olds suffer long-term sickness in blow to Rachel Reeves' plan for economy

By Tim Wallace

ALMOST a quarter of Gen Z claim to have long-term mental health conditions, new figures show, fuelling a surge in worklessness that threatens to derail Rachel Reeves' growth plans. A survey carried out by PwC suggests that more than a million 18 to 24-year-olds are struggling with their mental health, which accounted for 22 per cent

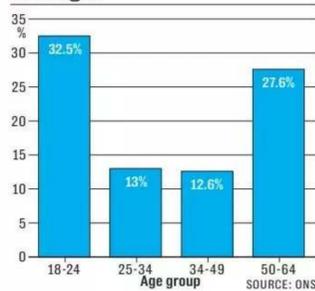
of the Gen Z age group. That is compared with an average of 8 per cent across the entire population, demonstrating the challenge facing the Government as it seeks to get youngsters back into work.

The current number of people who are economically inactive – defined as being of working age but neither in work nor looking for a job – is 9.4 million, up from 8.4 million before Covid.

Long-term sickness has been cited as a major driver of the increase, with analysts warning that this could have a significant impact on the overall economy.

Barret Kupelian, chief economist at PwC UK, said the Chancellor had no chance of hitting her growth targets

Percentage not in work nor seeking it



unless she could solve the mental health crisis among Gen Z. He said: "If the new Government is to realise its economic growth ambitions it will need to focus on young people to avoid the long-term impacts young workers felt after the 2008 financial crisis."

"There are huge social as well as national and economic benefits to taking action to decrease youth unemployment."

According to PwC, its research found that almost 50 per cent of inactive youngsters said they would be more likely to return to work if employers offered more mental health support.

One in five said their condition was preventing them from pursuing their

favoured career. As well as harming growth, Mr Kupelian said ill health was also threatening the Government's bid to boost the employment rate from 74.4 per cent to a record high of 80 per cent.

He said: "It will be virtually impossible to push employment rates higher from the current 74 per cent, if we don't tackle new emerging issues such as mental health which seems to be much more prevalent amongst the workers of the future."

Mr Kupelian estimated that if the UK could reduce its rate of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to match the lowest regional rate, it would give the economy a significant boost. He said: "We

calculate that UK GDP could increase by around one percentage point if the national NEET rate matches that of the South West, which is the best-performing region in the country."

"There is a blueprint for change evidenced by other OECD countries with low NEET levels; provide robust vocational training and apprenticeship systems, alongside initiatives to set young people up for a smooth transition from education to work through regimes that connect students with industry," said Mr Kupelian.

"Building aspiration for young people who currently feel they are without will be crucial for the UK to reverse NEET levels."



Cutting-edge characters Jamie Lee Curtis, Cate Blanchett and Jack Black, the stars of *Borderland*, attend a fan event for the film at TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. The sci-fi action comedy is based on the role-playing video game of the same name that came out in 2009.

NHS trial for cancer blood test criticised as 'unethical'

By Michael Searles

AN NHS trial of a blood test that claims to spot 50 cancers early is "overhyped and unethical", according to a *British Medical Journal* investigation.

Experts said there had been insufficient evidence to support the initiation of a £150 million trial, while NHS officials have revealed that the interim results are "not compelling enough" to expand the roll-out as planned.

A decision on whether to roll out the test across the UK will not be made until the trial's conclusion in 2026.

Amanda Pritchard, the NHS chief executive, said last year that the Galleri blood test had "the potential to transform cancer care forever" as she announced plans to make it available to more than one million Britons if "provisional results prove successful".

But that has been delayed indefinitely and experts have criticised a lack of transparency on the trial's progress.

An investigation led by Dr Margaret McCarthy, a GP, said that "experts believe that Galleri has been overhyped and that the current trial is unethical".

More than 140,000 NHS patients have taken part in the trial, which is assessing the effectiveness of the Galleri blood test manufactured by Grail, a California-based biotech firm.

Officials claimed modelling showed its 1 per cent positivity rate would lead to 5,000 additional referrals for cancer checks. It is not known how many patients on the trial were referred with possible cancer or how accurate it was.

A 2023 *Lancet* study found the test's sensitivity was lower than previously thought, with almost two thirds of positive results recorded turning out to be "false positives".

The deal with Grail, which is confidential and was never put out to tender, will see the NHS buy up to five million tests if the trial succeeds, the *BMJ* said.

Mike Richards, the chairman of the UK National Screening Committee, expressed hesitations to Ms Pritchard about the trial and its ability to provide sufficient evidence "on whether the benefits of testing outweigh any potential harms and at reasonable cost", according to a leaked letter.

NHS England and the Department for Business and Trade have been asked for comment.

Gene-editing therapy for blood disorder rolled out by health service

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

REVOLUTIONARY gene-editing therapy which could cure patients with a genetic blood disorder is to be rolled out for the first time on the NHS.

The treatment, Casgevy, the first to be licensed using the gene-editing tool known as Crispr, will be offered to patients within weeks.

The breakthrough, which acts like "genetic scissors" snipping apart DNA, is the first time gene-editing technology will be offered on the health service.

The decision by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) means the NHS in England will be among the first healthcare systems in the world to offer the treatment.

The head of the NHS said the roll-out

was a "historic movement" which offered a "potential cure" and a "new lease of life" to hundreds of patients.

The one-off treatment will be offered to children and adults who suffer from a severe form of thalassaemia, which reduces production of haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen to cells.

Currently, such patients' survival currently depends on transfusions as often as every three weeks.

Exagamglogene autotemcel, or exa-cel, is sold as Casgevy and made by Vertex. In international clinical trials, 93 per cent of patients with beta thalassaemia did not need a blood transfusion for at least a year after having the treatment, with hopes that it could bring a lifetime cure.

An estimated 600 patients in Eng-

land living with transfusion-dependent beta thalassaemia, aged 12 and older, could be eligible for the therapy.

Previously, the only curative treatment for patients has been a stem cell transplant.

The therapy, which works by editing the gene that causes the blood disorder, is the first approved therapy to use the Nobel Prize-winning Crispr technology – which stands for Clustered, Regularly Interspaced, Short Palindromic Repeat.

It will be offered at seven specialist NHS centres within weeks. Last November, regulators granted authorisation for its use in patients over the age of 12. Costs were estimated at about £1.6 million per patient, making it one of the most expensive treatments in the world. Since then, the NHS has

negotiated a discount with manufacturer Vertex, which means NHS patients will be offered the treatment under a special fund while further evidence on its benefits is gathered over five years. The NHS said the size of the

'Therapy will be fast-tracked to patients who could benefit from the new lease of life it promises'

discount is commercially confidential.

Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief executive, said: "This is a historic moment for people living with beta thalassaemia with a potential cure for those facing this debilitating disorder now available

on the NHS." She said the "one-off therapy will be fast-tracked to patients who could benefit from the new lease of life it promises".

During the treatment, blood stem cells are removed from a patient's body, and edited in a laboratory using Crispr.

The treated cells are then returned to the patient via an infusion.

Beta thalassaemia mainly affects people of Mediterranean, south Asian, southeast Asian and Middle Eastern background. There are about 2,300 people with thalassaemia in the UK, with an estimated 800 people with the severe form of the condition that rely on regular blood transfusions.

The disorder requires lifelong treatment and can impact quality of life, with people suffering from anaemia, chronic

pain and psychological impacts such as anxiety and depression. Many are not expected to live beyond their 50s.

Ludovic Fenaux, the senior vice president at Vertex International, said the "landmark agreement" to secure access was a "historic moment" for patients who for too long had limited options.

Romaine Maharaj, the executive director of the UK Thalassaemia Society, said that "we stand on the brink of a revolutionary breakthrough".

Helen Knight, Nice's director of medicines evaluation, said: "Although there are some uncertainties in the evidence for its long-term benefits, the committee felt exa-cel could represent a potential cure for some people with transfusion-dependent beta-thalassaemia."

Children left in tears after pro-Palestine protesters storm family theatre science show

By Joe Pinkstone

CHILDREN were "left in tears" after a science show for youngsters was stormed by a pro-Palestine protest.

The *Science Museum: The Live Stage Show's* performance at the New Wimbledon Theatre in London on Tuesday was disrupted when protesters unfurled a banner from the dress circle as others got on the stage holding hands with some children while chanting and waving scarves in the air.

The show is aimed at children and is embarking on a nationwide tour through the school summer holidays until the end of October.

Parents said the children in the audience, including an autistic girl, were "really upset" and "crying their eyes out" after the demonstration, which was orchestrated by Parents for Palestine.

One parent in attendance, named Rose, told MailOnline: "We're sitting

there getting ready for the show and then there's this lady with a mask over her face and then she starts chanting.

"And then after that, I see a big banner drop from the top of the theatre and then from that everything is just disrupted.

"There are parents with their children next to me and their kids are crying their eyes out because it's quite scary.

"Security has come along and ushered some people out but then some other people who have got up on the stage to make sure their voices are getting heard."

The event was supposed to begin at 4.30pm and the demonstration, which took place at about 4.25pm, led to a half-hour delayed start as the protesters were ushered out of the theatre by security.

A spokesman for the Parents for Palestine group told *The Telegraph*: "This

'Everything is just disrupted... Kids are crying their eyes out because it's quite scary'

was a brief and peaceful protest, carried out by parents, carers and their children, asking the Science Museum to drop its sponsorship deal with Adani Green Energy, a subsidiary of the Adani Group.

"The Adani Group manufactures drones and snipers with Israeli arms companies, which have been used to murder over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza including over 15,000 children."

The spokesman added: "We love the Science Museum and simply want our children to be able to enjoy it in good conscience."

A Science Museum spokesman said: "This engaging family show aims to ignite the curiosity of children through the wonders of science and it's a shame for the families who attended that protesters disrupted this performance at the New Wimbledon Theatre."

Adani Group has been approached for comment.



Protesters unfurl a banner from a balcony at the New Wimbledon Theatre

Chess champion smears pieces with mercury to poison arch-rival

Russian player arrested after CCTV showed her pouring deadly liquid onto opponent's board

By Lilia Sebouai

A RUSSIAN chess champion has been suspended after poisoning her childhood rival ahead of a match by smearing deadly mercury over her chess pieces.

Amina Abakarova, 43, said she was motivated to attempt the attack on Umayyanat Osmanova out of revenge for a personal insult.

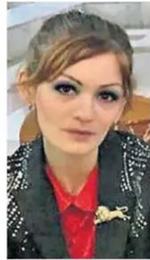
Ms Abakarova has been arrested and now faces up to three years in jail if found guilty.

Security footage has captured the moment that Ms Abakarova entered the hall where the tournament was to take place last Friday in Makhachkala, southern Russia, and appeared to be making the preparations for the poisoning of her opponent.

In the footage, she is seen looking around as she casually approaches Ms Osmanova's table before taking something from her bag – seemingly a vial – and smearing its contents onto her opponent's board as well as pouring it on some of her pieces.

Ms Osmanova suffered "severe dizziness and nausea" soon after the match began and then required medical attention.

Sazhida Sazhidova, the president of the Russian Republic of Dagestan for Physical Culture and Sports, said of the



Amina Abakarova, above, was caught on CCTV footage, below, smearing the chess pieces of Umayyanat Osmanova, right, with mercury

incident: "We have video proof showing that one of the players at the Dagestani chess championship, Amina Abakarova from the city of Makhachkala, applied an unidentified substance, which later turned out to contain mercury, to the table where Umayyanat Osmanova from the city of Kaspiisk was set to play against her."

A judge from the tournament reported the incident to police, with CCTV footage later confirming that Ms Abakarova had been present.

Malcolm Pain, the English Chess Federation director of international chess and International Master, said that he had "never seen anything like this before".

"This is the first recorded case of somebody using a toxic substance, to my knowledge, in the history of the game of chess," he told *The Telegraph*. "This is off the scale."

He said that it is typically "psychological" tactics that are wielded in the world of chess, with players sometimes going to extreme lengths to throw off their opponents.

Mr Sazhidova said that he was "perplexed" by Ms Abakarova's apparent foul play.

"Like many others, I am perplexed by what happened, and the motives of such an experienced competitor as Amina Abakarova are incomprehensible," he said.

"The actions she took could have led to a most tragic outcome, threatening the lives of everyone who was present, including herself."

"Now she must answer for what she did by the law."

Ms Abakarova told other competitors at the tournament that her actions were to "take revenge" for "nasty things [Ms Osmanova said] about her and her relatives behind her back".

She added that the attack was fuelled solely by "personal hostility" and to "scare" Ms Osmanova.

Despite the attempt on her life, Ms Osmanova continued to participate in the tournament and won one of the prize places, according to reports in Russian media.

Alexander Tkachyov, the Russian Chess Federation (RCF) executive director, told Tass, a Russian news agency, that his organisation was considering giving Ms Abakarova a lifetime ban.

"We are waiting for the investigation from law enforcement bodies," Mr Tkachyov said. "If the other chess player is found guilty, our [RCF] reaction will be stiff, possibly a lifetime ban."

Mr Tkachyov added: "We regret that such an incident took place at a chess tournament."

"We have no doubt that law enforcement bodies will get to the bottom of the incident and we wish the injured player a quick recovery and that she is back at a chessboard as soon as possible."

'The actions she took could have led to a most tragic outcome'



Foul play Chequered history of chess skulduggery

Posting pornographic images to young female players

In 2022, it was revealed that a Latvian chess player posted disturbing packages – containing pornographic images and even used condoms – in a harassment campaign spanning at least a decade.

Andrejs Strebkovs, a 40-year-old International Master, targeted fifteen young women and girls – most of them Russian and several underage.

Physical distractions
Hovering behind one's opponent when it is their move is one of the most notorious

psychological warfare tactics in chess. Viktor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian also famously kicked each other under the table during a match in 1974.

Refusing a handshake before the game
In the World Championship match in 1978, Korchnoi, a

Russian defector, offered his hand for the traditional handshake at the start of the game – however, Anatoly Karpov refused to shake it. The Chief Arbiter later informed the head of the Soviet delegation that Korchnoi should have been warned in advance about such a rude decision from his opponent.

Introduction of smartphones
Technology has changed everything in Chess. Back in 1997, vast amounts of computer power was harnessed to create the Deep Blue programme to take on the world champion Gary Kasparov. Now things are very different. Nigel Short, the British

grandmaster, said: "There are engines you can download on your iPhone that will defeat Magnus Carlsen 10-0."
Sex toys
In 2023, Hans Niemann, a chess grandmaster, was accused of sneaking anal beads into his game against Carlsen which helped him clinch a win.

Niemann denied that he was using the sex toy to receive outside instructions, leading to a legal row that the pair resolved out of court.
Niemann admitted to cheating online when he was 12 and 16 years old, but denied any wrongdoing in over-the-board games.

Council manager who broke wind on colleague guilty of age bias

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A COUNCIL manager who broke wind on a junior colleague as he ate lunch is guilty of age discrimination, a tribunal has ruled.

Lee Marsh, who is in his late 50s, found it "amusing" when he approached his younger co-worker and broke wind on him, a hearing was told.

Mr Marsh then threatened the housing worker in his 30s, saying: "I can get

rid of you like I have the others in the past". The hearing in Birmingham ruled that Mr Marsh had a problem with his "ambitious" colleague potentially having authority over him.

The younger colleague, who was granted anonymity, had brought legal proceedings against Birmingham city council, where they both worked.

Although the tribunal ruled he was discriminated against in relation to the breaking wind incident and others, he

will not receive compensation as he brought the claim too late. He is, however, in line for compensation for unfair dismissal.

He ended up resigning, which the council has now accepted amounted to constructive dismissal.

A tribunal report said: "On Dec 8 2020, Lee Marsh passed wind on the [housing worker], and found it amusing, whilst he was eating lunch."

The worker told the tribunal: "[Mr

Marsh] then said, 'You have got a lot to say for yourself for a newcomer.' I said, 'I haven't, I have the right to object to disgusting behaviour'."

"He then said to me, 'You are only a trainee. I can get rid of you like I have the others in the past.'"

Mr Marsh also told him: "If any of you youngsters get this job ... I will tell you to f--- off." He added that he would "not be told by youngsters".

The housing worker added: "Once

Lee got wind of my progression plan, I first felt uncomfortable around him. It would be comments like 'these babies coming in and trying to take over'."

In November 2021, Mr Marsh threatened him with violence, including hitting him with a chair.

The pair were both subjected to gross misconduct allegations over the chair incident, leading to the younger man going off sick and later resigning.

Employment judge Christopher

Camp found the breaking wind incident amounted to age discrimination.

He said: "In relation to this allegation about Mr Marsh passing wind at [him] and telling him that he could be got rid of, the [council] has not begun to satisfy us ... that in no sense whatsoever was Mr Marsh consciously or unconsciously motivated by something to do with the [housing worker's] age."

Mr Marsh was found guilty of misconduct and given a written warning.

Three days of Banksy – is there meaning, or just an expression of joy and wit thrust into the urban jungle?

Review



By Alastair Sooke CHIEF ART CRITIC

WHAT IS this: the 12 days of Banksy? On Monday, he posted on Instagram a photograph of a silhouetted ibex (wild goat) that he'd painted on a wall beside Kew Bridge in west London, so that it appeared to be balancing on a high buttress as if negotiating a tight spot halfway up a mountain.

As part of the composition, a real-life CCTV camera was turned towards the creature, as though recording its predicament.

The following day, he uploaded a shot of a pair of silhouetted elephants. Each emerged, trunks exultant, from adjoining blank windows on the side of a house in Chelsea, west London, like a pair of gossiping neighbours poking out their heads for a good old chinwag.

Now, he's claimed his third artwork this week: another composition involving black silhouettes, this time

depicting a trio of vigorous, long-tailed monkeys, seemingly swinging along a railway bridge over the hipster hangout (and tourist hotspot) of Brick Lane, in east London.

The right-hand rascal, staring, full-face, at the viewer, appears rather guilty, like a criminal caught mid-getaway.

What will be next? Four zebras today, galloping along Westminster Bridge? Five giraffes come tomorrow, grazing on the side of the Southbank Centre?

None of the social media posts is accompanied by an explanatory caption – prompting speculation about what Banksy's new animalistic artworks could mean.

It has been suggested, for instance, that the teetering goat, seemingly knocking off a few rocks from his precarious perch, might represent humanity "on the edge of extinction" – although this idea feels like over-interpretation, even to me (and I love nothing more than teasing out, to breaking point, the significance of imagery).

Thanks to their inquisitive, curling trunks, those elephants have a joyful,

Banksy's latest work depicts three silhouetted monkeys swinging along a bridge over Brick Lane, in London

not apocalyptic, aspect – or are they "elephants-in-rooms", alluding to something darker?

One, I note, is tusk-free: a commentary, perhaps, on the wickedness of the illegal ivory trade?

As for the swinging monkeys, they embody the cheekiness we've come to associate with Banksy, and hardly look as if they're fleeing the end of the world.

Does Banksy's latest street art need to mean anything at all?

Or are these trivial images simply little moments of joy and passing wit flung into the urban jungle, in the manner of, say, a Tudor lord dispensing coins to the poor while passing through the capital's begrimed streets?

If the artist's new pieces across the capital do "mean" something, it is, surely simply this: that Banksy – conscious of the cumulative effect of working in series, and mindful that Brits love nothing more than artwork about animals – is British art's Max Clifford, a masterful media operator who knows how to secure publicity.

'Are these trivial images simply little moments of joy and passing wit?'



I'll reverse 20mph speed limit, says Wales First Minister

By Gareth Corfield, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh First Minister has said the country's blanket 20mph speed limits will be scrapped under her reign.

Eluned Morgan said there should be a "conversation with the public" around the limit, and to which roads it should apply to.

However, the Labour peer, who was ennobled as Baroness Morgan of Ely in 2011, said that the lowered limits would remain in built-up areas and around schools and hospitals.

Her comments echo the Welsh Government's stance under her predecessor, Vaughan Gething, who resigned after being caught up in a corruption scandal.

In April, *The Telegraph* revealed that councils in the country could start raising speeds in September, as it "wasn't appropriate on certain routes".

The Welsh Conservatives have previously described the Welsh Labour leader as a "backer of the blanket 20mph speed limit".

Councils in Wales will be allowed to start raising speed limits on some roads back to 30mph from September.

Critics suggest this is a politically convenient way for the Welsh Government to try to avoid admitting the 20mph limit was a failure.

Baroness Morgan said on Tuesday: "I'm very clear that around schools, hospitals, built up areas, playgrounds, it should be 20. I think there needs to be a conversation with the public about what's appropriate."

She told BBC Radio 4's *Today*: "This is not a blanket approach."



Stroke of genius

A Rolls-Royce Merlin engine that was built near Glasgow in 1949 and developed for use in celebrated aircraft like the Spitfire is going up for auction at the Silverstone Festival in Northamptonshire on August 24 with an estimate of £50,000.

ICONIC AUCTIONEERS/BNS/SPA

Storm Debby may bring hottest day of year

The hurricane that caused havoc in Florida could cause UK temperatures to rise into the mid-30s

By Alex Barton

A STORM threatening to deluge Florida with half a year's worth of rain, in just days, could bring the hottest day of the year to the UK next week.

Tropical Storm Debby could bring temperatures in the mid-30s to the UK next week, according to the Met Office.

Storm Debby itself will not reach UK shores but the forecaster said it may result in hotter conditions because of its impact on the jet stream.

The jet stream is a fast-moving band of wind that runs from east to west around the globe. Debby is expected to influence the strength and shape of the jet stream, in turn affecting UK weather. Nick Silkstone, Met Office deputy

chief meteorologist, said: "Debby in North America will help to strengthen and veer the direction of the jet stream and this means this ribbon of air is likely to shift further to the south."

"This southwards dip in the jet stream will likely be located across the mid-Atlantic this weekend and early next week, allowing southwesterly flow across the UK."

"During this time a hot and perhaps very hot airmass could develop and be advected into the south-east of the UK."

Dan Suri, the Met Office chief meteorologist, said: "Tropical Storm Debby in North America is helping to strengthen the jet stream, and is causing it to meander over the Atlantic. This will allow hot air to move into the UK later this weekend, and early next week."

"Temperatures are likely to reach the low 30s in places, notably in the south and south-east. Further north and west within this warm air, outbreaks of heavy showers or thunderstorms are possible. As well as the hot

daytime temperatures, a very warm night is also expected on Sunday night into Monday."

The storm drenched Florida on Monday, killing at least five people and threatening south-eastern US states with heavy rainfall and catastrophic flooding. The storm will continue to hit parts of the east and southeastern US in the coming days and could bring as much as 600mm of rain, equating to around half the yearly average.

Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor,

said that some 250,000 residents had been left without power after the category one hurricane made landfall on Monday.

Joe Biden, the US President, approved emergency declarations for Florida, Georgia and South Carolina – allowing for federal assistance in co-ordinating disaster relief efforts.

Mr DeSantis also activated Florida's national guard. More than 3,000 service members were mobilised to help with the storm response.

GREG IS FLUENT IN SPANISH, FRENCH AND SCOTTISH SINGLE MALTS.

FLY BUSINESS CLASS

BRITISH AIRWAYS
A BRITISH ORIGINAL

Scales defies dementia to reprise Victoria role

Actress with degenerative condition returns to royal role 40 years after playing the monarch on the stage

By Hannah Furness ROYAL EDITOR

PRUNELLA SCALES is to reprise her theatre role as Queen Victoria, delivering lines she first read 44 years ago despite her diagnosis with dementia.

Scales, who is 92, has recorded a script for a play at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, in which she provides the voiceover for the elderly Queen.

The actress first took on the role in 1979 at London's Old Vic, spending 28 years treading the boards around the world in *An Evening With Queen Victoria*.

A revival of the play, which is written entirely in Victoria's own words taken from her letters and diaries, will see Scales return to the script while living with vascular dementia.

The production, called *Queen*, incor-

porates a recently recorded voiceover by Scales as the elderly monarch whose recorded words are interlaced into the action.

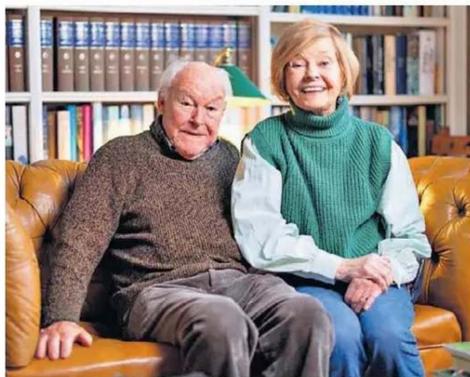
The show's writer, Julian Machin, said the recording had been possible thanks to Scales' long-term memory of her working life, adding she "exceeded all expectations" in her moving performance.

He told *The Telegraph*: "Although Prunella has vascular dementia which greatly affects her in many ways, she absolutely retains longer-term memory of herself and her working experience."

"In 1979 I was stage manager for the first two performances of the one-man show, written for her by Katrina Hendrey.

"Prunella went on to perform it almost 500 times over 28 years and around the world as *An Evening With Queen Victoria*."

"Soon after the death of the late Queen [Elizabeth II], I asked Pru and Tim to lunch and raised the idea of her recording Victoria as an 81-year-old,



Prunella Scales with husband Timothy West

which we'd interlace with two other actors playing Victoria and so *Queen* was born.

"Her memory of having said the lines so many times over the years made it much easier to direct her than even I'd

hoped for. Having accepted the challenge, she exceeded all expectations and delivers a great and moving performance that'll endure.

"From that lunch, I had no doubt that she could do it. But I was surprised by how well it was done."

He added: "Following the death of Elizabeth II, who based her reign on Victoria's, the play has come into its own. It's so insightful because it's all in her own words and acts like a prism through which the entire modern monarchy can be seen."

Scales' memory loss was revealed in 2014 when she and her husband Timothy West embarked on a television canal voyage around Britain and explained her diagnosis to viewers.

"The question arose, 'Are we going to tell our viewers about this?'" said West at the time, "because Pru is going to behave in an unusual way [sometimes]. And the answer was yes, but not in a way that means they are going to be worried by it."

A year later, West, an acclaimed actor

Her memory of having said the lines so many times made it much easier to direct her'

himself, said: "The sad thing is that you just watch the gradual disappearance of the person that you knew and loved and were very close to. There's a lot of her left, and we still enjoy life and there are a lot of things that Pru is able to enjoy and we're able to do together."

In 2017, in a moving foreword to the book of the series, *Our Great Canal Journeys*, Scales wrote: "How do I feel about being in this situation? Well, angry of course. I hate the idea that the world is going on around me, but that so much of it is closed off. I soon forget my anger, though, as I forget nearly everything else."

Scales' performance in the original show, which was televised on BBC Two in 1980, was given a rave review in *The Telegraph*, which called her a "clever, observant actress" who had put on a "bravura solo performance" which conveyed the span of Victoria's life with "fine lucidity in a voice well bred and forceful".

Queen is at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, until Aug 24 at 1pm daily.

Ridley: Thyroid condition leaves me 'tired but wired'

By Joe Pinkstone

DAISY RIDLEY, the *Star Wars* actress, has revealed that she has been diagnosed with the thyroid condition Graves' disease after initially dismissing her symptoms as just being annoyed.

The London-born celebrity was diagnosed with the autoimmune condition last September and has said that she first experienced symptoms while filming *Magpie*, the psychological thriller.

Though she initially put her symptoms down to stress from the role, Ridley was referred to an endocrinologist after seeking medical attention. The 32-year-old actress was suffering from racing heart rate, weight loss, fatigue and tremors, she told *Women's Health* magazine.

She said: "I thought, 'Well, I've just played a really stressful role; presumably that's why I feel poorly.'"

When the doctor said that Graves' can make you feel "tired but wired", Ridley said: "It was funny, I was like, 'Oh, I just thought I was annoyed at the world,' but turns out everything is functioning so quickly, you can't chill out."

Graves' is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system produces antibodies that cause the thyroid to produce too much thyroid hormone, according to the NHS website.

Ridley had some of the most common symptoms, with shaky hands also another telltale sign of the condition. Scientists do not know what causes Graves' disease but say that treatments can help manage the condition and improve quality of life.

In 2010, Sia, the Australian singer-songwriter, confirmed in a tweet that she had Graves' disease.

Missy Elliott, the US rapper, has also confirmed that she started struggling with the disease since 2008.

The condition normally affects young and middle-aged women and is thought to run in families, despite the cause being unknown.

Since receiving her diagnosis, Ridley has begun to take daily medication alongside adopting lifestyle changes including using infrared saunas, cryotherapy, massages and acupuncture to try and manage her condition.

She also says that she is using crystals to promote emotional balance, self-love and peace.

"In the grand scheme of things, it's much less severe than what a lot of people go through," Ridley told the magazine.

"Even if you can deal with it, you shouldn't have to. If there's a problem, you shouldn't have to just [suffer through it]."

The star of *Young Woman And The Sea* also decided to eat gluten-free foods alongside her vegan diet.

"I am not super strict about it, but generally cutting down on gluten makes me feel better," Ridley told the magazine.

"I've always been health conscious, and now I'm trying to be more well-being conscious."



Daisy Ridley has opened up about Graves' disease that left her with a racing heart rate, weight loss and fatigue in an interview with *Women's Health* (inset)

Curtis to make first Christmas film in 20 years, actually

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

RICHARD CURTIS is to make his first Christmas film since *Love Actually*, which was released over 20 years ago.

That Christmas, an animated film, stars *Succession*'s Brian Cox as Santa and will be released on Netflix later this year.

It will also feature the voices of Bill Nighy, who starred in *Love Actually*; Fiona Shaw from *Killing Eve* and Jodie Whittaker, the former *Doctor Who*. The actors play the residents of a charming Suffolk seaside town where things get turned upside down one Christmas.

Curtis is best known for his romantic comedies including *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, *Notting Hill* and *About Time* - and adapted the new story from his children's book series.

Ed Sheeran has also revealed that he has written and recorded a new original song for the film called *Under the Tree*.

Sheeran said he has been friends with Curtis "for years", having previously appeared in the music film *Yesterday* - and the two have carried out charity work together.

The singer, 33, added: "He came to me two years ago to play me the rough of *That Christmas*. It was just sketches and voices, but it blew me away."

"So emotional, yet so heartwarmingly funny, like all Richard Curtis movies. I find since having kids, there's a real lack of great animated children's Christmas movies, so I thought this was such an amazing thing to make and put

'It felt so good to create something my children would watch based in the country they live in'

into the world. The scene that we wrote this song for is so heartbreaking, but so real for many people at Christmas, spending it without the ones they love, for so many reasons.

"I got to work with my older brother on this which is such a rarity and a gift to work so closely with my only sibling. It felt so good to create something my children would watch, with their uncle, based in the country they live in."

"I find it mad that there isn't more animated Christmas films for kids, but this is going to become a holiday staple, at least in our household."

"Hope everyone loves it, and enjoys the song, we had such a great time creating it."

Curtis said: "I'm so thrilled to have Ed's beautiful song in our movie."

"It's a film set in Suffolk ... Ed lives in and loves Suffolk and completely understood the pitch and tone of what we were trying to do."

"We've been friends for many years and - especially now that he's a husband and a father - it's really lovely to have him play such a key part in this film about love, children and family."

That Christmas is directed by Simon Otto and includes a score from composer John Powell.

Strictly fans criticise lacklustre line-up after bullying and abuse claims backstage

By Anita Singh ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

STRICTLY COME DANCING fans have criticised the quality of this year's line-up as the BBC unveiled two ex-reality stars as its latest contestants.

The BBC One show will reportedly feature only six female contestants in its 20th anniversary series, following claims that women have been bullied and abused by their professional dance partners.

The latest announced contestants be Tasha Ghouri, who appeared in *Love Island*, and Pete Wicks, a former star of *The Only Way Is Essex*.

Craig Revel-Horwood, one of the *Strictly* judges, has previously said: "It's not very often that we have reality stars take to the ballroom. We generally have people of a higher calibre than that."

On social media, fans have wondered if higher-profile stars have stayed away from the series as a result of the scandal.

"This really does say a lot about this year's *Strictly*. For a show that 'banned' reality TV stars, with exceptions here and there... these aren't exactly exceptional, are they?" said one TV blogger online.

Ian Hyland, TV critic, wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "It's less of a who's who, more of a who's dropped out?"

The other women announced so far are Toyah Willcox, the singer, and Dr Punam Krishan, a GP who appears on BBC daytime television.

The male line-up features opera singer and radio host Wynne Evans, star of the *Go Compare* television adverts; blind comedian Chris McCausland; and former boy band member JB Gill.

Several have already appeared on other reality TV contests and Gill won the *Strictly* Christmas special in 2012.

According to *The Sun*, the final tally will include nine men, with former footballer Paul Merson and *DIY SOS* presenter Nick Knowles expected to be

named. In previous years, the BBC has balanced the gender split.

The show has been hit by scandal after Amanda Abbington claimed Giovanni Pernice, her partner in the 2023 series, bullied her during rehearsals. Pernice strongly denies the allegations.

Another professional dancer, Graziano di Prima, left the show after a video of a training room incident with his partner, Zara McDermott, was shown to BBC bosses.

Di Prima's spokesperson admitted that he had kicked her, insisting that it was an isolated incident which he "deeply regrets".

Laura Whitmore, the TV presenter, has also complained about behaviour behind the scenes when she appeared on the show in 2016, claiming that she was "gaslit" when she raised concerns.

An insider told *The Sun*: "It's hard to see how the ongoing controversy over bullying could not have affected the recruitment process this year."

Pioneering royal photographers honoured with blue plaques by English Heritage

By Hannah Furness ROYAL EDITOR

TWO of the earliest royal photographers in British history are to be commemorated with blue plaques honouring their work as "trailblazers".

John Thomson, who was appointed as official photographer to Queen Victoria and George V, is to be commemorated by English Heritage, alongside Christina Broom, thought to be the first female press photographer in the UK.

Thomson was made an official photographer to the Royal family by Victoria in 1881, by Royal Warrant, and went on to take the key royal images of the 19th and early 20th century.

As well as shooting images of suffragettes and the military, Broom had her photographs of royalty published from 1916 onwards including a 1934 image, *The Pillars of Empire*, showing the then Prince of Wales looking towards the King at Wellington Barracks.

Both pioneering photographers will



The Crawlers (1877), by John Thomson

be commemorated with blue plaques by English Heritage today. Broom's will be on her former home in Fulham, while Thomson's is in Brixton.

Rebecca Preston, English Heritage historian, said: "These two very different photographers were both pioneers, both working at the forefront of photography at a time when it was not the accessible medium that it is now."

"I am delighted to celebrate them today, each at an address associated with the very pinnacles of their respective careers."

Other photographers commemorated by the blue plaques scheme include Bill Brandt, Lee Miller, Camille Silvy and Cecil Beaton.

Broom is described by the organisation as the most prolific female publisher of picture postcards in Britain; a prominent photographer of the suffrage movement; the only female photographer allowed into London barracks; and the only photographer permitted regularly into the Royal Mews.

Her plaque at 92 Munster Road, where she lived and worked for 26 years, will be the first blue plaque in Fulham.

Begum will never be let into UK after judges refuse to hear appeal

By James Crisp, EUROPE EDITOR

SHAMIMA BEGUM will go to the European Court of Human Rights after UK judges refused to hear her appeal against the removal of her British nationality on national security grounds.

The Supreme Court said Begum, 24, who was born and raised in Tower

Hamlets, east London, could not challenge the 2019 revocation of her citizenship after she joined Islamic State (IS).

The decision means she will never be allowed to return to Britain after travelling to terrorist-controlled territory in Syria as a 15-year-old in 2015.

But her lawyers said the UK's highest court had left "resolution to another court, this time in Strasbourg."

"We, her lawyers, will take every possible legal step including to petition the European Court of Human Rights," a spokesman for Birnberg Pierce Solicitors said.

Any legal challenge in the Strasbourg court is likely to take years to conclude, even if the case is deemed admissible.

Begum married an IS fighter soon after arriving in Syria and had three

children, none of whom survived. She is now living in a guarded refugee camp in northern Syria.

Although British-born, she had Bangladeshi citizenship until she was at least 21 but the country has made clear it will not accept her. She has sought to return to the UK to challenge the loss of her citizenship since 2019.

"It is a matter of the gravest concern

that British women and children have been arbitrarily imprisoned in a Syrian camp for five years, all detained indefinitely without any prospect of a trial," her lawyers said.

"All other countries in the UK's position have intervened and achieved the return of their citizens and their children."

In the Supreme Court decision, Lords

Reed, Hodge and Lloyd-Jones found Begum's proposed appeal grounds "do not raise an arguable point of law".

This included whether Begum should have been able to make representations to Sajid Javid, the then home secretary, who stripped her of her citizenship.

Editorial Comment: Page 15

Cambridge creates own free speech safeguards

Code of conduct will allow visiting speakers to express "controversial or unpopular" opinions

By Poppy Wood

THE University of Cambridge has issued new rules on protecting freedom of speech on campus.

The institution said it had introduced them despite the Government shelving a new law aimed at tackling cancel culture at universities.

Cambridge said in its updated code of conduct that the university is "fully committed to the principle and to the promotion of freedom of speech" for staff and students.

The language used mirrors that of legislation put in motion by the last Conservative government, under which universities, colleges and student unions in England would have a legal duty to promote free speech.

Last month, Labour shelved the planned legislation days before it was

'It is not the role of the University to protect or shield people from ideas with which they disagree'

due to come into force. Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, said she will now consider repealing it.

Cambridge said its new code of practice "applies with effect from August 1, 2024, despite [new plans] to stop further commencement of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023".

Universities UK, which represents more than 140 British universities, said the legislation would have "strengthened" the current law, which requires institutions to protect free speech and academic freedom, but not to actively promote them. The new law would also have meant more robust protections for visiting speakers.

Arif Ahmed, a former Cambridge professor and the first government free speech tsar, had spent a year designing a new complaints scheme which would have allowed visiting speakers to lodge appeals if they were "no-platformed".

Cambridge's new code of conduct will ensure visiting speakers are allowed to express "controversial or

unpopular views" within the law and that "protest must not shut down debate".

The Russell Group university also said it would consider covering security costs for any controversial speakers. It insisted events would still need to be within the law, and that Cambridge would not provide a platform for hate speech.

Cambridge said other elements of its free speech plans had been "paused pending further clarity" following the Education Secretary's decision to halt the new legislation.

The university will also consider "whether any changes already implemented should be amended".

Other universities have also committed to strengthen free speech protections despite ministers shelving the Act, which was a flagship policy of the previous Conservative government.

It was introduced after a series of rows over the so-called cancellation of academics and students over their views. They include Dr Kathleen Stock, a philosophy professor, who resigned from Sussex University in 2021 after what she described as a witch-hunt over her views on transgender issues.

The University of Birmingham implemented a new free speech code based on the Act in April and has not withdrawn it, despite the legislation underpinning it no longer being in force.

Birmingham said it would also actively promote free speech on campus, and would ensure strengthened protections for controversial visiting speakers.

It said: "Universities do not function in a vacuum, and wider conflicts and disputes involving, for example, ethnicity, religion or belief, personal identity or political convictions, sometimes find expression on campus amongst the student and staff body."

"It is not the role of the University to protect or shield people from ideas or opinions with which they disagree, or which make them feel uncomfortable."

The fellow Russell Group university also said it would teach students and event participants to "disagree well", although it insisted the campus was not a "public square" where all voices were automatically given a platform.

Almost 450 academics have now signed a letter calling on Ms Phillipson to reinstate the "vital piece of legislation" on free speech.

The Department for Education was approached for comment.



Join the dots Yayoi Kusama, the Japanese artist, uses polka dots as inspiration to create Infinite Accumulation, a new permanent sculpture at Liverpool Street station in London.

One third of GPs have cut working hours in past year

By Laura Donnelly

NEARLY one in three GPs have cut their working hours in the past year, research shows.

The findings, from a mass survey that took place before family doctors embarked on industrial action, also found almost half now intend to reduce their hours.

The General Medical Council (GMC) said results from a poll of more than 4,000 medics showed that doctors felt overworked and were increasingly "taking matters into their own hands".

The findings show 29 per cent of GPs polled last autumn had reduced their contracted hours in the previous 12 months, as had 17 per cent of hospital consultants.

Overall, four in ten medics had refused to take on additional workload in the previous year. And 47 per cent of GPs and 46 per cent of hospital specialists said they intended to cut their contracted hours in the next year.

Among GPs, 29 per cent intended to seek locum work, while 38 per cent intended to find a role with less clinical work and 17 per cent wanted to retire.

The GMC said doctors were cutting their hours because too many felt exhausted and burned out. But the reg-

47pc

Proportion of GPs who said they intended to cut their working hours in the coming year

ulator said patients could end up at greater risk, if trends continue.

Charlie Massey, chief executive of the GMC, said: "We know that when doctors are overworked and under-supported there is a risk not only to doctors themselves, but also to patient care."

"These data show that more doctors are now taking matters into their own hands, not just to protect their own health and wellbeing, but that of their patients. For many, this will often be the only responsible course to deliver safe care. But this action comes with risks."

GPs have embarked on industrial action, in protest at funding of contracts. Potential measures include a cap on appointments, meaning practices could turn away record numbers of patients, heaping pressures on Ili and Accident & Emergency departments.

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesman said: "The NHS is broken, and the Secretary of State has been clear that he wants to work with doctors to get it back on its feet so it works for patients and staff."

"NHS England is working to address training bottlenecks so the health service has enough staff for the future, and we will recruit over 1,000 newly qualified GPs by the end of the year to reduce the burden on general practice."

Rise in clearing places eases path into Russell Group universities

By Poppy Wood

IT WILL be easier to get into a Russell Group university this year after the number of clearing places has risen, analysis suggests.

Three-quarters of the 24 elite universities currently have courses available through clearing, which matches applications to degree places that are yet to be filled.

More than 23,000 courses with vacancies for undergraduate students living in England were available on the

Ucas clearing site yesterday, according to the PA news agency sample of 130 of the UK's largest providers.

It included 18 Russell Group universities, which had a total of 3,892 courses for English residents available through clearing between them.

It marks an increase on last year, when a similar analysis showed 15 of the research-heavy universities had vacancies for English residents through the clearing site. Those 15 universities had 2,021 courses available between them in the same period last year.

The Russell Group universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Durham had no courses listed on Ucas's clearing site eight days before A-level results last year, but all three have vacancies now.

PA analysis also showed the overall number of university places available through clearing has risen to 23,306, up from 22,410 last year. The figures suggest it could be easier for pupils opening their A-level results next Thursday to find places at top universities.

Clearing is open to students who do not meet the conditions of their offer on

A-level results day, as well as those who did not receive any offers. Oxford and Cambridge do not offer places through clearing.

The rise means many universities could be scrambling to fill places next week, at a time when the sector faces serious financial pressure following a drop in lucrative international students.

Senior education sources said it could mean some universities lowering their entry standards for students who fail to meet their offers and call up to negotiate on A-level results day.

University leaders have warned of significant financial concerns in recent months after a dramatic drop in foreign student numbers. Fees from international students have largely propped up the sector in recent years as domestic tuition fees remain frozen at £9,250.

Home Office figures in April showed Tory restrictions on foreign student visas has slashed the number of dependants they are bringing to the UK by 90 per cent.

The number of overseas students applying for visas also fell 15 per cent,

from 39,900 in the first quarter of 2023 to 35,000 in the same period in 2024.

Experts have also warned that the cost of living crisis may have prompted a decline in domestic applications to university. Latest Ucas figures showed a slight drop in the proportion of students applying for a university place this year.

A Ucas spokesman said: "As is the case each year, clearing is likely to be competitive for the most selective courses and at the most selective universities."

The Russell Group was approached for comment.

Thieves steal items valued at £90k in church break-in

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

BURGLARS broke into a 1,300-year-old church and stole £90,000 worth of religious items.

Thieves stole silver treasures including a processional cross, two verges and a bishop's crook during a night-time raid on Sherborne Abbey in Dorset on Tuesday.

They also caused considerable damage to the wooden Saxon door to gain entry and cut a wire to a light.

There were no witnesses or CCTV footage, with police launching an investigation into the raid.

The Rev Martin Lee told *The Telegraph*: "The abbey is part of our history and our heritage. A lot of people are very angry and upset about this. It is a desecration of the abbey as well as the wider community."

The rector added that the criminals must have broken into the abbey between 9pm and 1am.

"This is an extremely sad day for the abbey and indeed for our community," Rev Lee continued.

"We are deeply shocked by this crime and must work hard to deal with the consequences and support all those in our community who are affected by this act of desecration to our beautiful abbey."

A spokesman for the diocese said: "Such actions are deeply upsetting for the community, who have lost items of value to both the town and the abbey."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the community at this distressing time," PCSO Mark Jones, of Dorset Police in Sherborne, said "high value items of silver" were stolen.

He said: "We are keen to trace the movement of the offenders in the areas of Hospital Lane, Abbey Road, Church Lane and Half Moon Street so I would ask residents to check their home CCTV and doorbell cameras to see if they have captured anything of relevance."



Wally the wallaby has been seen multiple times on the course at Oakmere Golf Club

Wallaby spotted playing around on village golf course

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THEY are native to Australasia and New Guinea – but now a wallaby has been spotted on a village golf club in Nottinghamshire.

The marsupial, dubbed "Wally" online, has been spotted multiple times by staff and club members at Oakmere Golf Club near Southwell in the past week. The wallaby, which is believed to be owned by a private collector, was first seen by the groundkeeper on July 29 and again over the next two days.

Daryl St John Jones, director of golf at the club, told the BBC: "I went down there and couldn't see it myself, so I posted a picture on Facebook, and then a member sent in some photographs."

"I've been here for 28 years, and we've never seen anything like a wallaby – it's just completely unique. It's a real surprise."

More than 400 wallabies have been spotted in the UK since the 1950s, the

National Biodiversity Network (NBN) said. Mandy Henshall, the communications and engagement manager for the NBN Trust, said: "A lot of the records of sightings we have are on the Isle of Man and others are spread around the UK."

"Wildlife records and data are so important in terms of helping researchers who are looking into the spread of non-native species or developers who are wanting to plan a new housing development."

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust warned that wallabies could be establishing a "breeding population" that "would be a concern as our native UK wildlife is already under threat".

Erin McDaid, from the organisation, added: "We're already having to deal with the impacts of non-native species such as mink, signal crayfish and plants such as Himalayan balsam and, as we tackle the nature and climate crisis, it's vital that we prevent any further damaging non-natives getting a foothold."

We will hit Israel 'at right time', says Tehran

Foreign minister says Iran will take revenge for killing of Hamas leader as Egypt declares a no-fly zone

By Jotam Confino in Tel Aviv

IRAN will retaliate "at the right time" over the killing of Hamas's political leader in Tehran, the country's acting foreign minister has said.

Ali Bagheri Khan said the country would strike "in the appropriate shape" amid reports the regime is still weighing how hard it will respond to the assassination.

Israel has been braced for an Iranian attack for more than a week since Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an apartment block he was staying in on July 31.

According to US media reports, White House officials believe they may have had some success in restraining Iran's desire to "punish" Israel.

Iranian sources briefed immediately after the assassination that a large-scale direct attack could target Tel Aviv and military bases nearby. But Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, has since mounted a wide diplomatic effort urging against any escalatory moves.

Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defence minister, warned the Israel Defence Forces, would strike Lebanon hard if Hezbollah, the Iranian proxy group based there, took part in a major joint strike with Tehran.

Fears rose yesterday that the revenge strike by Iran could come as early as today after Egypt told its airlines to avoid flying over Iran for a three-hour period in the early hours.

"Such a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) from Egypt is very unusual. It is possible that this is an indicator of an Iranian response to Israel, and in turn a potentially large set of air space disruptions – at the same time, there may be another reason," Opsgroup, an organisation that shares flight risk information, said.



A Palestinian car under cars wrecked by an Israeli air strike in Nablus in the occupied West Bank

But an earlier NOTAM issued by Iran warned of gun-firing around the city of Arak in roughly the same time period. Analysts said this could be tied to air defence practice, rather than an assault.

Iran was expected to wait until after yesterday's meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah

before making a final decision on its response, according to Saudi news outlet Al Arabiya. Iran had requested the meeting in the aftermath of Haniyeh's death, which it blamed on Israel, to gain support from other governments.

The OIC said the meeting would be held in response to the "ongoing atroci-

ties committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip". In addition to the assassination of Haniyeh, Fuad Shukur, Hezbollah's top military commander, was killed by an Israeli air strike in Beirut last week.

Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, issued fresh threats to Israel in a speech on Tuesday, warning the country to prepare for "any scenario".

"The decision has been made, and we have the ability, but it won't happen fast but slowly" he said.

Mr Gallant said Nasrallah "may drag Lebanon into paying extremely heavy prices. They can't even imagine what might happen. This may also deteriorate into a war. It's not theoretical."

According to *The Washington Post*, Tehran has accepted that Haniyeh was not killed by an Israeli missile but by a bomb smuggled into his apartment.

That could lead the regime to step down the nature of its response, US officials told the paper.

Washington's decision to move troops, jets and warships closer to Israel may also be deterring Iran from pushing the region into an all-out war.

The regime may even leave the bulk of any offensive to Hezbollah, CNN reported, rather than launching a direct attack. Privately, the White House was "enraged" when Israel admitted to the US it was behind the attack which killed Haniyeh, the *Washington Post* reported.

US officials viewed the assassination as a major setback in their careful, negotiations to end the war in Gaza.

The UK, meanwhile, has prepared for the evacuation of British citizens from Lebanon, with more than 1,000 troops on standby.

As airlines continued to cancel flights to Lebanon and Israel, ministers called for all British nationals to leave. "Tensions are high, and the situation could deteriorate rapidly," said David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary.

"My message to British nationals there is clear – leave now."

NICKEL MINING DEFORESTATION



PROCESSING FACTORY



MINING WORKERS



Rainforests destroyed in Indonesia's nickel mining drive to reach net zero

By Garry Lotulung

SWATHES of rainforest and coastal communities are being destroyed by a nickel mining boom in Indonesia prompted by the race to transition away from fossil fuels.

Across the country, a major drive to exploit the country's abundant natural resources is under way. Rows of chimneys, belching smoke and fumes, tower over the schools and houses of what were once rural communities.

Indonesia is now the world's largest nickel producer, holding 15 per cent of the globe's lateritic ore resources which are used in batteries to power electric

vehicles. The International Energy Agency predicts global demand for the metal will grow at least 65 per cent by 2030, and EVs and battery storage are set to take over from stainless steel as the largest end-user of nickel by 2040.

Chinese firms anchor the nickel market in Indonesia, but they are often fed cheap ore by hundreds of smaller, mostly locally-owned mines that dot the rainforest. These mines have transformed agrarian villages into lands of economic opportunity but come at a high environmental price.

In just three years, Indonesia has signed more than a dozen deals worth more than \$15 billion (£11.8 billion) for

battery materials and EV production with manufacturers including Hyundai, LG and Foxconn.

In 2021, Indonesia unveiled a new nickel smelter in the North Morowali Regency of Central Sulawesi. It has been equipped to process 13 million tons of nickel ore annually.

The island east of Borneo, is known for its pristine coral reefs, dive sites and prehistoric cave paintings. But it is fast becoming an industrial heartland.

The chimneys of PT Obsidian Stainless Steel, a nickel processing complex, spew smoke into the air 24-hours a day, with flames lighting up the night sky. The land in Molawe district – once filled

with fishing villages – is peppered with craters left by large scale mining.

The coastline has been abandoned. Sandy beaches are discoloured with a kaleidoscope of ore pigments and dotted with jetties where barges wait to deliver nickel ore.

After sunrise in the village of Labola, thousands of workers on scooters pack the main road. The mass of traffic crawls toward the Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park (IMIP), the heart of the country's nickel production.

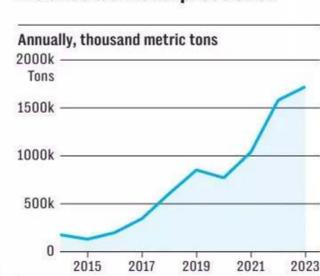
IMIP primarily processes nickel ore for stainless steel but now is increasingly producing higher-grade nickel for EV batteries. Labota was once a fishing village, but today it is home to 50 factories set across 10,000 acres.

Built as a joint venture between Chinese and Indonesian industrial companies, IMIP had 28,000 employees in 2019 and 43,000 in 2020. That number has now grown to about 66,000.

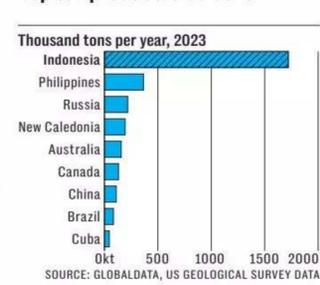
Roughly 6,000 workers from China live in dormitory blocks. After the afternoon shift ends at 5pm, many head straight for a makeshift market or to eat at the Chinese restaurant on the roadside in front of the smelter.

Investigations have revealed the widespread exploitation of Chinese workers in some of the factories, where

Indonesia's nickel production



Top ten producers of nickel



they are forced to work long hours with little pay, and enjoy few workers' rights.

The factories at IMIP pollute the air by spewing out sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and coal ash – particles that are "finer than beach sand and can be extremely harmful when inhaled".

Fishermen have also suffered, having to travel further out to sea to find clearer waters for their daily catch. In turn they are forced to spend more money on petrol – creating pollution.

At Tapunggaya in Sulawesi locals said pollution has destroyed their livelihoods.

"There are no fish here anymore," said Alwi, a 78-year-old fisherman.

"Children also suffer from respiratory problems due to the very severe air pollution here, which is very disturbing."

To mine nickel, large areas of trees are cut down and the land is excavated to create open pits, meaning the earth is more easily swept away when it rains.

In 2022, there were at least 21 floods and mudslides in South East Sulawesi. Yet between 2005 and 2008, before the proliferation of mines, there were two to three per year, according to data.

Alwi said that the lives of his fellow villagers have changed forever.

"The waste and pollution from mining have been killing us slowly," he said.

World news



Lasting impression A portrait of the Pope and a painting depicting Christ are presented to Francis at the Vatican. Earlier his general audience was briefly interrupted by two animal rights activists calling for an end to bullfighting. The women, who claim some Catholic priests offer blessings to bullfighters, were escorted out of the Paul VI hall by security guards.

Ukraine launches major cross-border raid

Putin accuses troops of 'firing indiscriminately' as enemy forces seize control of a gas transit station

By Joe Barnes

UKRAINE yesterday captured a major Russian gas transit terminal in its largest cross-border raid since the beginning of the war.

Vladimir Putin accused Kyiv of a "large-scale provocation" as its forces seized the village of Sudzha, a frontier settlement crucial to Moscow's gas shipments to Europe.

Russia's defence ministry said a thousand-strong grouping of Ukrainian troops had joined the battle as it continued for a second day yesterday.

By the end of the day, Russian sources had claimed Kyiv was in control of 11 villages, creating an advance about 10 miles deep and six miles wide.

Ukraine launched the incursion on Tuesday morning, when elements of its 22nd mechanised brigade crossed the border into Russia's Kursk region. Rybar, a Russian military blogger, called the incursion as a "difficult situation" for the Russians yesterday morning.

The account later said that Ukrainian forces had seized control of the gas transit station at Sudzha, one of the last remaining terminals for Russian gas into Europe.

Russian social media accounts showed a section of piping at the termi-

nal on fire after it was possibly damaged in the fighting.

Ukraine has frequently targeted Russia's oil and gas production and export facilities in a bid to slow down the Kremlin's main revenue generators fuelling its invasion forces. But this is the first time Kyiv has launched a major ground attack against such a facility.

Fewer than 40 miles to the north-east is Russia's Kursk nuclear power, which Russian military bloggers identified as a potential target for Ukraine's cross-border raid. "As you know, the Kyiv regime has undertaken another large-scale provocation," Putin said in a televised meeting with government officials.

"It is firing indiscriminately from various types of weapons, including rockets, at civilian buildings, residential houses and ambulances."

Valery Gerasimov, chief of Russia's general staff, later told Putin that Moscow's forces had killed nearly a third of the thousand-strong Ukrainian grouping and halted its advance.

"The operation will conclude with the defeat of the enemy and our advance to the state border," Mr Gerasimov said.

Kyiv's forces destroyed Russian aircraft and armoured vehicles in their capture of several settlements during the incursion. Footage circulated by Ukrainian sources appeared to show a first-person view (FPV) being used to take out a Russian Ka-52 helicopter.

Other battlefield footage seemed to show the destruction of at least two Russian tanks and the capture of dozens of Russian prisoners of war. So serious



Ukrainian troops were reported to have launched the attack into the frontier region of Kursk

was the initial incursion, thought to be made up of 400 Ukrainian troops and supported by dozens of armoured vehicles, that Russia fighter jets were seen swooping at low altitude over a road inside Russian territory. It appeared to be Ukraine's first coordinated large-scale offensive action after months of trying to hold back Russian gains in the eastern Donetsk region.

Kyiv's political and military leaders neither confirmed nor denied details of the assault, in line with decisions to maintain secrecy around active operations. But Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, shared a cryptic message last night during his nightly video address, saying: "Today I spoke with Commander-in-Chief Syrskyi



about our actions, our steps. The details will follow later."

Ukraine has previously helped stage attacks on Russia's border regions of Kursk, Bryansk and Belgorod led by anti-Putin Russian citizens fighting alongside Kyiv. But the latest incursion appeared to be one of the largest Ukrainian ground attacks on the Russian mainland since Putin ordered his full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Russian sources claimed that the advancing Ukrainian troops were equipped with US-donated Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, while unverified video appeared to show American Stryker vehicles also involved in the fight. "Compared to previous cross-border operations, this one is notable in

'The operation will conclude with the defeat of the enemy and our advance to the state border'

that it appears to involve Ukrainian conventional forces and not just from GUR [Ukraine's military intelligence]," Rob Lee, at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a US think tank, said.

Local authorities said at least five people died in the offensive and 28 more were injured, the bulk of them residents of Sudzha and Korenevo, according to Andrey Loktionov, the region's chief surgeon.

Alexey Smirnov, the governor of Kursk, claimed the situation was "under control", while authorities evacuated residents from border towns caught up in the fighting.

Putin said he had organised aid for residents and appointed Denis Manturov, the Russian deputy prime minister, to oversee the response to Ukraine's cross-border raid.

Military analysts said the Ukrainian operation was unlikely to achieve war-defining results but suggested it had forced Russia to deploy forces from the Ukraine's Donbas regions, where it has made major gains in recent months.

Mick Ryan, a former Australian general, said: "One driver is political. The government of Ukraine wants to shift momentum and the strategic narrative, and have directed such an operation."

"Another potential driver is operational. That is, to draw away Russian forces from the Donbas to defend on the Kursk axis."

"However, given Russian advantages in manpower, Russia can probably cover both with limited impact on its operations in eastern Ukraine."

Two dead and six survivors pulled from rubble after historic German hotel caves in

By Rob Hyde in Germany

A HOTEL has partially collapsed in Germany's Moselle wine region, killing two people.

Investigators believe 14 people were inside the historic Reichschenke Zum Ritter Götz hotel when the upper floor caved in.

Five people escaped unharmed and rescuers, using drones and sniffer dogs pulled six others out of the debris including a young child and his mother.

One woman's body was recovered but Joerg Teusch, the head of the rescue operation said they were having difficulty reaching the body of the second victim - a male.

The partial collapse happened at 10.55pm on Tuesday, leaving concrete rubble scattered in the street.

The two-storey hotel suffered severe structural damage, leaving the roof unstable and compressing two floors on one side of the building.

About 250 emergency services personnel from the fire brigade, police and medical services were involved in the rescue effort.

Neighbouring homes were evacuated in case of further collapse and 31 people were moved to safety.

The cause of the collapse remains



A woman is helped out of the collapsed hotel in Germany's Moselle region

unclear, with no official statements forthcoming from emergency services.

The hotel in Kroev, dates back to 1685, and is located in a village known for its picturesque position along the Moselle River, historic buildings and vineyards.

This is not the first time a hotel has collapsed in Germany in recent years.

In 2010, a partial collapse occurred at the Empire Riverside hotel in Hamburg where 13 construction workers were injured.

Three years earlier, a section of the Hotel Neptun in Rostock collapsed when a crane toppled over during construction work. Several construction workers were injured.

Italy bows down to critics and doubles 'billionaires tax' for wealthy new arrivals

By Josephine McKenna in Rome

ITALY will no longer hold the same allure for Europe's super-rich after it doubled the rate of its flat tax for new foreign residents.

In 2017, an attractive tax rate was introduced under a centre-Left government as an incentive to draw in wealthy individuals looking to escape higher taxation elsewhere in Europe.

Ministers at the time hoped the influx would benefit Italy's economy but the move has also been criticised, especially in Milan, where wealthy foreigners are perceived to have driven up property prices and the cost of living.

Giuseppe Sala, Milan's mayor, said last year that while tax incentives attracted new wealth to the city, more needed to be done to address inequality.

Yesterday, prime minister Giorgia Meloni's cabinet yielded to the opponents and approved a rise in the annual flat tax on overseas income for new residents from £86,000 to £172,000.

By paying the flat tax, residents are exempt from other levies on overseas earnings, gifts and inheritance for 15 years.

The measure has come too late to damage the income of the scheme's most high-profile beneficiary, foot-

baller Cristiano Ronaldo, who moved his tax residence to Italy between 2018 and 2021 when he played for Juventus. The Portuguese striker now plays his club football in Saudi Arabia. Giancarlo Giorgetti, the finance minister, said the government was against the idea of creating competition to offer "fiscal favours" to the rich.

"We are against unleashing a contest among countries for favourable tax situations for people and businesses,"

'We are against unleashing a contest for favourable tax situations as countries like Italy are bound to lose'

because countries like Italy are bound to lose," he said.

The prime minister has been looking for ways to raise more revenue amid a squeeze on Italy's public finances as she prepares for her upcoming autumn budget.

The government's latest move is expected to make a small contribution to bolstering public finances but do little to mollify European Union concerns about excessive spending.

Rome is struggling to rein in a budget

deficit, which reached 7.4 per cent of gross domestic product last year - well above the 3 per cent target for EU member states.

Mr Giorgetti said 1,186 people had taken advantage of the flat tax since its introduction in 2017 but it was difficult to evaluate how much had been reinvested in Italy.

Italy's audit court has estimated that £218 million in taxes were paid under the scheme between 2018 and 2022.

The Italian government's move is unlikely to satisfy the European Union's demands for more stringent fiscal reform.

In its in-depth review of the Italian economy released in April, the European Commission issued a wake-up call to the government. It expressed concern over the country's economic vulnerability, noting both its high debt and a deficit which it said was well above acceptable levels.

"High public debt remains a major vulnerability for the Italian economy," the commission said.

"In combination with the increased borrowing costs following monetary policy normalisation, the high debt stock implies projected debt servicing costs above 4 per cent of GDP this year and next," the review said.

Trump attacks Walz as 'very into the trans'

US ELECTIONS 2024

This is a ticket that would want this country to go communist immediately, says former president

By Rozina Sabur DEPUTY US EDITOR

DONALD TRUMP has attacked Kamala Harris's running-mate choice as "very into the transgender" and "very insulting to Jewish people".

The Republican 2024 presidential candidate said he "couldn't be more

thrilled" Ms Harris, 59, had chosen Tim Walz as her vice-presidential candidate.

Mr Walz's record as the governor of Minnesota has been thrust into the spotlight since the announcement, with Republicans seizing on his record over transgender issues.

The 60-year-old signed a bill into law establishing Minnesota as a "trans refuge", as well as an executive order last year making the state among the first to protect access to gender-affirming health care.

Trump, who has called Ms Harris and Mr Walz a "radical Left duo" said he would be focusing on the Midwestern governor's support for the trans community on the campaign trail.

"This is a ticket that would want this country to go communist immediately - if not sooner," Trump told Fox News's morning show *Fox & Friends* yesterday. "He's very heavy into transgender.

Anything transgender he thinks is great."

Trump, 78, added: "He's not where the country is on anything."

Trump campaign insiders have suggested they were relieved by Ms Harris's decision to opt for Mr Walz as her running mate over her other short-listed candidate, the Jewish Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro.

Republican strategists believe Mr Shapiro, 51, a rising Democratic talent, could have delivered his home state for his party, which is considered critical to winning November's election.

Mr Shapiro faced an intensive lobbying campaign from progressives over his staunch support for Israel.

His snub in the selection process has triggered accusations of anti-Semitism from Republicans.

Trump said the snub was "very insulting to Jewish people", but added

he "couldn't be more thrilled" Ms Harris went with Mr Walz, casting him as an easier opponent to defeat.

The former president also signalled he was prepared to debate with Ms Harris "in the pretty near future", despite backing out of a scheduled appearance against his Democratic opponent on

'What bothers me about Walz is the stolen valour garbage - don't pretend to be something you're not'

ABC News on Sept 10. Trump suggested an alternative head-to-head with Ms Harris on Fox News on Sept 4, prompting her campaign team to accuse him of "running scared".

Speaking to Fox News yesterday, Trump teased the prospect of an

announcement on a new debate "fairly soon". Trump's running mate, JD Vance, also tore into Mr Walz following claims that the Minnesota governor chose to leave his national guard unit shortly before its deployment to Iraq.

Mr Walz served 24 years in the army national guard, rising to command sergeant major, one of the highest enlisted ranks in the military, but retired in 2005 before completing all his training for the rank.

Mr Vance, who served in Iraq as a US Marine, accused his Democratic opponent of "shameful" conduct.

"What bothers me about Tim Walz is the stolen valour garbage.

"Do not pretend to be something that you're not," he said.

James Singer, a spokesman for the Harris campaign, said: "On Fox News this morning, criminal Donald Trump rambled, lied, and offered America

nothing but chaos, hate and anger - the polar opposite of what we saw in Philadelphia last night. We aren't surprised Trump wouldn't show his face, he's ashamed of his dangerous Project 2025 agenda, is afraid to debate, and has no positive vision to present to the American people."

Ms Harris's campaign said it had raised \$36 million (£28 million) since she announced Mr Walz as her running mate. He was reported to have confessed to having never used a teleprompter during the vetting process, but impressed Ms Harris during their interview with his easy-going manner and candid admissions of his vulnerabilities, including confessing to being a "bad debater".

It was Mr Walz's commitment to being a "team player" that ultimately set him apart from Mr Shapiro, aides to Ms Harris suggested.

Taylor Swift concerts cancelled and two people arrested after terror plot foiled

By Andrew Buncombe and Rob Hyde in Berlin

TWO people have been arrested and three of Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna were cancelled after police said they had foiled an Islamist plot to attack the venue she was set to play at.

People were evacuated in the small Austrian community of Ternitz as one of the suspects, aged 19, was arrested. The other suspect was detained in Vienna.

Local authorities reportedly acted after receiving a tip-off from another country's intelligence services. The teenager is said to have recently sworn allegiance to Islamic State.

"With confirmation from government officials of a planned terrorist attack at Ernst Happel Stadium, we have no choice but to cancel the three scheduled shows for everyone's safety," Barracuda Music, an event organiser in the city, posted on Instagram yesterday.

Swift was scheduled to perform in front of 60,000 fans today, tomorrow and Saturday at the Ernst-Happel Stadium in Vienna for the international leg of The Eras Tour.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, police said that the two men were sympathisers of the Islamic State.

"The two suspects became radicalised by the internet, a 19-year-old citizen of Lower Austria made an oath of allegiance to the current leader of IS at the beginning of July," police said, according to the Associated Press.

The teenager is reportedly an Austrian citizen of North Macedonian descent. Officials said that the two suspects had undertaken "concrete preparatory measures" for a terrorist attack after police suspected explosives were stored at the home of the suspect in Ternitz.

Police also said that chemical substances were secured at the home of the teenager and were being evaluated.

"From the current standpoint of the investigation we assume that the target of the attack were events in the Vienna region," police added.

In the US, officials who had been briefed on events said that the Austrian authorities were looking for an additional individual or individuals who may have some knowledge of this planned attack.

Franz Ruf, the public security director at Austria's interior ministry, said that authorities were aware of "prepara-

tory actions" for a possible attack "and also that there is a focus by the 19-year-old perpetrator on the Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna", the Austria Press Agency reported.

News that the concert could have been a target for terror sparked outrage among political leaders in Austria.

"It is incredibly sad and bitter that the concerts had to be canceled. We must not let ourselves be intimidated by madmen," Christoph Wiederkehr, the deputy mayor of Vienna, wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Chancellor Karl Nehammer also wrote on social media, saying that "the situation was very serious". He said: "Thanks to the intense cooperation... the threat was recognised early and a tragedy was averted. Islamist terrorism threatens our security and freedom in many Western countries."

'Thanks to intense cooperation ... the threat was recognised early and a tragedy was averted'

The news sparked a flood of disappointment from fans.

Chiara, 19, who is from Vienna, told local media: "It's so sad that they're trying to use the concert for their agenda. Taylor Swift and the community stand for love, friendship, and support."

Another fan, Hanna, 30, added: "I want the money back, I want to see Taylor. I've been looking forward to this for a year. Why do people have to ruin something so innocent?"

The cancellation of the concerts, part of a global phenomenon that has seen the 34-year-old singer fill stadiums around the world, came hours after authorities said security measures for the Swift concerts would be stepped up.

Mr Ruf said that there would be a special focus among other things on entry checks and concertgoers should plan a bit more time.

Vienna police chief Gerhard Pürstl said that while any concrete danger had been minimised, an abstract risk justified raising security.

Barracuda Music said that "all tickets will be automatically refunded within the next 10 business days".

Swift's website also says the concerts had been cancelled.

The singer is next due to perform at Wembley Stadium on Aug 15.



ALLOWER NORWAY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Norwegian royal arrested for alleged assault

The Crown Princess of Norway's son has been arrested over an alleged assault on a woman in an Oslo flat. Marius Borg Hoiby, 27, was held in custody for 30 hours. His lawyer, Oyvind Bratlien, told *Se og Hør* magazine: "It is important that the process is allowed to take its course in the right way, and that the media respects my client's need for privacy and tranquillity. The charge concerns bodily harm, which according to the law is the least serious form of violence." He added that Mr Hoiby had not "been made aware of the full content of the case".

Biden is plotting to steal back the nomination, says ex-president

By Lilia Sebouai

DONALD TRUMP claims Joe Biden will attempt to seize back the Democratic nomination from Kamala Harris at the party's convention this month.

The former president posted a rant online in which he baselessly suggested Mr Biden was bitter he had been pressured into dropping out of the election and wanted to re-stake his claim to the White House.

"[Biden] feels he made a historically tragic mistake by handing over the US presidency, a coup... and he wants it back, now!!!" Trump added in the post.

Trump also claimed that Mr Biden's presidency was "unconstitutionally stolen from him" by Ms Harris, Barack Obama and several other leading Democrats who are the "people in the world he most hates".

Mr Biden dropped out of the 2024 presidential election race more than two weeks ago after his campaign became mired in questions about his age and fitness for office.

Though he expressed irritation with moves to end his candidacy, there appear to be no grounds to Trump's claims that he is planning or able to stage a comeback.

When he resigned, saying it was in "the best interest" of the Democratic Party and the country that he should, he endorsed Ms Harris, his vice-president,

as the presidential candidate. Politico reported that his team is also in talks with Ms Harris's advisers to deploy him on the campaign trail to states he won in 2020, such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan.

On Tuesday, Ms Harris got the votes of 99 per cent of participating delegates in a virtual roll call, effectively sewing up her status as the Democratic nominee to take on Trump in November.

Since she was switched to top the presidential ticket, polls have begun to

99pc

Votes Kamala Harris received from participating delegates in a virtual roll call, effectively sewing up the nomination

paint a different picture of November's winner. She has surpassed Trump in polls where Mr Biden had lagged behind. Trump has lashed out at the challenge he now faces by accusing Ms Harris's campaign of violating federal campaign finance laws. In a complaint with the Federal Election Commission, David Warrington, the Trump campaign's general counsel, said Ms Harris could not claim the millions of dollars that were donated to Mr Biden.

On Tuesday, Ms Harris announced

Tim Walz as her pick for vice-president. The 60-year-old Minnesota governor - formerly a teacher, a football coach and an Army National Guard enlisted soldier - is believed to have been chosen for his plain-speaking and mid-Western appeal.

Trump said that he was "absolutely surprised" by the move and denounced the Harris-Walz ticket as the "most radical Left duo in American history."

But Democrats, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the New York congresswoman, and Josh Shapiro, the Pennsylvania governor previously touted as a possible running mate for Ms Harris, have already voiced their support for the vice-president's decision.

Trump was not asked to explain his social media comment when he spoke to Fox News yesterday.

Rather he used the opportunity to further lambast Ms Harris and Mr Walz. "This is a ticket that would want this country to go communist immediately, if not sooner," he told *Fox & Friends*.

Despite his seemingly angry post on Truth Social the day before as Ms Harris and Mr Walz enjoyed a raucous reception in Philadelphia, he claimed to be happy the Wisconsin governor had been selected as the Democratic vice presidential pick. He said: "He's a very, very liberal man. He's a shocking pick and I'm thrilled. I could not be more thrilled... He's a smarter version of her."

Bluey bandit 'steals \$600,000 worth of Australian minted coins'

By Our Foreign Staff

SPECIAL edition Bluey coins minted in Australia were stolen in a haul worth more than \$600,000 (£300,000), police have said.

An Australian mint worker has been arrested over the theft of the commemorative coins for the popular children's television show.

The 47-year-old is accused of stealing 63,000 unreleased, limited-edition AUD\$1 coins from a secure warehouse in the Sydney suburb of Wetherill Park in June, according to "Strike Force Bandit", a special unit police set up to investigate the theft.

One of last year's most streamed television shows in the United States, the Australian animated show targeted at children is loved by adults too and is the 14th highest-rated show of all time.

The coins, produced by the Australian mint, are legal tender and resemble regular A\$1 coins albeit with one face featuring the anthropomorphic canine character "Bluey". Police say they are selling online for 10 times their face value.

A similar run of special commemorative coins sell for



The complete set of Bluey commemorative coins, produced by the Australian mint, are legal tender, left; the cartoon character, inset



AUD\$20 each on the mint's website - coins designed to be collectors' items only and not legal tender. One eBay seller was charging almost AUD\$600 for a pack of three.

Det Supt Joseph Doueihy told a press conference he was not initially aware of the show's popularity. "The theft of these coins has deprived a lot of young

children and members of the community from having access to these coins, so we're doing our absolute best to try to recover these coins and put them back into circulation."

Police said the man worked at the warehouse where the coins were being stored for two days on their way to Brisbane. He alleged he stole the coins, which weighed almost half a ton, from the back of a truck with the help of two male accomplices. The coins were then sold online within hours.

A raid on a Sydney house in June recovered 189 coins but Det Supt Doueihy said the vast bulk of are already in circulation.

Comment

Woke repatriation efforts are turning us into a global laughing stock

DAVID ABULAFIA



News from Oxford raises the hope that museums are at last seeing reason and recognising that their collections are not piles of loot. The Indian High Commission had demanded the return to India of a small 11th-century statue of the god Shiva, acquired by the Ashmolean Museum within the past few decades. But the University Council has thankfully demurred, since, tellingly, no Indian museum has claimed the artefact, despite campaigns to repatriate lost treasures.

When demands for the restitution of objects arrive from foreign governments, they inevitably aim at the grandest pieces – the Elgin Marbles or the Benin Bronzes, the Koh-i-noor Diamond – but first it is important they establish the principle, so demands for the restitution of smaller and less well-known pieces are partly designed to prepare the ground, even if no institution especially wants them. The rejection of Western artefacts is more common that many realise; not everyone in the places where museum treasures originated wants them back. The massive Moai statue in the central courtyard of the British Museum was acquired from Easter Island in 1868, with the active help of the islanders. Its name, Hoia Hakananai'a, means "stolen", which sounds like a good reason for its return – except that this name predates the arrival of the British ship that carried it away. Moreover, the mayor of Easter Island recently insisted that it is much better for it to stay in London, where people from all over the world can learn about the remarkable history of the island, rather than returning it to one of the most remote inhabited spots on the planet.

Another example is when the British Institute in East Africa, based in Kenya, decided to try to do what they saw as the right thing and return to Tanzania

human remains its archaeologists had excavated. But the Tanzanian authorities simply replied "no thank you", as they had no facilities to look after them.

Not that any of this matters to those hell-bent on seeing all the objects in our museums as pillage. The 11th-century statue in Oxford was not "imperial plunder" – it was still in India when the country became independent – but down the road from the Ashmolean, Prof Dan Hicks, a curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, admits no compromise: "The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of the most violent spaces in Oxford..." he argues.

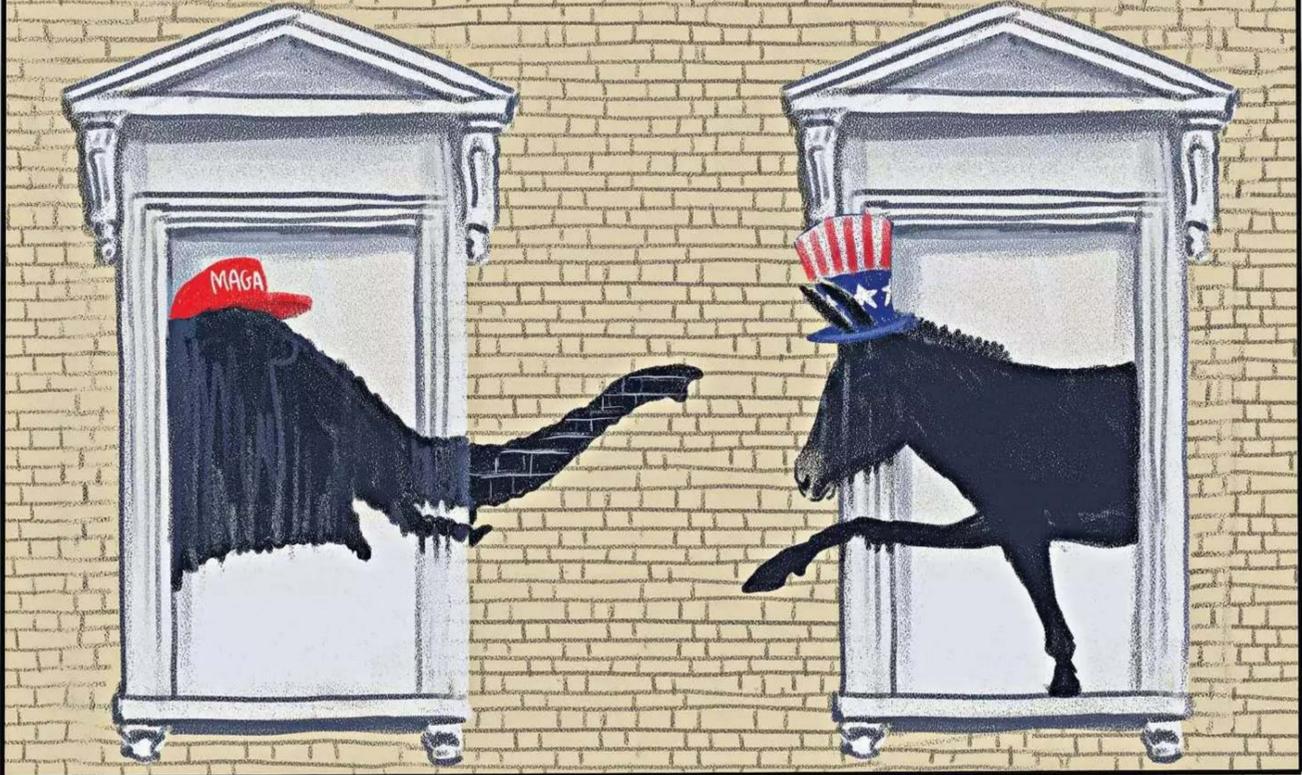
Appointing Hicks to his post was, it seems, rather like a shepherd appointing a wolf as his sheepdog. Hicks and his cronies perpetuate the myth that everything we have is loot, when the vast majority of items were given or bought and legally exported, a point brilliantly made in Justin M Jacobs's new book, *Plunder? How Museums Got Their Treasures*. The stories they present are always selective, ignoring the diplomatic negotiations that rendered possible the acquisition of treasures like the Elgin Marbles, and the way that the Benin Bronzes were used in elaborate and bloody sacrifices conducted within closed palace precincts.

To insist that countries across the world want our (or their) stuff back and should get it is another example of Western virtue signalling, an arrogant expression of supposed moral superiority. By stripping from our museums objects that illustrate the history of humanity right across the globe, we show not appreciation but disdain for the achievements of other cultures.

David Abulafia is professor emeritus of Mediterranean history at the University of Cambridge

LET THE CONTEST BEGIN

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These sickening riots have exposed our social model as a fraudulent sham

None of the UK's ills justify the racist violence of recent days. The thugs must be defeated pitilessly

ALLISTER HEATH



Stop, just stop, all of you jabbering away on social media. Do not legitimise evil, wherever it comes from, and do not contextualise or rationalise any of the violence, the racism, the arson, the brick-throwing, the looting and the intimidation. Do not appeal to "root causes"; down that road lies relativistic hell. The rioters are atavistic barbarians, detestable nihilists; they have no excuses, no extenuating circumstances, no worthwhile message to convey. They must be caught and jailed, and the King's peace re-established.

The vast majority, but not all, of the attacks on people and property in recent days have been led by far-Right fascists. The attack on a mosque in Southport was an anti-Muslim pogrom, a heinous act; the attempted burning of hotels containing immigrants was a depraved attempt at engineering a massacre. A Muslim-owned shop was incinerated in Northern Ireland, in a sickening echo of race riots past. There have been numerous racist attacks – white vandals hunting anybody looking non-white, and chanting slogans too grim to print. The targeting of immigration lawyers defiles the rule of law. The assaults against police, the destruction of property and the burning and looting of high street

shops: the culprits are disgracing Britain.

The security in front of the mosque in my local area has been massively enhanced, with far more guards and stewards, all peering intently at the cars as they drive by. For the first time, a dog unit was parked in front. The fear and worry in that community at the surge in anti-Muslim hate in recent days is palpable. Members of other religious minorities are also on edge: imbecilic bigots have never been good at distinguishing between different non-Christian faiths.

Figures on the mainstream Right correctly refused to display any empathy towards the London rioters of 2011, or Just Stop Oil motorway saboteurs. It is dismaying, therefore, that some this time around fell into the trap of caveating their condemnation with references to the "understandable grievances" of the left-behind. The degenerates on our streets must be denounced out of hand, no ifs and no buts.

In this spirit, a second category of disgusting violence must also be called out: that being conducted by "sectarian gangs", to use the terminology coined by Robert Jenrick, the candidate for Tory party leader. There has been a lot less of this violence than of the far-Right variety, but it deserves commensurate condemnation. This time, it has been the Left that has behaved hypocritically, seeking to downplay hatred.

Recent events in Birmingham were shocking. False rumours had circulated among the local Muslim community that far-Right agitators were about to descend, and counter-activists had gathered. An LBC reporter describes seeing hundreds of men, many "wearing hoods and masks, flying Palestinian flags and for some, carrying what appeared to be weapons". The

reporter was shouted at by passing cars, told that he "would regret" being in the area, ordered to leave and chased away by "six South Asian men [who] started walking towards us, carrying what looked like a metal pole". The police were not on the ground; he only saw "perhaps" two or three police cars drive by, without stopping, over a critical 40-minute period. A Sky News broadcast was interrupted by a masked man on a motorbike who sped up and shouted: "Yo, free Palestine, f--- the EDL", and forced the reporters to depart. A man in a balaclava stabbed the tyre of one of Sky's vans with a knife. A car was attacked, as was a pub, and a man injured.

Anti-white racism is as evil as any other kind of racism, and must be taken as seriously. The explanation from a police superintendent for the lack of police presence was problematic. He claimed the force's response had been determined after meeting "community leaders", helping it to "understand the style of policing we needed to deliver". This two-tier approach cannot be the answer, and is undermining equality in front of the law.

I will highlight a third kind of violence this week: that of an Israelophobic or anti-Semitic nature. Some pro-Palestine activists, armed with axes and whips, ram-raided the UK HQ of an Israeli defence firm with a prison van and attacked staff and police with sledgehammers. The factory supplies technology to the British Army, and none of its output is used by the Israeli army (though it would be perfectly proper if it were). More generally, we have seen an explosion in far-Left and Islamist anti-Semitism since the October 7 attacks, and it is becoming normalised in an unforgivable display of double-standards.

All in all, Britain has a massive

problem. Our model is a fraudulent sham. Our economy isn't working, especially for the bottom end of the population. It isn't working for entire regions. Our zero-sum game welfare state is crippled by massive dependency and a misplaced sense of entitlement.

We have been lulled into a sense of complacency by the success stories of the British integration model – the collapse in racism, the surge in mixed marriages, the remarkable progress of many minorities in education, home ownership, income and politics, thanks to the legacy of the meritocratic and capitalist revolution of the 1980s and 1990s.

But this encouraged our centrist, "sensible" elites to turn a blind eye to the other side of the coin: the drastic decay and decline of opportunity in many provincial towns, juxtaposed with record immigration; the worrying prevalence of extremism, including anti-Semitism; increased ethnic conflict between minority groups; the election of sectarian MPs; and many other below-the-radar tensions. We need a rethink on immigration, legal and illegal: we are incapable of integrating current volumes. Our long-standing approach to policing, with its proto-colonial emphasis on managing "community relations", fetishises a failed kind of state multiculturalism. A colour-blind approach, centred on individuals not groups, is the solution.

We must reject woke identity politics: the far-Right is now adopting its grievance culture, seeking to radicalise elements of the white working class. Policing by consent is ending: we will need a lot more officers, as in France.

None of Britain's pathologies justify in any way the racist violence of recent days. The thugs must be defeated pitilessly. This is time for moral clarity.

FOLLOW Allister Heath on Twitter @AllisterHeath READ MORE at telegraph.co.uk/opinion

We have been lulled into a sense of complacency by the success stories of the British integration model

Don't give Whitehall's censors a blank cheque

The sinister 'Counter Disinformation Unit' is back. It won't stop riots but will threaten our freedoms

SILKIE CARLO



Isn't it curious how almost every problem this country faces seems to have a ready-made solution rooted in digital authoritarianism?

Less than one month into his premiership, Sir Keir Starmer was faced with an unthinkable monstrous fatal stabbing of three little girls, followed by some of the most shameful scenes of street violence in our country's living memory. His Government's response has notably included online censorship powers and AI facial recognition surveillance.

There could hardly be a more brutal, physical, real-world problem than people in Britain attacking each other, destroying small businesses and vandalising people's homes because of their perceived ethnicity, religion and

colour. And yet some Labour ministers have responded to this backwards brutality by pointing the finger at online disinformation and agitating for state-backed social media censorship – and now Technology Secretary Peter Kyle is reviving Whitehall's disgraced Counter Disinformation Unit (now deceptively rebranded as the National Security Online Information Team) which was responsible for the secretive, politicised and sometimes unlawful speech-policing against Brits during the pandemic.

The Government's "counter disinformation" activity during Covid, exposed by campaign group Big Brother Watch and *The Telegraph*, included spreading actual disinformation about British broadcaster Julia Hartley-Brewer across the UK and even US governments because she opposed the prospect of mandatory vaccines in schools. "Countering disinformation" also meant keeping tabs on former minister David Davis MP, noting that he was "influential" and "highly critical of government", because he questioned mandatory vaccine passports and lockdown modelling. It even included keeping notes on social media posts by world-leading scientists like Professor Carl

Heneghan, deploying a secretive Army unit to keep tabs on domestic political dissent, making "daily" extrajudicial censorship requests to foreign social media companies to suppress lawful online speech in Britain.

If the history of chaos that threatens democracy teaches us anything, it is to protect our democratic rights with more vigour, not less, when they are under threat. At a time when parts of the population are in complete disharmony, to crack down on free speech would be a grave mistake.

Not only would renewed censorship inflame tensions, sow distrust and undermine democracy – it would fail to address the cancer of hatred in our country. The so-called experts at the Center for Countering Digital Hate went so far as to say "American social media giants are to blame for the chaos in Southport." It is a "textbook example" of how "disinformation" can lead to real-world violence, the group said – ironically, posting it on social media.

That's because early posts spreading across online platforms falsely alleged that the Southport suspect was an asylum seeker. But these lies were spread by hardened racists, Islamophobes and far-Right agitators – they are a blatant symptom of the problem, not the cause. But even if the suspect had been an asylum seeker,

surely we can agree that the racist thuggery that followed would have been just as heinous? And who would the digital censors have blamed then, without "disinformation" as the problem in need of a censorial solution?

No one who is serious about anti-racism should make such a lazy assertion that misinformation must obviously result in real-world violence, framing it as some kind of natural consequence. It is not.

How we diagnose these problems is important because with lazy explanations come lazy policies. The explanation of "internet lies" is a neat way to package the long-term breakdown in law and order, disintegrating social fabric and simmering racism in our country – and it comes with the equally neat response of online censorship, which benefits elites who have never really trusted us with free and open access to information online.

To explain how groups of Britons have set fire to hotels full of men, women and children, we need to focus on those individuals and the wider health of our society, not give Government censors a blank cheque to decide what we can read, see, or hear.

FOLLOW Silkie Carlo on Twitter @silkiecarlo READ MORE at telegraph.co.uk/opinion

Silkie Carlo is director of Big Brother Watch

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Begum's case shows we have our limits

Shamima Begum will not be returning to the United Kingdom. The Supreme Court yesterday said the 24-year-old could not further appeal against the ruling of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, which upheld the then home secretary Sajid Javid's 2022 decision to strip her of British citizenship. This means Begum has no further paths within the UK to challenge her exclusion from Britain, although she may turn to the European Court of Human Rights.

Begum now finds herself in the al-Roj detention camp in Syria. In 2015, aged 15, she left her home in London's Bethnal Green, where she had been living with her Bangladeshi-born parents, to travel to Syria with two school friends. On arriving there, Begum joined Islamic State and married a 23-year-old Dutch-born IS fighter. The girlfriends she travelled with followed similar trajectories; one was killed in an air strike and the other is missing.

Begum was stripped of her British nationality on the grounds that she would pose a security threat if she was allowed to return. She had joined an organisation intent on the destruction of the UK and which had declared war on the whole of the West. This revocation was only possible as Begum was entitled to Bangladeshi citizenship, a fact that the courts have accepted. If she had not been entitled to the nationality of another country, her UK passport could not have been revoked as our courts have held that the home secretary does not have the power to make someone stateless.

Some have argued that Mr Javid's decision was excessive, on account of Begum's age and whether she had been groomed and trafficked into IS hands.

She has also been treated more harshly than past British citizens who have taken up arms against the UK. Of the very small number of Britons who took the side of Nazi Germany in the Second World War, most returned home and – with two notable exceptions, William Joyce and John Amery, both hanged – received arguably too light punishments.

The wartime comparison is an apt one, as IS too is a genocidal organisation. Its attempts to annihilate the Yazidi people, other non-Muslims and those it regards as heretics must not be forgotten. British citizenship cannot be an absolute right regardless of who that person also pledges allegiance to. Actions have consequences. Mr Javid's initial decision, and the courts' upholding of that decision, means that there are now clear and justifiable limits to our tolerance.

Do no harm

When the final report of the Cass Review was published in April our worst fears over the provision of gender identity services for children were confirmed. It was a damning indictment of a medical establishment in thrall to trans activists, which compromised the wellbeing of young people by hurrying them towards life-changing treatments that most did not require and, after a time, some realised they did not want.

NHS England has now accepted the recommendations of the landmark review in full, and has published plans to develop the first NHS service to treat transgender patients who want to return to their sex at birth. Already, the controversial Tavistock gender identity clinic has been closed and replaced with eight specialist hubs which will take a more holistic approach to treating gender-questioning children. The previous government imposed a ban on puberty blockers being prescribed to children for gender-based reasons, and the newly-installed Health Secretary has rightly made clear his intention to retain this, despite opposition from within his own party.

Though the last government was far too slow to act, the hope must now be that this shameful episode is drawing to a close. But how did it ever come to this? We may never know the full extent of the harm caused by prioritising dogma over evidence. Some young adults may face a lifetime of regret for decisions they did not fully understand.

Yet still, trans extremists are seeking to downplay the numbers of detransitioners and delegitimise Dr Cass's painstaking work. And still, those who dare challenge their pernicious orthodoxy are too often branded as bigots. Labour will need to display great courage in the face of a vociferous lobby which may have been discredited but has not yet been deterred.

Wish you were here?

That marvellous Norman survival, the Tower of London, features on stamps issued today, not for the first time. The White Tower was depicted on a 9p stamp in 1978 and more obliquely on a stamp marked "Olympic Games" in 2008, four years before the London event. Now the King's head appears beside some guests in the Tower who lost their heads. Anyone living in France with literate friends in Britain might be lucky enough to receive a letter with Lady Jane Grey on the stamp, costing £2.50, the charge for even an ordinary postcard to the Continent. What the French are to make of the Nine Days' Queen is hard to tell, though Paul Delaroche's painting of her execution was the hit of the Paris Salon in 1834. Another of today's £2.50 stamps shows a raven – a Tower guest, we must hope, more reliable than the post.



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The riots have raised fundamental questions about how Britain deals with public disorder

SIR – I was a constable with the Metropolitan Police for 30 years, so I say this with a heavy heart – but with the police struggling to control the streets, and a reluctance to deploy the military, the time has come for the creation of a third force, focused on public order.

Such a force would leave the police to police, and the military to get on with their job. France and Italy have something similar, and America has the National Guard for times like these.

We can't go on as we are.
Ian Hargreaves
London W14

SIR – In the bowels of New Scotland Yard rests the PLUS programme introduced in the late 1980s by the then commissioner Sir Peter Imbert.

Part of this contains the blueprint for sector policing, where teams of local officers are led by inspectors and sergeants, and are dedicated to policing in accordance with local needs. When the scheme was

introduced correctly in certain areas of London, crime fell and public satisfaction with the police rose. This is not a "soft" option – the relationships fostered help gather intelligence, leading to the forestalling of offences and disorder across the board. Perhaps the programme needs dusting off.

Graham Sharp
Market Drayton, Shropshire

SIR – It was with much despondency that I read of mosques being attacked by mobs and having to employ security staff (report, July 31).

This is sadly not new. Unhappily, synagogues in this country have been using security to protect them from attack for at least 40 years. The Jewish community has formed its own security group – the Community Support Trust – which now provides protection for all gatherings of Jewish people and works with police forces throughout the UK.

Michael Phillips
Brighton, East Sussex

SIR – The late Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks stated: "The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews."

Anti-Semitism has always been the canary in the coal mine. Since October 7, there has been an explosion of anti-Semitic speech and attacks. The seeming acceptance of this state of affairs has helped erode societal norms, and has emboldened those thuggish racists who seek to harm Muslims, asylum seekers and anyone else they might see as "other".

Thomas Jarman
Street, Somerset

SIR – I am finding it rather hard to reconcile Sir Keir Starmer's police crackdown with his willingness only a couple of years ago to "take the knee" in support of Black Lives Matter, one of whose key aims is to defund the police.

John Stewart
Terrick, Buckinghamshire

SIR – The Government has suddenly developed a capacity for ultra-fast-

track justice in the aftermath of rioting. How frustrating it must be for victims of less high-profile crimes, who have to wait months or years to get justice, despite the trauma and, in many cases, life-changing consequences they have experienced.

Kevin Duffy
Manchester

SIR – The toughest possible response to the rioting thugs would be welcome. But we should not fall into the trap of flattering the hooligans by calling their actions exceptional.

Civil disorder in England is not unusual. Between the anti-Catholic Gordon riots of 1780, when up to 700 are thought to have died, and the looting of 2011 – to which five deaths are attributed – unrest on our streets has frequently erupted.

A proper historical perspective can help us avoid panic and deal with the current situation appropriately.
Adrian Charles
London E3

Musk's free speech

SIR – Sebastian Monblat (Letters, August 7) seems shockingly biased about people's right to freedom of speech. Elon Musk, like all of us, should be free to speak his mind without being required to seek permission from any government authority ("Secretive government agency brought in to monitor social media amid riots", report, August 7). Free speech means we accept that everyone, even people we might profoundly disagree with, should have the right to express themselves.

The idea that speech, and social media postings, should only be allowed if approved by an arm of the government – which is what regulation and censorship would mean – should send chills down all our spines.

Andy Tuke
Bristol

Twickenham heresy

SIR – As a lifelong rugby fan and England supporter, I am appalled that Twickenham has been sacrificed on the altar of corporate finance ("Twickenham renamed as 'Allianz Stadium' after RFU announces major deal", report, August 7). Bill Sweeney, the Rugby Football Union CEO, should hang his head in shame at such heresy.

Come the Autumn Internationals, let us all stay at home and watch on TV as England play in a near-empty stadium.
Jeremy Parr
Suckley, Worcestershire

Testing drive

SIR – In the early 1960s I learnt to drive in a Morris 8 (Letters, August 6).

I had a very testy examiner who unreasonably complained that he had to start the car with a handle in the front. He also complained of having to hold down the soft roof to prevent it blowing away. His final gripe was about the absence of floor boards.

When the experience was finished, all he could say was, "Open the bloody door" – which one could only do from the outside.

I passed.
Norman Gordon
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Truly Cornish

SIR – Barbara Suffolk's pasties (Letters, August 7) may be delicious, but they are not truly Cornish. Skirt, potato, onion and swede should all feature – cubed, not sliced, so they cook evenly.

Brian Duke
East Hoathly, East Sussex



In recent years there has been a large drop in the number of animals being rehomed

The perplexing obstacles to adopting a cat

SIR – I've had the same difficulties trying to adopt a cat that your article (Features, August 7) describes.

Despite living in a detached house with a garden backing on to fields, having no other pets, being an adult-only household and having owned cats for more than 40 years, I failed with a large cat charity (which, incidentally, is remembered in my will). My sins were: letting slip that I would occasionally take the cat to another property for a few days and revealing that I would put it in a cattery when I went on holiday.

One of the problems is that the bans on visiting rescue centres imposed during Covid often remain in place, so prospective owners are

denied the opportunity to see which cats are suitable and chat to staff. If you apply online or by telephone and ask for more information about a particular cat, they rarely get back to you. I am not in the business of choosing a cat from a picture and a few scant details. It occurred to me during this upsetting process that it works both ways: rescue centre staff are unable to meet prospective owners and assess them.

However, my story, like your article, has a happy ending. I found a smaller branch of the same large charity much more amenable, and Dennis is now happily settled.
Hilary Aitken
Kilmacoll, Renfrewshire

What Labour must do to get infrastructure right

SIR – Angela Rayner, the Housing Secretary, has announced plans to build 1.5 million homes but given little detail on the necessary infrastructure.

John Bennett (Letters, August 7) raises concerns about sewage, but there are other factors. One is power generation and distribution, with existing stations being closed and few replacements built. There are housing and retail developments standing empty because power cannot be connected for months, if not years.

Another problem is water. During droughts we have shortages in many areas because there is no distribution network to convey it from places that have it to those that don't.

Finally, to support new housing, we need more schools, GP practices, shops and rural transport. The last of these is particularly lacking, as bus companies concentrate on town services and so reduce rural routes.

These issues must all be considered.
Keith Taylor
Hereford

SIR – While there are said to be plans to reduce pollution in our watercourses, in the short term the focus should be on deterring people from putting fats and other undesirable items into liquid waste disposal.

John Hunt
Hook, Hampshire

Putin is lurching from one disaster to the next

Invading Ukraine was a major strategic blunder. Backing Iran could be an even bigger miscalculation

CON COUGHLIN



Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to provide military backing to Iran in its deepening confrontation with Israel could prove to be an even greater strategic disaster than his ill-fated invasion of Ukraine.

Political expediency has been the driving force behind the military alliance between the Kremlin and the ayatollahs that has developed during the past two years.

While Russia has a long history of involvement with Tehran, dating back to the Soviet era, the relationship has often been dogged by mutual suspicion, especially by the Iranians who have bitter memories of Moscow's centuries-old desire to subjugate the country to its will. Despite this, the two countries have cooperated closely on a number of issues since the 1979 Iranian revolution, not least on the nuclear front, where Moscow made a significant contribution to building Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor in the Gulf. This support was maintained despite the Kremlin's deep reservations about

Iran's attempts to acquire nuclear weapons.

Moscow has also provided technical assistance in other sensitive areas, such as ballistic missile development. Tehran's arsenal of Shahab ballistic missiles, for example, is based on Moscow's Soviet-era Scud missiles.

The relationship has, though, moved to an entirely new level since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, when the international isolation Moscow suffered as a result of its unprovoked aggression forced it to forge even closer ties to Tehran.

The disastrous consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in Iran providing the Kremlin with practical assistance in avoiding Western sanctions. In particular, Tehran, which has much expertise in avoiding sanctions owing to its own alliance between the Kremlin and the ayatollahs that has developed during the past two years.

Now, with the drums of war between Iran and Israel growing ever louder, Iran is turning to Moscow to repay the favour by providing it with vital military hardware.

Many Western leaders believe the dramatic escalation in tensions

between Iran and Israel following last week's assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh will lead to renewed conflict, with the expectation that Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terror group based in southern Lebanon, will intensify its bombardment of northern Israel.

Given the humiliation Iran suffered in April, when Israeli warplanes easily evaded Iranian air defences and bombed a key military base in Isfahan, the Iranian regime is, understandably, keen to bolster its defences. It was a point new Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian was keen to stress when Putin's personal envoy, former defence minister Sergei Shoigu, visited Tehran earlier this week. As well as seeking extra supplies of Russian air defence equipment, Iran is keen to acquire SU-35 fighter jets.

While Putin, after all the military backing Iran has given to the Ukraine war effort, will find it hard to resist Tehran's appeals for help, it is clear that the Russian leader has reservations about supporting Iran's increasingly belligerent attitude towards Israel.

The Kremlin's disquiet is evident from Putin's personal message to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, asking Iran to show restraint and not attack Israeli civilians, a somewhat ironic request given Moscow's own lack of interest in avoiding civilian casualties in Ukraine.

For Putin, providing military support for Iran is not without complications, not least the impact it could have with his long-standing friendship with

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

During the Syrian civil war, for example, the alliance between Putin and Netanyahu often resulted in Russian forces turning a blind eye when Israel attacked Iranian positions in Syrian territory controlled by the Russian military, even though the Iranians were fighting alongside the Russians to keep Syria's Assad regime in power. At a time when Russia is already suffering from the effects of international isolation, any military support Putin provides to Iran risks damaging his important bilateral ties with the Israelis.

Another factor that will influence Putin's calculations is his realisation that, in any confrontation between Israel and Iran, the ayatollahs are guaranteed to end up on the losing side.

Iran's preference for relying on proxy terrorist groups, such as Hamas and Hezbollah, to fight on its behalf is based on the knowledge that, in a direct war with Israel, the Iranians are no match for Israel's military superiority. This was clearly evident last April when Iran launched its first direct assault on Israel, only to see its 300-strong barrage of missiles and drones easily intercepted by Israel and its allies – including the UK.

After the major strategic blunder Putin made by launching his invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Russian leader cannot afford to make another potentially calamitous error of judgment by backing Iran in a war with Israel, one the Iranians have no chance of winning.

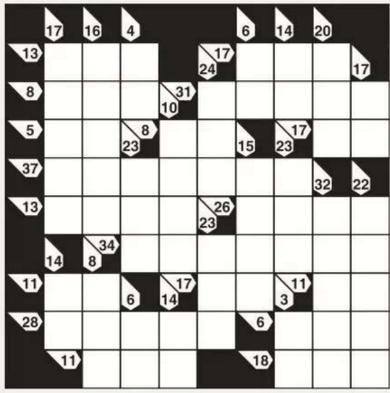
Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie



KAKURO

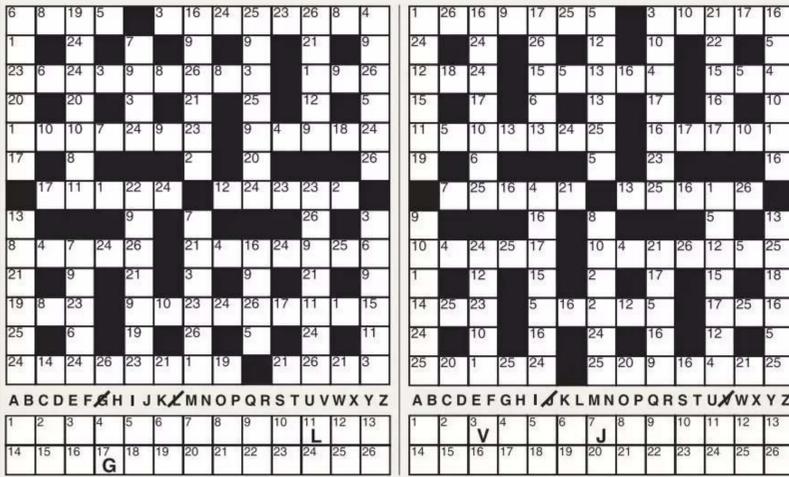
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

TOUGH NO 5106



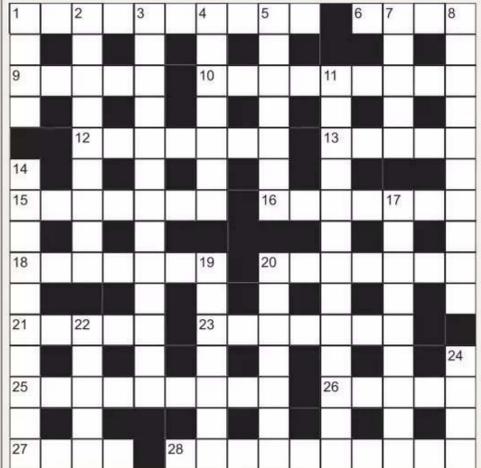
CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*



For today's right-hand codewords solution 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, 9am-5pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

NO 3319
KCIT



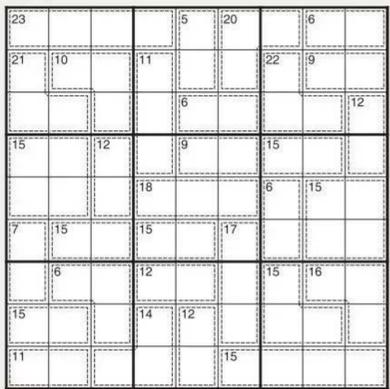
Across
 1 Vagrant not working with charity in East London? (4-3-3)
 6 Ran discount electronic firm (4)
 9 Complaints lodged after second regulation overturned (5)
 10 The Rat, by implication a character in children's book (3,6)
 12 Succeeded, with more experience, to catch current trooper (7)
 13 Overexcited from revolutionary yard excavation (5)
 15 Provokes lots of practical knowledge on the radio (7)
 16 German state ignoring East led by East German, one refusing to face facts (7)
 18 Landing area's perimeter sealed in lead (7)
 20 Increasingly dark ale initially dropped by pub proprietor (7)
 21 Satisfied with Biblical texts in choral piece (5)
 23 Outfit heading off storm damage to front (7)
 25 Wild hours with steed expending little energy as breeding material (4,5)
 26 In return help country (5)
 27 Newspaper material: not forthcoming about page (4)
 28 Highlighted dime's shape after moulding (10)

Down
 1 New quantity of money raised for a start (4)
 2 Little reduced stage show, not for all the family, containing some fantasy (9)
 3 Sailor very good with instrument – tar showing attribute some performers have (8,5)
 4 Provide water supply, perhaps, for regions (7)
 5 Experience German and Latin consequently (7)
 7 Worried first half of record cut, then second half played (5)
 8 County grudge match possibly leading to anger after quiet (10)
 11 Surprisingly, ratings mount before finale of series – there's not much to them (8,5)
 14 Maybe spot microphone capturing our group producing agreeable tunes (5,5)
 17 Bar cancels uplifting end to binge prompting suggestive comments (9)
 19 It's becoming strange to support endless inducement (7)
 20 Initial of every simpleton engraved in tree? It's enough to make you pray (7)
 22 Appear busy, absorbed by tango performer's opening beat (5)
 24 Fearful, losing couple of leaders in attack (4)

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

TOUGH



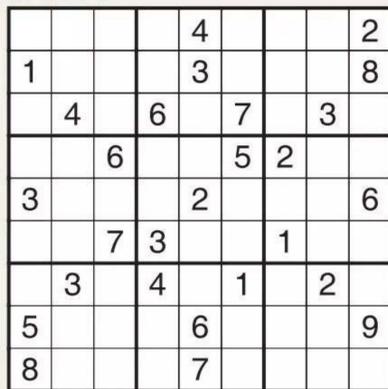
SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6676



TOUGH NO 6676



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, 9am-5pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*



Up to 6 words - Word Finder, 7 - Wordsmith, 14 - Word Wizard, 22 - Word Master, 29 - Word Genius, 37 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3318



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, 9am-5pm. Helpline 0333 2023390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term related to aviation. *Solution tomorrow.*

- CRAB WINE
- ARRIVAL POUT
- ROOTLET CROWN

MIND GYM

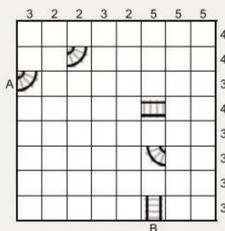
NO 4384

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	TRIPLE IT	-36	HALVE IT	3/4 OF THIS	+9	X BY ITSELF	-46	X3.5	ANSWER
4	x19								
INTERMEDIATE	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-131	HALVE IT	4/7 OF THIS	x3.75	95% OF THIS	-77	ANSWER
54	+6								
ADVANCED	12/13 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	√	x7.75	2/3 OF THIS	-95	X BY ITSELF	-358	+21
208									

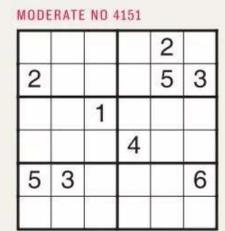
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

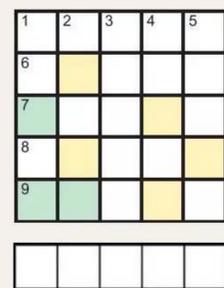


PLUSWORD

NO 809

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

- Across**
 1 Michael ____, Canadian singer
 6 Take apart, as a boat
 7 Item topped with cream and jam (or jam and cream)
 8 Nicks; steak (anag.)
 9 Exhausted
- Down**
 1 Goes over 21 in blackjack
 2 Take the lid off a bottle
 3 Skint
 4 Flaxen cloth
 5 Expel, medically



Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code



WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

- SUNSET, WENT UP,
- BISCUIT, BUREAU, PLOY



THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6675

5	1	9	3	7	4	8	6	2
8	7	4	6	2	9	5	1	3
6	3	2	5	1	8	4	7	9
3	9	6	8	5	7	2	4	1
7	4	8	2	3	1	6	9	5
1	2	5	4	9	6	3	8	7
9	6	3	1	8	2	7	5	4
4	5	1	7	6	3	9	2	8
2	8	7	9	4	5	1	3	6

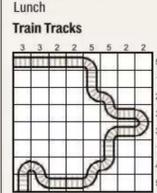
Word Ladder: Stew, step, seep, seek, peek, perk, pork, fork.

Anagrams: 1. Pie funnel 2. Tablespoon 3. Nutmeg grater.
 Panagram: Frittered, refitted, frettier, refried, fritter, fritted, fetted, ferrite, ferried, drifter, titfer, rifted, fitter, fitted, fetter, fetted, ferret, defter, defier, rifer, refit, refer, frier, fried, freer, freed, firer, fired, fetid, feted, drift, defer, tref, rift, rife, reef, frit, fret, free, fire, fete, feed, deft.

Today's Mind Gym
 Beginner: 63 Intermediate: 37 Advanced: 23

PlusWord No 808

P	E	R	C	H
A	L	O	H	A
N	E	V	E	R
I	N	E	E	D
C	A	R	R	Y



Killer Sudoku

8	2	5	7	4	9	3	6	1
9	3	1	6	2	5	7	4	8
7	6	4	8	1	3	9	5	2
3	5	8	4	6	1	2	7	9
1	7	6	3	9	2	4	8	5
4	9	2	5	7	8	1	3	6
5	4	9	2	3	6	8	1	7
2	8	7	1	5	4	6	9	3
6	1	3	9	8	7	5	2	4

Mini Sudoku No 4150

5	3	4	2	6	1
2	1	6	4	3	5
1	6	2	5	4	3
4	5	3	1	2	6
6	2	5	3	1	4
3	4	1	6	5	2

Codewords 1 and 2

F	H	E	S	U	W	J	X	N	B	O	G	D	
T	I	A	O	K	V	Z	M	P	C	L	Y	R	
E	P	F	L	Y	H	G	U	R	C	M	T	X	
S	L	O	D	V	W	K	V	I	A	B	Z	O	N

Kakuro No 5105

4	8	9		2	1	3		
8	7	5	9	4	2	5	1	
7	9	6	3	7	2	4		
	6	7	8	9	5	1	2	
		9	5		1	4		
3	4		1	7	3	2	4	
1	2		7	9	8	1	3	
5	1	2	4		9	3	2	8
	3	5	2			8	6	9

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Business



MARKETS		CURRENCIES		COMMODITIES	
FTSE 100 8166.88 -140.19 (-1.75pc)	BIGGEST RISER Entain 523³/₈sp +19% (+3.93pc)	BIGGEST FALLER WPP 703p -14 (-1.95pc)	£\$ Rate 1.2721 Change +0.13c	£€ Rate 1.1637 Change +0.13c	GOLD \$2383.02 (£1873) -5.48 (-0.23pc)
DOW JONES 38763.45 -234.21 (-0.60pc)	FTSE 250 20576.03 -208.33 (-1.02pc)	FTSE All Share 4462.58 +71.81 (+1.64pc)	FTSE All Share Yield 3.68 -0.06	FTSE Eurotop 100 3910.56 -53.94 (-1.40pc)	Nikkei 225 35089.62 +44.16 (+1.19pc)
EURO STOXX 50 4668.06 +92.84 (+2.03pc)	S&P 500 5199.50 -40.53 (-0.77pc)	Nasdaq 16195.81 -171.05 (-1.05pc)	BRENT CRUDE \$78.33 (October) +1.85 (+2.42pc)	Building storm Why Sadiq Khan will struggle to hit London's housing targets despite goal being lowered Page 18	Net loss Rush to make unreliable wind and solar Britain's main power source will create needless instability Matt Ridley Page 21

Glencore clings to coal as City turns back on ESG

Shareholders in mining giant change stance on 'dirty fuel' amid fears over loss of big profits

By Matt Oliver

FTSE 100 mining giant Glencore has abandoned plans to sell-off its coal business after City shareholders rejected the plans.

Glencore said investors had changed their minds on the environmental benefits of spinning off the coal mines, adding that the cash generated by the operations was too good to let go.

Gary Nagle, the chief executive of Glencore, said: "The ESG [environmental, social and governance] pendulum has swung back. Cash is king."

Mr Nagle added: "Sense is now starting to prevail."

The dramatic about-turn comes just months after Glencore announced plans to spin off its thermal and steel-making coal division.

Glencore planned to demerge the business and list it separately on the New York Stock Exchange, where investors are supposedly more willing to back fossil fuel-focused companies.

In a signal of how committed Glencore was to the plan, the £50bn mining giant waged a protracted battle to buy Canadian coal assets from Teck Resources in a \$7bn (£5.5bn) deal as part of efforts to strengthen its division to make it fit for a spin-off.

Glencore initially said it had received "positive feedback" on the plan from shareholders. However, Mr Nagle said yesterday that "the absolute, overwhelming, vast majority" of investors had now changed their minds.

Glencore asked two thirds of its investors for their views on the coal demerger, with 95pc voting in favour of retaining the business. According to Glencore, investors have "evolved" their stance and now take a different view of the coal business. Top names on the register include BlackRock.

Mr Nagle said: "[Investors] see no benefit in spinning off coal to be run by someone else, which may have unintended consequences. We have seen shareholders' views change, we have seen stakeholders' views change.

And we are very much supportive of this decision because we believe it is the right decision."

The change in attitude is not limited to Glencore. Around the world, geopolitical crises have prompted investors to reassess blanket ESG rules banning them from supporting fossil fuel producers or defence companies. Many investors are also reluctant to turn their back on large profits.

In the past year or so, oil companies such as Shell and BP have walked back some of their green energy commitments to refocus on fossil fuels.

Wael Sawan, the chief executive of Shell, said it would be "irresponsible" to shut down oil and gas production prematurely, as he pledged to boost shareholder returns.

In that same vein, coal – despite international pledges to "phase down" its use – remains a hugely profitable business for Glencore. Demand reached a record high of 8.4bn tonnes in 2022, according to the International Energy Agency, at a time when the Ukraine war was pushing up the price of natural gas.

This propelled Glencore's coal business to profits of \$18bn that year, followed by profits of \$8bn in 2023.

Keeping coal in-house will mean the mining giant can use those profits to pump more cash into green transition metals needed for electric cars, batteries and renewable energy systems, such as copper, cobalt and nickel.

Mr Nagle said: "The overwhelming feedback was that spinning out the coal business is, in fact, ESG-negative and keeping it in Glencore's hands, with its responsible operating practices and rundown strategy, is far better than spinning it out."

At present, Glencore has pledged to halve its carbon emissions by 2035 by closing 12 coal mines. It has already shut five. Mr Nagle added: "I think it's a rational decision, from an ESG perspective. Sense is now starting to prevail."

Any leftover cash can then be handed back to investors in the form of dividends or share buybacks.

Mr Nagle said: "The world has recognised the need for coal and the requirement for coal as we decarbonise."

The company owns coal mines in Australia, South America, South Africa and Canada. Last year Glencore produced 113.6m tonnes of coal.



Dale Vince, above, founder of green energy provider Ecotricity, has criticised Just Stop Oil for becoming too extreme and said he is 'not a fan' of it trying to blockade airports

Former Just Stop Oil donor Dale Vince turns on activists

By Jonathan Leake

THE former Just Stop Oil (JSO) donor Dale Vince has criticised the group for becoming too extreme and said he does not support its push to end fossil extraction by 2030.

Mr Vince, who also gave £5m to Labour in the 12 months before the election, said that he backed the radical activist group when it was just attempting to prevent new drilling in the UK, but believes it has since gone too far.

However, he also criticised the long prison sentences handed to some campaigners, after a group was jailed for up to five years last month. Mr Vince, who runs green energy provider Ecotricity,

described the sentences as far too long. He added that he was "not a fan" of JSO's new stance, or of its deployment of protesters trying to blockade airports.

It came as JSO announced yesterday that it was suspending all planned protests because of the riots across Britain.

Mr Vince said: "The aim has shifted from no new oil, because obviously Labour got elected on that platform, to ending the whole UK fossil fuel industry by 2030, and I don't think that's a sensible thing to ask for."

"I don't think it's a valid thing to make this kind of disruptive protest."

"I used to say, on the other side of the election, hopefully we just won't need Just Stop Oil, because we'll have

stopped [new drilling for] oil through the ballot box by stopping the Tories."

"That was our campaign, just stop the Tories. There's obviously no point disrupting now for no new licensing because that's happening. We won that argument at the ballot box."

Mr Vince is the founder and chief executive of Ecotricity, which supplies 100pc green electricity to 200,000 customers. In 2023 it declared a profit of £39m.

Mr Vince said that setting a fixed date to abandon oil and gas was impractical because the UK was so far from being ready.

About 25m UK homes rely on gas boilers for heating and there are 32m

petrol or diesel vehicles on the roads – with 30pc of UK electricity generated by gas-fired power stations.

Mr Vince said the UK had to move away from fossil fuels but the transition would take time.

He said: "There's no point having an arbitrary cut-off for oil."

"We have to build like hell to the point that we just stop using it. That's the logical thing to do."

"We've just got a Labour government with a massive majority, and a mandate for a green economy."

"And I'm surprised that there are protests going on within weeks of that, and that there's a kind of ramping up of demands. I'm just surprised by that."

Ex-Credit Suisse boss loses blackmail case against housekeeper

By James Warrington

THE former boss of Credit Suisse has lost a blackmail case against a former housekeeper who had a nervous breakdown after working at his luxury villa.

Tidjane Thiam accused the domestic worker of extortion when she demanded almost 600,000 Swiss francs (£547,000) in compensation for alleged abusive working conditions.

However, a judge in Zurich rejected the claims, ruling that the former staff member had acted within her contractual rights.

The trial of the 43-year-old Romanian woman, whose name was withheld by the court, centred on a dispute over

her employment by the businessman. Stephan Reinhardt, a lawyer for the woman, said she had suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of her working conditions, the *Financial Times* reported.

The court heard that the housekeeper had not been able to take holiday or time off during her employment.

Mr Reinhardt said her distress culminated with an incident in the early hours of a Sunday morning in December 2018, when she claimed to have been verbally abused by Mr Thiam's partner after the boiler broke down at the villa on Lake Zurich.

The woman was admitted to hospital shortly afterwards and was diagnosed

with post-traumatic stress disorder. She was then fired by Mr Thiam.

The housekeeper, who won a civil case against the businessman last year,

Tidjane Thiam is planning to appeal. In an email, the domestic worker asked for 587,000 Swiss francs in compensation



testified that she had not intended to make any of these events public.

Following her dismissal, the woman sent an email to her former employer

asking for 587,000 Swiss francs in compensation. She said she "did not wish to harm him" but that she would approach trade unions and the International Olympic Committee, of which Mr Thiam is a member, if the dispute was not resolved.

Lawyers for Mr Thiam argued that the email amounted to a criminal attempt at blackmail.

But the judge dismissed the claim, ruling that the message was unlikely to have any coercive effect.

Mr Thiam, who is currently attending the Olympic Games in Paris, is reportedly planning to appeal against the verdict. It is not the first time he has been embroiled in controversy. The former

Credit Suisse chief executive was ousted in 2020 after the Swiss bank admitted to spying on former employees. One of the former employees who the bank had monitored reportedly lived next to Mr Thiam's villa on Lake Zurich. Mr Thiam consistently denied any knowledge of the spying.

However, the board ousted him over the incident, with chairman Urs Rohner saying at the time there had been a "deterioration in terms of trust, reputation and credibility".

Mr Thiam's departure triggered further scandal at the bank as reports emerged that he had been subjected to racial discrimination during his tenure. Credit Suisse apologised for an incident

in which the former boss left a birthday party for Mr Rohner after a black performer danced on stage dressed as a janitor. The bank was taken over by rival UBS last year in a rescue deal, after coming to the brink of collapse.

In December, Mr Thiam was elected to lead the opposition party in his home country of Ivory Coast. He is preparing to run in the next presidential election in 2025. The 62-year-old, who holds dual French and Ivorian citizenship, is perhaps best known in Britain as the former chief executive of Prudential. He took charge of the insurance giant in 2009, becoming the first African-born boss of a FTSE 100 company, and ran the company until 2015.

Thames Water in special measures to avoid collapse

By Lake Barr

AN INDEPENDENT monitor is to be appointed at Thames Water to oversee the company's turnaround plan as it was put into special measures in an attempt to stave off collapse.

The monitor – which will report to Ofwat, the industry regulator – will have access to the company's financial information and will hold it to account over its efforts to

steady its finances and secure fresh investment.

It comes after Thames' credit rating was downgraded twice by ratings agencies in July, which constituted a breach of its licence to operate, the regulator said.

Agreeing to a monitor is one of four commitments Ofwat has imposed on Thames. The company must also develop a "suitable" business plan, as well as taking the steps required to

deliver an equity raise and appointing new non-executive directors to its board.

David Black, the Ofwat chief executive, said: "We are clear Thames Water needs to remedy its licence breach, turn around its operational performance, and secure backing from investors to restore its loss of investment grade credit rating."

"These enforceable commitments will include our putting an independent

monitor into the business, to report back to us on what is happening to drive meaningful change in performance."

Thames Water is in the grip of a funding crisis and has more than £15bn of debt. It said in July that it only has enough money to continue trading until the end of May 2025. Bosses are scrambling to secure a major cash injection to keep it afloat.

Thames Water was approached for comment.



Bank mulls cut to gold-plated pension

By Noah Eastwood

THE Bank of England is in talks to cut its generous gold-plated pensions for staff, it has emerged.

It comes amid fears that public sector pensions have become far more generous than those on offer to workers in the private sector.

Andrew Bailey, the Bank's Governor, is understood to be leading a review with union Unite, designed to

make Threadneedle Street's pension scheme more "sustainable". The Bank's defined benefit scheme operates three different accrual rates for staff, currently 1/50, 1/65 or 1/95 of salaries per year depending on the terms of their contract.

It means workers at the Bank enjoy considerably more generous retirement benefits than those most workers in the private sector are entitled to. It promises

payments based on a worker's average earnings across their career, while private sector employers usually pay a fixed percentage of around 3pc to a worker's 5pc.

It is understood the pension review aims to level off the differences in the accrual rates to 1/80 of salary.

A Bank spokesman said: "The plan is to ensure our pension arrangement is fair, attractive and sustainable." Unite declined to comment.

London Mayor's housing shortfall in spotlight

The loss of a Tory scapegoat means Sadiq Khan has no one to blame for homes failure, finds Melissa Lawford

After slashing housebuilding targets for London, you may think Angela Rayner had offered Sadiq Khan a crucial reprieve. In fact, she has handed him a double-edged sword.

The Deputy Prime Minister last week announced that she will cut the target for the number of homes to be built by London's Labour Mayor each year, a boost given Khan was struggling to hit the old target.

However, he will now be expected to meet his new goal – and the housing industry thinks he is the last person who will be able to.

The London Mayor has been criticised for alienating a struggling housebuilding sector, for “gaslighting” the public on his record, and for imposing crippling requirements for affordable housing delivery that have effectively blocked development. Does he stand a chance?

In the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Rayner changed the method for calculating housing need, meaning London must plan to build 81,000 homes per year, instead of the previous total of 99,000. It was the only reduction for any region in England.

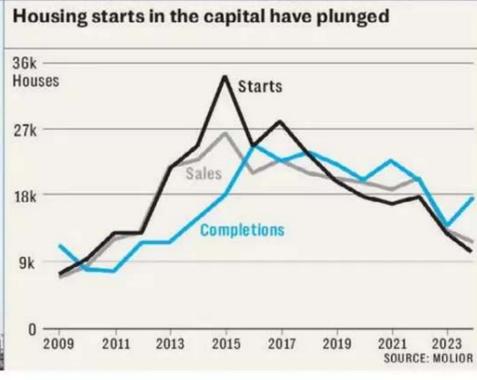
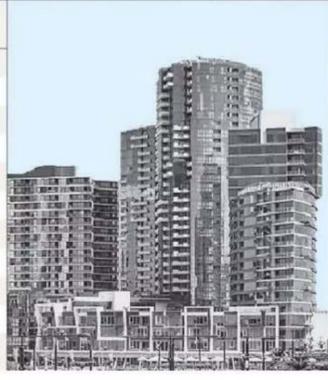
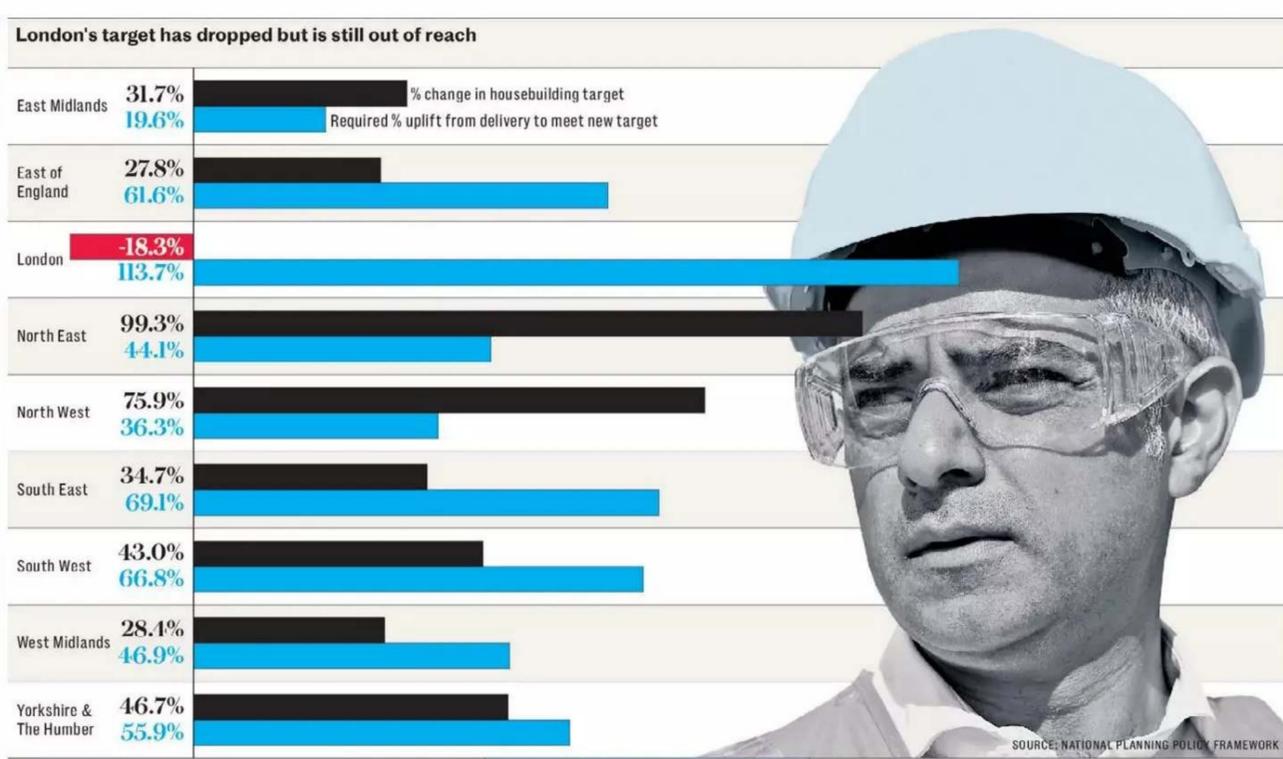
Given it is Labour that has imposed the new target, Khan's old trick of blaming the Tories for his failure no longer works.

Earlier this year, Khan accused the Conservatives of “undermining devolution to distract from their record of failure” after Michael Gove, the then housing secretary, threatened to strip the mayor of his planning powers. It is a line Khan trotted out repeatedly when defending himself from missing targets.

“He had been like a scratched record about that,” says Dominic Grace, formerly head of London residential development at Savills and now an independent consultant. “He can't now blame central government.”

London has built 37,000 new homes per year on average between 2020 and 2023, against Khan's own target of 52,000 annually. Hitting 81,000 a year would mean increasing actual delivery by 114pc – by far the biggest jump asked of any region in the country.

Rayner admitted it was a “huge ask” but said she had faith in Khan's ability to meet the goal. She is one of the few who do. London housing starts are



‘He has been like a scratched record. He can't now blame central government’

down by 70pc since 2015, according to Molior. Khan oversaw most of that fall, having been in City Hall since 2016.

“His efforts to oil the wheels of a machine, which needed a lot of oil poured onto it, have been woeful,” Grace says. “This isn't just a personal view, I think this reflects what anyone in the house building or new homes market in London would say.”

Many major builders have “largely given up” on building in the capital, he says. Major developers such as Berkeley Group and Ballymore have been trimming their housing delivery.

Building 81,000 new homes a year would be unprecedented in recent history. “I think the only time we actually hit 60,000 new homes a year in London was in the decade immediately after the Great Depression, in the lead up to the Second World War,” Grace says.

Some local targets will almost certainly be undeliverable. Because of Rayner's new method of increasing targets in areas where houses are least affordable, the Borough of Kensington & Chelsea will see its target more than triple from 1,381 homes per year to

4,271. This would be 15 times more than the 267 that the borough currently delivers each year.

Housebuilders say Khan's affordable homes drive has created obstacles for building. Developers proposing schemes where fewer than 35pc of homes are affordable are subject to stringent “viability assessments”, whereby a local authority calculates how much “excess profit” a developer will make on home sales and allocates this money to build affordable homes. Somewhat counter-intuitively, these predetermined calculations have given

‘There are a lot of really big projects across London that are what I call beached whales’

builders much less flexibility to reduce their prices and boost sales in a depressed market, says Tim Craine, director at Molior.

Despite this, Khan has portrayed his record on affordable homes as a victory. During his campaign for re-election as mayor this spring, Khan said he had delivered a “record-breaking 25,000 genuinely affordable homes delivered in the last year alone”.

Robert Colvile, director of the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), accused Khan of gaslighting the public. The 25,000 figure was the number of affordable homes that Khan had approved funding for over the next decade, and did not account for the fact that many of the new homes would be replacing ones getting demolished.

Beyond policy, there are London-specific problems outside Khan's control. Nationally, housebuilders have been grappling with high borrowing costs and a swathe of regulations. “Collectively they make construction more expensive,” says Craine. In the old days, these cost increases would have been easily offset by property price growth in the capital. Until 2014, this was almost guaranteed. But then the cycle turned.

Squeezed affordability and a drop off in investors and foreign buyers meant London house prices were falling before the pandemic hit. The lockdown race for space then meant the capital enjoyed little of the pandemic boom in house prices. Next it recorded the biggest price drops during the latest downturn.

The lack of price growth has also blown a hole in a funding model that was important in London because most new builds here are blocks of flats. Funding this kind of development traditionally relied heavily on off-plan sales, which means buyers agreeing to purchase flats before they are completed. If prices are not rising, there is no incentive for anyone to buy years ahead of completion.

There are 68 developments in London previously under construction that are now at a standstill with padlocked gates, according to Molior. This is nearly seven times the number in 2008-09 during the financial crisis.

“There are a lot of really big projects across London that are what I call beached whales,” says Grace. “Projects that have planning – it's not like Sadiq is blocking them – but the economics are such that you'd just be crazy as a developer to start on them.” If beached whales continue to pile up on the shores of the Thames, Sadiq will struggle even with the lower targets.

A spokesman for the Mayor of London said: “Sadiq looks forward to working constructively with the new Government to identify the sites and infrastructure requirements to achieve these new delivery targets, building on his impressive housing record to date.”

SUDAN FAMINE APPEAL • SUDAN FAMINE APPEAL •

SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

FAMINE HAS JUST BEEN DECLARED IN PARTS OF SUDAN – WILL YOU SEND URGENT HELP?

The reality is stark: people in Sudan are starving to death. Famine has been declared in a camp for displaced people in North Darfur. Evidence shows two other camps may also be facing famine.

Millions have fled their homes since a brutal civil war began in April 2023, desperately seeking safety both within Sudan and in neighbouring countries.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has teams on the ground delivering lifesaving aid wherever possible. But the situation is critical – we urgently need your help.

Please will you give £82 to provide the essentials a family needs to survive?

Your gift can provide shelter, bedding and access to food and clean water. These are the very basics people need to survive.

The situation is exacerbated by a shortage of funding and lack of access. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has called on warring parties to immediately facilitate humanitarian access to communities that require lifesaving aid, and expressed alarm at the scale of the crisis:

“The level of suffering is truly unconscionable.”

As in so many conflicts, it is civilians – men, women, and children who are simply trying to live their lives – who suffer most. **We must show them that they have not been forgotten.**

Eighteen-year-old Nyauke, who was forced to flee Sudan, speaks of the grim reality:

“Men were shooting guns on our street and planes were dropping bombs around us.”

But for those who escaped violence into neighbouring countries like Chad, South Sudan and Egypt, the ordeal is far from over. A lack of funding is causing a dangerous shortage of the essentials people need to survive: shelter and access to clean water and food. This is what you can help provide.

Your support can help the UNHCR team in Sudan and neighbouring countries provide lifesaving aid. Every moment counts in an emergency of this magnitude.

Please respond urgently.



£82 could provide lifesaving essentials to a family fleeing violence.

Give now at unrefugees.org.uk/sudan-famine
 Call 0800 029 3883, or fill in and return the form below

I would like to give: £82 £164 £246 Other £ _____

I enclose a cheque made payable to **UK for UNHCR** OR I would like to make a donation by debit/credit card

Card no. _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Tick here, if you don't want to receive an acknowledgement by post

Title _____ First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Provide your details below to receive updates by email and/or phone on the impact of your support and how you can donate and help in other ways.

Email _____

Phone _____

Please return this form along with your cheque to: **Freepost UK FOR UNHCR** (you don't need a stamp)

Increase your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate

I would like UK for UNHCR to claim Gift Aid on this donation (currently 25p for each £1 donated), as well as any donations I make in the future and have made in the past four years to UK for UNHCR, until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that council tax and VAT do not qualify. If your circumstances change or you have any questions, please contact our **Supporter Care Team** on **0800 029 3883** or email supportercare@unrefugees.org.uk The Gift Aid claimed will be used to fund the whole of UK for UNHCR's work.

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Today, you could help save a life. Scan now to give online.



A minimum of 75% of your gift will directly help Sudanese refugees, funding lifesaving essentials and other humanitarian interventions.

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Riots will not stop investors backing Britain, insists L&G chief

By Michael Bow and Eir Nolsoe

RIOTS will not deter overseas investors from putting money into Britain, the boss of Legal & General (L&G) has said. António Simões, chief executive of the pensions giant, said there was "no correlation" between the recent unrest seen across the country and the appetite of international companies to

invest. When asked whether foreign funds might steer clear of Britain, he said: "That's not my view, I don't see that. Most investors invest on the basis of the fundamentals of the economy." Britain's brightening economic prospects, including high wage growth and falling inflation, were more important factors, he added. A number of English cities have been engulfed in riots over

the past week, with racial tensions simmering after protests by the far-right. The Government has pledged to crack down on rioters, while prosecutors have signalled that they could use tough anti-terror laws to deal with those behind the disorder. Mr Simões said he had held around 85 meetings with investors across Asia and the US since taking over at L&G in

June, claiming that most are eager to invest in Britain. He said: "There is pent up demand for investment in the UK and having political and fiscal stability is really important. "For international investors they see the fundamentals of the UK economy, with low inflation, low unemployment and having a good stability, investors are quite keen to invest in the UK." L&G

is Britain's largest insurer and fund manager, with \$1.1trillion (£860bn) of assets under management and 14m retail customers. Separately, new figures show that economic growth has been revised up sharply after Covid in a boost for Britain. The UK economy grew by 4.8pc in 2022, rather than 4.3pc as initially estimated, the Office for National Statistics

(ONS) said. It means the UK economy was 2.1pc larger than before Covid by the end of 2022, much higher than the previous estimate of 1.3pc. The figures are further proof that the economy bounced back faster after the pandemic than economists first believed. Until last year the UK was thought to have been the only G7 economy that was still smaller than before Covid.

Boohoo puts London office up for sale to raise cash

Fast-fashion giant looks for offers of £60m for six-storey Soho building amid turnaround struggles

By Pui-Guan Man

FAST-fashion retailer Boohoo is seeking to offload its office in London's Soho as it battles to shore up its balance sheet. The troubled retailer has been looking for offers of around £60m for its base in the capital, according to market sources, just three years after splashing £72m on the building. It is understood that any deal will include a sale-and-leaseback agreement in which Boohoo will occupy the premises at 10 Great Pultney Street for up to five years. Boohoo bought the six-storey office building in 2021 as part

£325m

Unsecured overdraft belonging to Boohoo, which it is required to repay during the course of the next 18 months

of its rapid expansion, snapping up 43,963 sq ft of office space to house its growing stable of brands.

This followed deals for stricken department store chain Debenhams and former Arcadia brands Burton, Dorothy Perkins and Wallis.

Other labels it had picked up in the preceding years included Karen Millen, Oasis and Coast.

Details of the proposed office sale, first reported by Drapers, have emerged as Boohoo faces questions over its ability to meet looming debt repayments.

It has currently a £325m unsecured overdraft, which it is required to repay during the course of the next 18 months.

A £75m slice of that sum is due next year after lenders refused to extend the

deadline. The remaining £250m needs to be repaid by 2026.

This is against the backdrop of mounting losses, which rose to £160m in the 12 months to February, compared to £91m the previous year.

Turnover also fell by 17pc to around £1.5bn, while the business swung from a positive cash position of £6m to £95m of net debt.

Boohoo's slump in sales has led to its share price falling to less than 29p, less than one tenth of its peak in 2020.

This has left Boohoo nursing a drastic drop in its overall value, as the company is now worth just over £350m. That is compared to more than £5bn during the Covid pandemic.

After its most recent full-year results, chief executive John Lyttle blamed Boohoo's problems on "difficult market conditions", adding that the business had been hit by "high levels of inflation and weakened consumer demand".

The company has faced intense competition from Chinese fast fashion giant Shein, which ships products directly from its factories in China and rapidly launches new designs to compete.

Boohoo has been trying to counter the impact of Shein's rapid expansion across the UK by seeking to break into the US.

The company's London building is one of several offices around the world. The Manchester-founded business has six locations in the city alone, as well as outposts in Sheffield and Burnley. Internationally, the company maintains bases in Istanbul, Miami and Los Angeles, as well as offices in Paris and Italy.

Accounts show the company owned more than £130m of property, including warehouses, outright at the end of February. It paid £16.9m in rent on other buildings last year. The company's Manchester headquarters, which span 96,000 sq ft over six floors, is owned by Boohoo's executive chairman and co-founder Mahmud Kamani, who has been the company's landlord since it joined the stock exchange in 2014.



Double bill Disney has made its first streaming profit after the success of *Inside Out 2*, which smashed box office records for an animated film, contributed to 1.3m new Disney+ customers joining as households signed up to watch the original film.

Cruise industry to launch monster ships eight times size of Titanic

By Christopher Jasper

GIGANTIC cruise ships eight times the size of the Titanic and carrying a population equal to that of a small town will set sail by 2050 as demand for luxury travel booms, a study predicts.

The biggest vessels are already twice as large as in 2000 and could be a further 40pc bulkier in 25 years' time, according to new projections, reaching a massive 345,000 tons.

The Titanic, a monster in its day, weighed in at only 46,000 tons. The capacity of the largest vessels is likely to

increase to almost 11,000 passengers, compared with 2,500 on the famous liner according to the green travel lobby group Transport & Environment (T&E). It compiled the study based on data from shipping consultants Clarksons.

Cruising is already the fastest-expanding tourism industry, with enthusiasm for luxury trips afloat accelerating since Covid as passengers splurge on so-called experiential travel.

Jonathan Hood, T&E's UK manager for sustainable shipping, said: "With today's cruise ships making the Titanic

look like somebody's private yacht, the question is, how much bigger can these giants get?"

The global cruise ship fleet has already increased 20-fold since 1970, when the industry emerged from an ocean liner trade largely killed off by the advent of large passenger jets.

The Icon of the Seas, operated by Royal Caribbean and the largest vessel to date, made its maiden voyage from Miami in January and is five times the size of the Titanic. It features 20 decks, 40 restaurants, seven swimming pools and can carry 7,600 passengers. Mod-

ern cruising offers far more variety than the early days of the industry, when hours lounging in deckchairs were the order of the day, punctuated by whistle-stop tours ashore. Evenings meant buffets, a cabaret and perhaps a place at the captain's table.

Smaller vessels now offer cultural itineraries and wildlife-viewing expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, accompanied by scientists and natural history experts. Virgin Voyages, launched in 2021, is targeting a less elderly clientele with adults-only cruises advertised as a "playground for your inner child". T&E

Shipping inflation

	Titanic Tonnage 46,000
	Queen Elizabeth 2 Tonnage 70,000
	Queen Mary 2 Tonnage 149,000
	Icon of the Seas Tonnage 249,000
	Next generation cruise ship Tonnage 345,000

said that carbon emissions from cruise ships are becoming an increasing issue and are already 20pc higher than in 2019. Cruising is also polluting, it said, with Southampton, the leading UK cruise port, ranking seventh in Europe for sulphur oxide produced by the sector.

MSC Cruises, Europe's largest cruise line, aims to cut emissions 15pc with a new tool that will plot routes based on the sequencing of port calls, arrival and departure times, fuel costs and the ship's speed, as well as the attractiveness of destinations and excursions.

GB News considers suing advertisers over boycott

By James Warrington

GB NEWS has said it is "closely monitoring" Elon Musk's lawsuit against advertisers in a sign it is preparing to sue brands that suspend advertising.

The threat of legal action comes after Mr Musk revealed on Tuesday night that X (formerly Twitter) declared "war" on a global coalition of advertisers and brands over claims they illegally boycotted his social media platform.

Rumble, a YouTube rival that claims it is "immune to cancel culture" and is popular with conservative online users, has also filed a similar lawsuit.

The legal action has triggered an immediate response from GB News, which has been battling a boycott by scores of brands that have refused to advertise on the channel.

A spokesman for the TV broadcaster said: "GB News notes the antitrust action commenced by media companies X and Rumble against the advertising industry. We will be closely monitoring its progress."

GB News was launched three years ago as a challenger to traditional broadcasters including the BBC and Sky.

However, brands such as Ikea and Nivea suspended ads on the channel out of fear of being associated with controversial content. GB News is at risk of a fine from regulator Ofcom after breach-

ing a string of broadcasting rules, including impartiality and its use of politicians as presenters, such as Reform UK's Nigel Farage.

The ad boycott is believed to have taken a significant toll on finances at GB News, which last year saw its losses balloon to more than £42m.

The start-up broadcaster has since been forced to cut jobs while seeking new sources of revenue from live events and a paid membership scheme.

However, it remains deeply reliant on billionaire investor Sir Paul Marshall and Dubai-based hedge fund Legatum, who jointly own GB News through holding company All Perspectives.

The amount GB News owed to its parent company almost doubled from £42.8m to £83.8m in the last year alone.

Mr Musk's legal action highlights an escalation of tensions between the advertising industry and media outlets that place an emphasis on free speech.

Linda Yaccarino, chief executive of X, said the actions of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (Garm) had cost the business billions of dollars.

X and Rumble are seeking unspecified damages for allegedly violating US antitrust law. The lawsuit, filed in Texas, also names the World Federation of Advertisers (FWA), which launched the Garm initiative, as a defendant, alongside UK advertising behemoth WPP.



Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK and MP for Clacton, is a presenter on GB News

Female broker told to 'play the game' with harasser

By Michael Bow

A FEMALE broker for the British firm TP Icap has alleged it encouraged her to submit to the unwanted sexual advances of a client to secure business.

Christine O'Reilly, who worked in New York, alleges that she was bombarded with unwanted sexual messages from a senior trader at Citigroup in London. She has sued TP Icap and Citigroup in Manhattan for allegedly failing to act after Ben Waters sent her dozens of unwanted text messages in a campaign of "relentless, co-ordinated harassment" over nearly four years.

When she complained, she claims both companies ignored her pleas to intervene and she was encouraged to submit to "unwanted sexual advances as a means to secure millions in Citi business". The case highlights the sometimes complex relationship in the City of London between brokers and their client traders, who have the discretion to channel significant amounts of business to preferred brokers.

According to court documents, Mr Waters, who is not a defendant in the case, was a "high-value" Citi trader at the bank's Delta One trading desk in London and had the power to direct business to Icap's broking desk, where Ms O'Reilly worked. She alleges Mr Waters developed an "inappropriate

interest" in her starting in 2020, asking for photos, sending her unwanted WhatsApp messages and asking her on Instagram what she was wearing. After reporting his messages to her superiors at Icap, 31-year-old Ms O'Reilly claims she was told to apologise to Mr Waters and "play the game" after he allegedly threatened to cut Citi's business to Icap.

She claims that "heavy alcohol consumption" was encouraged and this created an environment "ripe for abuse". Ms O'Reilly also accused Janie McCallie, her superior at Icap, of encouraging her to be "fun" and "flirty" with Mr Waters to win business.

After blocking the Citi trader on WhatsApp, Ms McCallie allegedly ordered her to unblock him and later drafted an apology for Ms O'Reilly to send to Mr Waters after Ms O'Reilly had sent him an abrupt message.

She is suing Icap, Citi and Ms McCallie, her superior at Icap, for alleged discrimination and maintaining a hostile work environment. She is seeking damages at a court in Manhattan. Mr Waters is described as a "non-party co-conspirator" but is not a defendant. He has not commented.

The defendants are yet to file their defences. An Icap spokesman said: "It is TP Icap's policy not to comment on pending litigation." Ms McCallie declined to comment.

Hear from the Tory leadership hopefuls

In conversation with
**Camilla
TOMINEY**

and
**Kamal
AHMED**

The Daily T

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UK will be lucky to last five years without blackouts

MATT RIDLEY

The new Energy Secretary is pushing wind and solar – but it is unpredictable and, therefore, unreliable

Energy is already ludicrously expensive. Making it more unreliable will only compound our misery.

In November 2021, Storm Arwen gave me a four-day taste of life without electricity. There were many lessons to be learned, namely: three candles are not enough to read a book by, a diesel car is a help for recharging your phone, and woodfires are a blessing.

Afterwards I bought a generator and have needed it twice since. As the country rushes into reliance on unreliable power, I may need it more often. Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, wants to double onshore wind, quadruple offshore and treble

solar capacity. If he has a plan to deal with the resulting volatility and intermittency, he has yet to reveal it.

The Hornsea wind farm tripping off on Aug 9 2019 led to a massive blackout. Wind droughts can last for days and even years: in 2021, offshore wind output was at 34pc of capacity, compared with 45pc the year before.

There is a lot wrong with relying on wind and solar power for electricity. They are more expensive than using gas, and they require a lot of steel, concrete and rare metals, the creation of which generates emissions. Wind turbines can kill birds and spoil local views.

But the biggest problem, which remains unsolved, is that they are unpredictable and, therefore, unreliable. On a cold, still winter evening, when we need a lot of power, wind and solar contribute the square root of s--all. The more wind turbines we build the more expensive it becomes to maintain a back-up system of gas-fired power stations that goes unused for much of the time.

The risk of blackouts may be highest down South. Executives from the National Grid's Energy Systems

Operator (ESO) have privately warned that there is an increasing risk of power cuts in the South East by 2028, as Britain builds wind farms in the North and struggles to get their juice to the South.

Regionalised electricity prices would incentivise building power stations near to customers, but that is resisted by wind farm developers. They prefer generating power in windy Scotland or the North Sea and getting the consumer to pick up the tab for building many pylons to move power to London.

Yet even Green Party MPs are objecting to pylons in their constituencies. Hence, a £2bn subsea cable from eastern Scotland to County Durham is planned – but don't bet on it: the £1.2bn Western Link between Scotland and Wales was four years late, and has had repeated outages. These costs only add to the price of electricity.

Moreover, the transmission grid is increasingly challenged by unpredictable volatility in net demand from the local distribution grid. The more people put solar panels on their roofs, and require the grid to take their

power when the sun shines, the harder it gets to manage the supply and keep the frequency of the alternating current close to the all-important 50 hertz.

Of course, blackouts will be less common than price spikes. Britain already has some of the highest electricity prices in the world for industrial users – one major reason for our stagnant economy – and has

‘The problem is that you cannot store electricity affordably – not like you can store a pile of coal’

domestic prices that are two and a half times those of America and more than four times those of China.

And those numbers are heading up, not down. To keep the lights on, the grid increasingly relies on investors building facilities that can be fired up quickly. These people will demand and get high prices during emergencies and are licking their lips at the growing volatility of Britain's grid. Ironically, the fastest-responding gas stations are

open-cycle ones, with higher emissions than combined-cycle plants.

The central problem is that you cannot store electricity affordably – not like you can store a pile of coal. Batteries are vastly expensive on the scale required. To store just a day's worth of electricity for the UK would require a battery that would cost £300bn. Pumped storage (using spare power to pump water uphill) could be cheaper, but we don't have nearly enough mountains.

Compressed air storage, making hydrogen with spare power and other such schemes are all achingly expensive and impractical.

It gets worse. If we all do as we are told and install electric heat pumps instead of gas boilers to keep our homes warm on those cold, still winter days, the demand for reliable power will massively increase. If we also switch to electric cars (which use more power per mile on cold, dark days), the problem is greater still.

At the moment, government policy appears to be to rely on interconnectors from abroad. Britain is now Europe's second-biggest net importer of electricity, after Italy. This

is not only expensive; it's a huge vulnerability. Wind speeds are generally well correlated across neighbouring countries, so a wind drought in Britain will often coincide with one in Germany leaving both countries trying to import nuclear power from France and coal-fired power from the Netherlands.

Besides, the effect of an interconnector is to bid up prices in the exporting country. Norway has already passed a law allowing it to cut off its interconnector and the people of Iceland are balking at seeing their cheap hydro and geothermal power sent to Britain because of the effect on their domestic electricity prices.

Conversely, generators in Germany's neighbours resent having cheap electricity dumped in their grids through interconnectors when the sun is shining.

As Kathryn Porter, of Watt-Logic, put it in a forthcoming report, “relying on interconnectors could prove to be a huge gamble, and one we will only know we have lost when it is too late”.

The more we rely on unreliaables, the less secure and affordable our electricity becomes.

Crunch time

Villagers row water chestnut “buckets” in Xinshe, Jiangsu province, eastern China. The traditional work bucket, similar to a coracle, is used by households for harvesting the crop.



COSTA/PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

We now have the definitive proof that, for all its promises, Labour has given up on growth

MATTHEW LYNN

The price will be paid by tech researchers, start-ups, and by scrimping on the roads and railways

That didn't take long. Labour may have promised to make the UK the fastest growing economy in the G7 during the election campaign and, who knows, perhaps they even meant it.

And yet, since taking office, the Chancellor has already made three major decisions that will stifle entrepreneurship, hit start-ups and crush technology, while allowing the infrastructure on which businesses

depend to decline even further. In reality, Rachel Reeves is already a fully signed-up member of the anti-growth coalition that is now in full command of the UK – and over the next few years the consequences of that will start to become painfully apparent.

In an otherwise dull election campaign that ended a month ago, neither Reeves nor her party's leader, Sir Keir Starmer, made any firm promises.

Even so, at least they were both absolutely clear on one point: they would prioritise growth, sweeping away the restrictions and regulations put in place by the Conservatives, ripping up outdated planning rules, embracing the net zero “opportunity”, partnering with industry to focus on the technologies of the future and, with a commitment to stability, encouraging a fresh wave of foreign investment. They even put an official target on it, against which their

success (or failure) can be measured. Apparently, during the lifetime of this Parliament the UK will top the G7 for growth of GDP per capita for two years running. By the late 2020s, the statisticians at the IMF and the OECD will be able to refer to their spreadsheets and tell us whether the target has been met or not.

But we probably should not hold our breath. Over the past few days there have been a series of decisions that could have been purposefully designed to crush expansion.

Such as? The Government has cancelled £1.3bn that had been earmarked for spending on artificial intelligence and other technological innovations, including such projects as a planned £800m supercomputer at Edinburgh University, and another £500m for AI Research Resource.

The UK may have some of the best scientists in the world, but it turns out that the Government does not

think it is worth spending any money on the tools they might need to keep their edge.

Meanwhile, Labour is pressing ahead with an AI Regulation Bill, which many consider will do more harm than good. Put the two together, and a fast-growing sector could be starved of investment and wrapped up in red tape. You hardly need a supercomputer to tell you that the results will not be good.

Next, Reeves is allowing HMRC to launch a crackdown on R&D tax credits. The scheme, started by Gordon Brown when he was chancellor back in 2000, allows companies to claim allowances for money spent on innovation.

Many will support plans to claw back more than £4bn lost in fraud and error since 2020. But warnings have been issued that it will push some start-ups into bankruptcy, after HMRC decided claims were

mistakenly issued. The more fundamental point is that it is notoriously difficult for tax officials to gauge what counts as “innovation”.

Dyson's first product was a vacuum cleaner, and there were plenty of those in the shops when it was launched in 1991, but the company was none the less a great disrupter.

Monzo didn't exactly invent the online bank account when it was launched in 2015, but it came up with a slicker version of the concept, and has turned the business into one of the

‘A crackdown may save the Treasury a little bit of cash, but at the cost of closing some fledgling businesses’

UK's most successful new companies of the past decade. A crackdown may well save the Treasury a little bit of money, but at the cost of closing some fledgling businesses and spooking others from even trying anything new.

Finally, Reeves has cut back on infrastructure plans, scrapping spending on roads and rail networks to try to save money. But in a report published yesterday, the National Institute of Economic and

Social Research argued that the UK needs far more spending to upgrade transport systems, and every other form of public investment, not less, and that if the money was not made available growth would inevitably suffer.

At the same time, the newly installed Government is offering inflation-busting pay rises to public sector workers, some of whom have no intention of terminating their industrial action. It has launched a state-owned energy company at a cost of more than £8bn. It is picking green winners even in the face of collapsing demand for products such as EVs. Its “national wealth fund” is unlikely to deliver results.

The price is being paid by tech researchers, by start-ups, and by scrimping on the roads and railworks that every business relies on to move goods around the country.

In truth, Labour have an exaggerated faith in their ability to “manage” the economy.

The verdict is surely now beyond dispute: Rachel Reeves has little idea what generates growth, or what drives a modern economy. Her target to restore prosperity is already doomed to failure – and that will become clear very soon.

Used EV sales surge despite broader slowdown

By Matt Oliver

CONSUMERS hunting for a bargain are fuelling a surge in used electric vehicle (EV) sales amid a slowdown in the new car market.

Some 46,773 second-hand electric cars changed hands from April to June this year, an increase of 53pc compared to the same period last year.

That represented a record 2.4pc share of total used sales, up from 1.7pc, according to the Society for Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

Petrol and diesel vehicles accounted for 92.4pc combined, with hybrids making up the remainder.

The top five best-selling used EVs, from first to fifth, were Tesla's Model 3, the Nissan Leaf, the Kia Niro, the Jaguar I-Pace and the Mercedes-Benz EQC. Separate data yesterday from Auto

Trader, the online car dealer, showed the average selling price of a used Tesla Model 3 was £22,718.

Ian Plummer, Auto Trader's commercial director, said surging used EV sales showed that “when the price is right buyers are eager to make the switch”.

He noted that “middle aged” used EVs had seen particularly significant drops in price of late.

Mr Plummer added: “Used EVs are currently selling at their fastest rate in eight months on our platform.”

Those between three and five years old were selling the fastest, he said.

In that age bracket, Auto Trader said electric cars had now reached parity with petrol cars on price. The average price of a three-to-five-year-old EV was £18,964 in July, compared to £18,076 for a similarly priced petrol car, the platform's data showed.

The gap for new cars is far bigger. An average new EV on Auto Trader sells for £37,878 – more than £10,000 above the typical price tag for a comparable petrol model. Auto Trader said the difference was down to a surge of EVs previously bought on finance or leasing contracts re-entering the market.

This has led to the supply of middle-aged EVs jumping by 108pc since the start of the year, although demand has increased by 152pc as well.

The strong second-hand figures come against a backdrop of lacklustre demand in the new car market, with the SMMT this week lowering its forecast for new EV sales in 2024.

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the SMMT, said: “The increased supply of electric vehicles to second and third owners is helping more motorists make the switch.”

Senior lawyers and accountants face tax threat

By Charlotte Gifford

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is targeting senior lawyers, accountants, architects and their employers in its latest crackdown on the self-employed.

Tax advisers are bracing for a rise in inquiries into top professional services firms, after HMRC tweaked its interpretation of legislation designed to combat tax avoidance.

The legislation concerns whether senior partners at limited liability partnership (LLPs) should be deemed employed or self-employed for tax purposes. Experts warned the change “could easily have been missed” by firms that are now at risk of huge bills from the taxman.

Companies found to be in breach of the rules could be forced to pay back hundreds of thousands of pounds in

National Insurance (NI), while their employees could also be hit with tax bills. The liability would be £5,000 for a partner earning over £100,000 who had failed to pay NI for five years.

This is the taxman's latest attempt to tackle “disguised employment”, which has seen it pursue TV and radio presenters for income tax and NI all the way to the courts over the controversial IR35 off-payroll working rules.

Clamping down on tax avoidance is a key manifesto pledge for Labour. It has promised to raise an extra £4.7bn by fighting tax errors and evasion.

A partner in a law firm, accounting firm or financial company is a high-ranking position.

Unlike normal employees, partners have a stake in the business. Many are “fixed share” partners who inject some capital into the firm and receive a fixed

share of its profits. On top of this, partners are often treated as self-employed for tax purposes, so they also pay lower rates of National Insurance.

Self-employed workers pay Class 4 National Insurance Contributions (NICs) at 6pc, whereas employees pay Class 1 NICs at the higher rate of 8pc. The arrangement is even more beneficial for the LLP – as they pay no employers' NI, which is charged at 13.8pc on a worker's earnings. One employee earning £100,000 could save a company £12,500 in NI per year.

Guy Sterling, of accountancy firm Moore Kingston Smith, said the amount at stake for a firm could be “significant”.

A spokesman for HMRC said: “We updated our guidance in February to clarify the circumstances where particular avoidance rules would apply, to help customers get their tax right.”

Markets

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Government securities

High	Low	Eff	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25		100.28	-0.01	4.99 4.54
112.21	100.63	Treas 6% 28		109.14	-0.17	5.50 6.69
106.59	92.22	Treas 4% 32		103.03	-0.35	4.12 3.80
106.09	94.06	Treas 4% 36		101.69	-0.49	4.18 4.07
110.73	96.88	Treas 4% 38		105.78	-0.51	4.49 4.21

Index Linked Securities

352.43	328.96	Treas 4% 1L 30	345.62	-0.51	1.19 0.31
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% 1L 35	249.53	-0.85	0.80 0.65

10-year Government Bonds

Country	Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs Y-Bonds
France	2.96	-0.70	-0.98
Germany	2.26	-	-1.68
Japan	0.88	-1.38	-3.06
Great Britain	3.95	-1.69	-0.01
United States	3.94	-1.68	-

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 +2.06%

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E
575	367%	Babcock Intl	521	+13	1.0 15.8
1415%	953%	BAE Systems	1293	+22	2.4 21.1
491	292%	QinetiQ	464%	+6%	1.8 19.2
503	196%	Rolls-Royce	479%	+11%	-
183	141%	Senior	155	+3%	1.6 20.6

Banks +2.67%

241%	128%	Barclays	214%	+6%	3.8 7.8
915%	278	Close Bros	471%	+8%	-
725%	572%	HSBC	640%	+12%	7.5 7.1
64%	39%	Lloyds Bk Grp	57	+1%	5.1 7.5
372%	16%	NatWest Grp	345%	+10%	3.5 20.1
423	285	Santander	345%	+10%	3.5 20.1
796	571	Standard Ch	706%	+19%	3.3 8.3

Beverages +1.60%

3409	2275	Diageo	2406	+38	3.4 15.6
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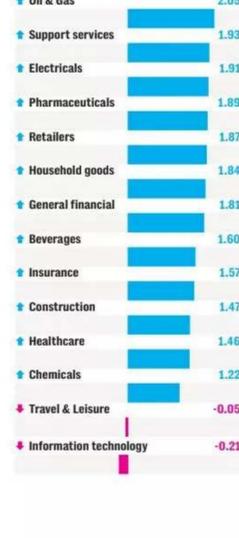
Chemicals +1.22%

5696	3832	Croda Intl	3900	+38	2.8 31.8
1917%	1428%	Johnson Mat	1585%	+29	4.9 22.0
1581	1012	Victrex	1040	+18	5.7 14.7

Construction +1.47%

437%	291%	Balfour Beatty	395%	+2%	2.9 11.2
582%	384%	Barratt Dev	521	+8%	5.4 9.8
2994	1972	Bellway	2704	+26	4.1 9.1
5360	3832	Berkeley Grp	4978	+26	2.5 13.3
237	170	Bent H	222	+6	3.3 11.3

Winners and losers (pc)



52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

90%	44%	Costain	83%	+1%	1.4 10.3
1089%	737%	Grafton Grp	1024	+23%	3.5 14.7
2960	1768	Morgan Sindal	2775	+75	4.1 10.9
1618%	925	Persimmon	1538%	+37	3.9 19.2
765%	434%	Redrow	736	+10	3.4 8.1
183%	102%	Taylor Wimpey	154	+2	6.2 15.6

Electricals +1.91%

238	135	Dialight	175	+3	-
819%	586	discovery Grp	626	+13	1.9 38.8
2750	1802	Halma	2513	+54	0.9 40.5
4500	2823%	Renishaw	3465	+25	2.2 21.7
2489%	682%	XP Power	1330	+30	-

Electricity +1.16%

666%	395%	Drax Group	645%	+15	4.0 4.5
1052%	645	Nat Grid	976	+9%	6.0 12.1
1932%	1485	SSE	1874	+28	3.2 17.0

Engineering / Industrial +0.92%

103%	64%	Coats Group	96%	+1%	2.4 34.7
834	212	Copper J	250	-	1.2 -6.0
8860	4500	Goodwin	7820	+40	1.7 37.8
1911	1429	IMI	1758	+24	1.7 19.2
1738%	1304	Mandil	1451%	+18%	4.1 15.7
184%	48%	Sverdrup	81	+1%	4.6 15.6
971	1517%	Smith Grp	1721	+21	2.5 26.3
464%	260%	Smith (DS)	446	+%	4.0 15.9
3950	2528	Sumit Westrock	3173	+10	3.0 -
11280	7900	Spirax Grp	8335	+33.0	1.9 34.2
2290%	1652%	Weir	1907	+39	2.0 21.6

Food producers +0.88%

2785	1907%	Ass Brit Fds	2446	+19	2.2 18.2
2890	2065	Coca-Cola HBC	2698	+2	3.0 18.1
4795	3158	Cranwick	4580*	-	2.0 21.8
957	634	Hilton Food	909	+35	3.5 22.4
919	48	REA Hedges	80%	-	-3.1
4920	3680%	Unilever	4845	+53	3.0 21.9

Gas & Water +1.22%

173%	120%	Centrica	125%	+1%	3.3 1.8
775	532%	Pennon Grp	611*	+3	7.3 +69.7
2801	2343	Severn Trent	2530	+55	4.6 49.6
1138%	896%	Utilities	1012	+%	4.9 54.4

General financial +1.81%

234%	156%	Ashmore	165%	+%	10.2 13.3
300%	164%	Bridgepoint Grp	276%	+5%	3.3 30.8
1169	676%	Hargreaves L	1068%	+18%	4.1 15.5
953	600%	IG Group	915	+34%	5.0 11.5
2448	1244%	Intermediate Cp	1992	+26	4.0 12.0
620%	429%	Investec	573	+5	6.0 5.2
62%	35%	IP Group	38%	+%	3.5 -2.2
865	519	Liontrust	606*	+3	11.9 -11.0
73%	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	56%	+2%	2.1 12.8
11080%	7936	Lon Stock Ex	9688	+172	1.2 68.7
241%	182%	M&G	200%	+4%	9.8 -3.0
279%	200%	Man Group	217%	+%	5.9 13.9

52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

137	71%	Quilter	133%	+5%	4.0 43.0
2440	1750	S & U	1900	-	6.3 9.1
447%	327	Schroders	343	+6	6.3 13.9
134%	42%	Vauxhall Banking Grp	53%	+%	11.3 -22.2

Healthcare +1.46%

375%	308%	Haleon	374	+5%	1.7 32.8
1245%	887	Smith & Neph	1179%	+44	2.5 48.7

Household goods +1.84%

225	67%	Burberry	692	-4	-
445	31%	McBride	124	-1	-18.8
168%	81%	PZ Cussons	101	+1%	5.2 11.6
6006	4034	Reckitt Benck	4223*	+86	4.6 18.4

Information technology +0.21%

390	224%	Apritude Sftwre	356*	-	1.5 49.3
1285	927%	Sage Cp	1014%	+3%	1.9 48.9
205	78%	Sprint	175	+2	1.8 51.8

Insurance +1.57%

219%	134%	abrdn	151%	+7%	9.6 -
2870	2091	Admiral	2674	+47	3.9 24.0
504%	366	Aniva	478%	+12%	7.0 12.7
715	485%	Beazley	637	+9	2.2 5.1
2402	146	DirectLinkes	177%	+3%	2.3 11.2
1282	96%	Hiscox	1174	+1	2.6 7.1
690	527%	Lancashire Hldg	600	+12	2.7 5.7
259	203%	Legal & General	219%	+2%	9.4 29.9
106%	436%	Phoenix	535	+15%	9.8 -38.8
1047%	613%	Prudential	643%	+15	2.6 13.2
937%	393%	St. James's Place	688%	+6	2.0 -382.5

Investment trusts +1.13%

High	Low	(p) Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	NAV
3180	1858%	SI	2985	+31	2.0 21.3
360	289	SI Infrastructure	338%	+3	3.5 36.1
826	528	abrdn New India	790	+10	-
1264	980	Alliance Invest	1186	+16	2.2 12.2
418	242%	Alliave Tech Trust	351%	+8%	-
428	321%	Asia Dragon Trust	393	+3	1.7 44.2
238	175	Baillie Giff China	185%	+1%	1.1 208
102%	75%	Baillie Giff Euro Grth	91%	+1%	0.4 105
88	60	Balanced Comm Prp	86%	+1%	6.1 105
1181	91%	Bancorp Investm Trst	1101*	+1	2.4 122
1064	715	Biotech Growth	987	+7	-
127	104	BlackRockEmerg&Res	113	+%	4.0 124
195%	131%	BlackRock Fndm	141	+%	4.7 15.7
653	457%	BlackRock Grt Euro	580	+5	1.2 604
209%	170	BlackRock IncGrth	195*	+5	3.8 21.9
207	172%	BlackRock SustAemc	198	+1%	4.0 21.3
1622	1146	BlackRock Small	1504	+4	2.8 161.7
632	503	BlackRock Thng Trst	633*	+4	2.4 618
684	490	BlackRock Wld M	527	+2	6.4 530
1420	964	Brammer	1340*	+20	1.8 1356
3700	3120%	Caledonia	3545	+55	2.0 5430
454	371%	City of Lon	429%	+7%	4.8 26.7
206	151%	CQS Nat Res G & I	174*	+3	3.8 191
261	206	CT Gbl Mgd Grp	257	-1	-

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's closing see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld NAV

122	98	CT Gbl Mgd	117%	-	6.3 114
516	406	CT Priv Eq Otd	470	-	6.0 682
345%	266%	CT UK Cap & Inc	328	+2%	3.8 338
99	71	CT UKHighIncTot	91	+4	6.2 94
590	448%	Dunedin Ent	515	+2%	1.9 629
786	629	Edinburgh Inv Tr	750	+9	3.6 627
165%	120%	Edin Worldwide	152%	+4%	-
92%	73	European Assets	84%	+%	7.0 94
1066%	825%	F&C Inv Trust	420	+20	1.5 1090
546%	467%	Fidelity Asian V	493	+8	2.9 540
246	180%	Fidty China Sp Sits	187%	+%	3.4 205
412%	311%	Fidelity Euro Tot	386	+1%	2.2 396
186%	144%	Fidelity Japan Tot	157%	+2	-
335%	252	Fidelity Sp V	319	+3	3.0 333
789%	768%	Finsbury Grth	826	+3	2.8 889
172%	141%	Fidelity Euro Tot	386	+1%	2.2 396
165%	144%	Fidelity Japan Tot	157%	+2	-
335%	252	Fidelity Sp V	319	+3	3.0 333</

Buy this cheap shipping fund that is plotting attractive returns in stormy markets

GAVIN LUMSDEN
QUESTOR
TRUST BARGAINS

A guaranteed cashback offer from Tufton Oceanic Assets in less than a week is too good to ignore

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: [telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules)

Investors looking for a safe berth in the stock market storm that erupted this week could do a lot worse than jump aboard Tufton Oceanic Assets as the shipping fund prepares to call time on its business and hand back cash.

The dollar-based Guernsey investment company owns a \$451m (£355m) fleet of 22 second-hand tankers and bulk carriers, which it hires out to major shipping operators for around one to three years.

Income from charter rates supports well-covered quarterly dividends that, at the current share price of \$1.28, offer an attractive yield of 7.8pc. Gains in the value of its vessels topped up with periodic sales of ships generate capital growth. With income and growth combined, the portfolio has provided a total underlying investment return of 103pc in the past five years. Unfortunately, the actual total return shareholders have received has been a less impressive 77.6pc.

That is because, like many "alternative" funds, Tufton Oceanic shares fell out of favour as income investors turned to government bonds yielding 4pc to 5pc during rising interest rates. From a \$1.41 peak in October 2021, the shares dropped to a low of \$0.98 in January.

Despite a 33pc rally since that nadir, at today's price they stand nearly 17pc below analysts' current estimate of

Tufton Oceanic Assets
BUY

The company is confident that charter rates will remain strong, with a lack of supply of new vessels exacerbated by environmental rules restricting the speed at which ships can travel

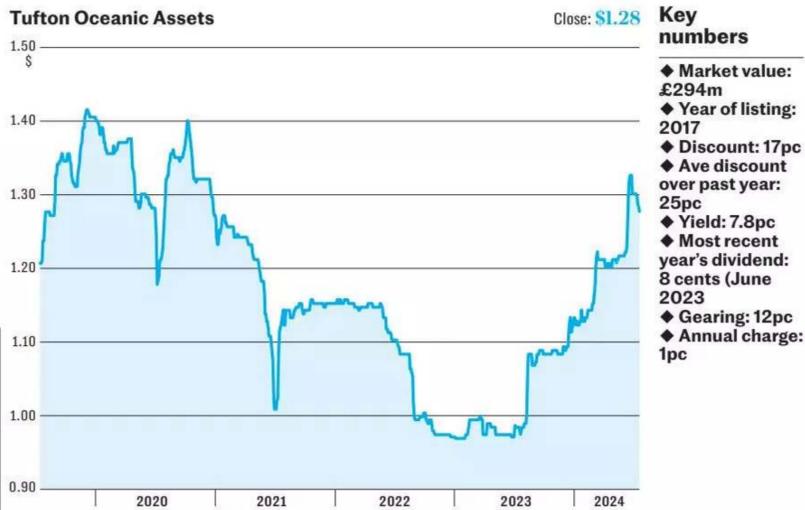
their net asset value (NAV) of \$1.53, which is slightly below the most recent company-issued NAV of \$1.55 on June 30.

However, here lies the investment opportunity. Like GCP Asset Backed Income, which we tipped last week, Tufton Oceanic has said it will start to wind down the portfolio in 2028, sell its ships and return capital to shareholders over what could be a two-year period.

That process will automatically erase the current share price discount and, even with liquidation costs of around 2pc, should give today's shareholders a 15pc uplift on top of any investment return the fleet generates between now and then.

In theory, investors could see the discount disappear a lot quicker than that. Tufton Oceanic is holding a continuation vote at its annual general meeting in October. It is possible that shareholders will elect to wind up the company at that point, which would result in an almost immediate hike in the share price to align it with the asset value that the liquidation would release.

However, it is unlikely the pension schemes and fund managers that hold most of the shares will push the fund into the breaker's yard so soon. Investors have been impressed with the way the company's board and fund manager Tufton Investment



Management have run the fund and prioritised shareholder returns when the stock derated. The shares have rallied this year because of the company's decision to lift its annual dividend target from 8.5 cents to 10 cents per share, with quarterly payments of 2.5 cents (or 1.9p for investors who select payments in sterling).

It also announced plans to continue buying back shares while they remained undervalued and to return surplus capital if suitable investment opportunities cannot be found.

The company is in the process of returning \$31.5m from the sale of two ships to investors on its register on Aug 14 by compulsorily buying 20.3m shares at their NAV of \$1.55.

This means, for example, anyone who spends \$12,600 (£9,917) buying 10,000 shares in the next few days will receive \$1,082 (£851.61) by the end of the month. This cash-back offer is attractive in the very short term, but

'Tufton Oceanic has said it will start to wind down the portfolio in 2028, sell its ships and return capital to investors'

we think the next four years could be good too. Our confidence lies in the fact that the two components behind this year's jump in the share price – a solid investment return coupled with a near halving in the share price discount – are still at play.

Although concerns that America could slip into recession and uncertainty over US and Japanese interest rates upset markets this week, it is probably no more than a summer squall that says more about investor nerves than the state of the global economy on which shipping relies.

Tufton Oceanic is confident that charter rates will remain strong, with a lack of supply of new vessels exacerbated by environmental rules restricting the speed at which ships can travel. While markets may continue to be volatile, prospects for the fund look bright.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: SHIP
Share price at close: \$1.28

Stocks steady as Bank of Japan vows not to increase rates

The Bank of Japan has helped to steady global stock markets after insisting it will not raise interest rates while the financial markets are unstable.

Shinichi Uchida, the deputy governor, sought to calm investor nerves after Tokyo's benchmark stock index suffered its worst points drop in history on Monday.

Mr Uchida said: "I believe that the Bank needs to maintain monetary easing with the current policy interest rate for the time being."

The yen leapt higher after the bank raised interest rates for the second time in 17 years last week.

It fuelled the global stock sell-off as hedge funds that had borrowed yen cheaply were forced to sell assets to cover their positions.

House prices rise at the fastest pace this year in July

House prices jumped last month as borrowers reduced mortgage rates ahead of an interest rate cut by the Bank of England.

Property values rose by 0.8pc in July compared with June, according to lender Halifax, while prices were up 2.3pc compared with the same time last year – the fastest pace of growth since January.

The average home is now worth £291,268. In June, the average home was worth £289,042.

Amanda Bryden, head of mortgages at Halifax, said: "Against the backdrop of lower mortgage rates and potential further base rate reductions, we anticipate house prices to continue a modest upward trend throughout the remainder of this year."

Ad giant WPP sells stake in corporate adviser for £610m

Advertising giant WPP has agreed to sell its stake in corporate adviser FGS Global for around \$775m (£610m).

The deal was made with a group of investment funds managed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co (KKR).

WPP said selling its 50pc share in the company, which provides public affairs and media advice to large corporates, was an "excellent outcome" for the global business.

The deal values FGS Global at about \$1.7bn. However, shares in WPP fell after the advertising group cut its annual revenue growth forecast.

It forecast revenue less pass-through costs, its preferred measure of performance, would be between minus 1pc to 0pc this year, compared with a previous range of 0pc to 1pc.

Ozempic maker ups sales outlook amid surging demand

The maker of the Ozempic and Wegovy has raised its sales forecast amid surging demand for its diabetes and weight-loss drugs.

Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk raised its forecast for the full year as "increased demand" for its diabetes and obesity treatments boosted sales. The drugmaker said it now expects sales to grow by between 22pc and 28pc in 2024, up from a previous forecast of 19pc to 27pc.

Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen, the chief executive, said: "We are pleased with the sales growth in the first half of 2024, which has enabled us to raise the outlook for the full year." Novo's profit after tax reached 20bn Danish kroner (£2.3bn) between April and June, up 3pc from the same period last year.

Sony raises forecast as it predicts boom in music streaming

Sony raised its full-year profit forecast after a solid performance in the first quarter, predicting strong sales in its video game, music and image sensor sectors.

The yen's weakness against the dollar in recent months has boosted takings for the Japanese electronics and entertainment conglomerate.

Music streaming services have been a money-spinner for Sony, which has an impressive back catalogue and whose current roster includes top artists such as Beyoncé and Lil Nas X.

In the three months to June, Sony posted a 6pc jump in net profit to 231.6bn yen (£1.3bn), beating analyst estimates. Sony forecasts net profit of 980bn yen in 2024-25, which would be a 6pc rise on the previous year.

Vodafone to hand back £430m to shareholders

Vodafone has said it will hand £500m (£430m) back to shareholders over the coming months, as part of a broader plan to boost investor returns.

The telecoms giant said the latest stage of its share buyback programme will last until Nov 29, and that it had hired Goldman Sachs to carry it out.

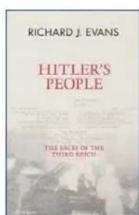
It comes after Vodafone committed to return £2bn to shareholders in March, after selling its Spanish business earlier this year.

Vodafone is midway through a turnaround plan, which has included selling off its Italian and Spanish businesses and cutting thousands of jobs. Vodafone said in May that it had returned to growth in its key markets, despite overall revenue and operating profit dropping last year.

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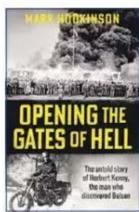
Three new takes on the Second World War and a collection of stories from the front line



Hitler's People: The Faces of the Third Reich

Why did so many Germans take part in the crimes of Nazi Germany? For too long, the Nazis have been presented as little more than psychopaths or criminals. In his major new work, renowned historian Richard J Evans strips away the veneer of myth from the faces of the Third Reich and presents a more realistic view of Nazi perpetrators as human beings who were disturbingly like ordinary people. The result is a perceptive analysis of why so many Germans continued to follow Adolf Hitler to the very end.

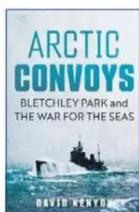
£30 (RRP £35)



Opening the Gates of Hell

In April 1945, Herbert Kenny, an army dispatch rider, was the first Allied soldier to open the gates at Belsen concentration camp. He kept his story from the world until an encounter with a trainee journalist brought it to light. Now, that reporter is ready to share his incredible tale with the world. With unprecedented access to Herbert's diaries, letters and interviews, Mark Hodkinson brings to life the harrowing conditions of Belsen and its eventual liberation. This is a testament to the power of one person in the face of unimaginable darkness.

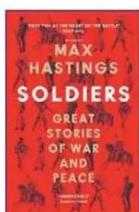
£18.99 (RRP £22)



Arctic Convoys: Bletchley Park and the War for the Seas

From 1941 to 1945, more than 800 shiploads of supplies were delivered to the Soviet Union and protected by Allied naval forces. These Arctic convoys have been mythologised as defenceless vessels at the mercy of deadly U-boats – but to what extent was that really the case? David Kenyon's book explores the story of the war in the Arctic, revealing that the contest was more evenly balanced than previously thought and how, amid the wide range of forces involved, Bletchley Park's Naval Section played a decisive role in Arctic operations.

£16.99 (RRP £20)



Soldiers: Great Stories of War and Peace

Renowned author, historian and journalist Max Hastings has gathered nearly 350 stories by many writers about men and women who have borne arms. They illustrate vividly what it is like to fight in wars, from Greek and Roman times through to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. As well as familiar names such as Joan of Arc, Queen Boudicca, Cromwell and Wellington, the stories of great writers who served in uniform and ambulance drivers also feature in a work that reflects a change of mood towards warfare through the ages.

£10.99 (RRP £12.99)

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 7th
The King this morning held a Meeting with Kingi Tūheitia (Maori King) via telephone. His Majesty later visited Helmsdale Railway Station to mark the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Sutherland and Cathness railway line and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland (Major General Patrick Marriott). The King, escorted by Ms Catriona Whitfield (Deputy

Lieutenant of Sutherland), met railway workers, representatives of Helmsdale Community Council and members of Sutherland Schools Pipe Band. His Majesty afterwards laid flowers at Helmsdale War Memorial to mark its Centenary and met veterans and members of the local community.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
August 7th
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the Orpheus Centre Trust, and The Duchess of Edinburgh this evening attended a performance of "Starlight Express" at Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre, 3 Fulton Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

Today's birthdays

Princess Beatrice, Mrs Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, is 36.

Sir Roger Penrose, mathematician; joint Nobel Prize winner for Physics, 2020, 93; **Mr Dustin Hoffman**, actor, 87; **Lord Smith of Kelvin**, Chairman, Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, Glasgow 2014, 2008-15, 80; **Mr Stephen Wallis**, Chairman, The Albert Fisher Group, 1992-97, 77; **Mr Nigel Mansell**, racing driver; Formula One World Drivers' Champion, 1992, 71; **Mr Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam**, Bishop of Salisbury, 2011-21, 70; **Gen Brian Peddle**, General of The Salvation Army, 2018-23, 67; **Mrs Anna Turner**, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, 66; **Mr Angus Fraser**, former England cricketer; Managing Director of Cricket, Middlesex CCC, 2009-21, 59; **Mr Chris Eubank**, middleweight and super-middleweight boxing world champion, 1990-95, 58; **Mr**

Philip Marshall, Director, The London Library, 52; **Mr Alex Chalk**, KC, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, 2023-24, 48; **Mr Roger Federer**, tennis player; eight-time Wimbledon Men's Singles Champion, 43; **Mr David Florence**, former slalom canoeist; Olympic silver medalist, canoe double (C2), London 2012, 42; **Mr Toby Flood**, former England rugby union international; now kicking and skills coach, Newcastle Falcons, 39; and **Mr Kane Williamson**, international cricketer; captain, New Zealand Test cricket team, 2016-22; captain, New Zealand limited-overs team, 34.

Today is the anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It is also the anniversary of the beginning of the main phase of the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord Hawke and Miss O.P. Churton
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Lord Hawke and of Lady Hawke, of Cheshire, and Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Churton, of Shropshire.
Online Ref: W0027233

Mr T.K. Barclay and Miss N.N.S. Bristowe
The engagement is announced between Todd, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Barclay, of Gore, New Zealand, and Natalie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Bristowe, of Fernhurst, West Sussex.
Online Ref: W0027238

Clergy news

Appointments
Rev Alexandra Barrett, chapl. St Catherine's College, Cambridge (Ely), to be assoc v, Cambridge St Mary with St Michael (same dio); Joy French, p-in-c, Owlerton St John the Baptist (Sheffield), to be national dir, Perfect Peace project (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); Gerwyn Capon, r, Thaxted (Chelmsford), to be adm, Montgomery (St Asaph); Simon Nicholls, assoc p, West Ham All Saints (Chelmsford), to be assoc past, Soul Survivor Watford (BMO) (St Albans); Sophie Weller, ac, Tye Green with Nettleswell (Chelmsford), to be p-in-c, Great Hallingbury St Giles and Little Hallingbury St Mary the Virgin, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End St John, and Hatfield Heath and Sheering (same dio); Gary Fleming, ac, the Rodings, Easters and Great Canfield (Chelmsford), to be v, Clavering, Langley, Arkesden, Wicken Bonhunt, Mandun and Berden (same dio); Michael Hall, p-in-c, Great Burstead with Ramsden Crays (Chelmsford), to be v, Great Burstead with Ramsden Crays (same dio); Dr Henry Hope, ac, Hexham (Newcastle), to be tv, Leek and Meerbrook, and c-in-c, Cheddleton (Lichfield); Adam Clayton, r, Myddle and Broughton, Loppington and Newtown (Lichfield) to be also min-in-c, Shawbury, Stanton upon Hine Heath and Moreton Corbet (same dio).

Retirements and resignations
Rev Jill Gillanders, ac, Thirk (York), resigned with effect from May 8 2024; Richard Newton, r, Hagley St John the Baptist and Clet (Worcester), retired on July 31 2024; Elaine Jones, v, Peterlee St Cuthbert (Durham), retired on July 31 2024; Niall Weir, r, West Hackney St Paul (London), retired on July 31 2024.

Bridge news

The Scottish Bridge Union holds national online matchpoint pairs events in the evening on most Saturdays, writes **Julian Postage**, Bridge Correspondent. These sessions are Swiss Pairs with pairs playing others with similar scores. The highest score on a Saturday Swiss in July was 68.01%, achieved by Angus Kirby and Stuart Challinor on the 27th. The SBU also holds a Bronze Brunch pairs earlier on a Saturday. The highest score in these sessions in July was 72.62%, achieved by Judy Hepburn and Val Beamish on the 13th. On a Sunday the SBU holds a Teatime Individual. The highest score during July was 70.83%, achieved by Pat Duncan on the 7th.

Bridge Hand

Be flexible in outlook

By Brian Senior
THERE is a psychological imperative, which makes us look at the play from the point of view of our own hand. Yet, sometimes, that is not the best approach.

Dealer North
Vulnerability North-South
♠ 653
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ A K J 4
♣ 8 3
N S E W
♠ A 8 7 4 2
♥ A 6 3
♦ 7 2
♣ A J 4

West North East South
pass INT pass 1♠ (1)
pass 2♥ pass 2♠
pass 4♣ pass pass

(1) Game-forcing checkback
West led the Jack of spades, East following with the nine and declarer ducking. West continued with the 10 of spades to the King and ace.
Declarer led a diamond to the ace, followed by a club to the Jack and King. Now came a surprise when West turned up with the Queen of spades and cashed it, drawing dummy's remaining trump, then returning a club to the queen and ace.
Declarer tried to ruff out the Queen of diamonds without success, then tried to split the hearts. When neither suit obliged, he had to concede a club at the end, so was down one.

SEVEN CONVICTS IN DARING ESCAPE.

BUT ALL RECAPTURED.

TWO SHOT BY PATROL.

Princeton and the district around the famous Dartmoor convict prison was thrown into a state of intense excitement by the escape yesterday of seven convicts, all of whom were later recaptured. The escape took place at noon, when the men were engaged in haymaking in a field near the prison. At the time the gang were having their midday meal, when seven of their number made a dash for liberty and succeeded in escaping from the mounted patrol. Realising the serious situation the patrol drew his revolver, and two shots rang out. Two of the convicts fell, shot in the legs, and were immediately taken back to the prison.

By this time the five other convicts had separated, making off to the south over the moors. A man who was sitting at dinner in his house at Princetown had his attention drawn to the unusual proceedings in the hayfield. Realising that it was an attempt to escape he ran out and informed a constable. The constable jumped on his bicycle and hurried along one of the roads to Two Bridges, and succeeded in tackling one of the runaways. In a few seconds he had overpowered the man, who was soon inside the prison again.

The remaining four prisoners, who had so far outstripped their pursuers, soon disappeared over the crest of the hills, going towards Ivybridge. Within a few seconds of the alarm being given all available officers of the prison were despatched to scour the countryside. All convicts outside the prison were immediately recalled, and Captain Morgan, prison governor, sent information of the escape to all police-stations in Devon and Cornwall, with descriptions of the missing men. Three of the men were recaptured during the afternoon, two at Dartmoor, and in the early evening the last man was found in the same vicinity. One of the last men caught was standing in a pool of water covered to the neck. His presence was disclosed by a dog which was with one of the warders. At the time of the escape there were large numbers of holiday-makers on the moors, and many joined in the hunt.

Three of the seven convicts were stated to be highly dangerous characters. Their attempt to escape was the more daring because of the fact that the moors were bathed in sunshine, and hundreds of trippers had arrived in the vicinity in charabancs. Some of the excursionists joined enthusiastically in the manhunt.

ROADWAY AS LANDING-PLACE.

An Air Union Goliath-Farman aeroplane found an unusual landing-place on Wednesday, when, in the course of its journey from Paris to Croydon, it came to rest after a forced descent upon a road near Tonbridge. The machine, carrying five passengers and a cargo of merchandise, and piloted by P. C. M. Delesle, made a capital flight across the Channel, and nothing out of the way happened until a storm was encountered over Tonbridge. Engine trouble arose at this point, and the pilot decided to land at once, rather than take the risk of seeking refuge at Penshurst Aerodrome, three miles distant. Delesle skilfully manoeuvred the aeroplane until he saw a meadow at Faulkner's Farm, near Hadlow, which appeared to be a safe landing-place, but apparently he then misjudged his distance, for although the machine reached the ground safely it "taxied" through a hedge and settled across a thoroughfare known as Three Elm-lane, completely blocking it for several hours.

DOCTOR SHOT BY PATIENT.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY.

Dr. Duncan Despard, the well-known surgeon, of Philadelphia, a personal friend and boyhood companion of Mr. Davis, the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, was shot and killed yesterday in his house by Alfonso Massi, a tailor, who afterwards shot himself. Over a year ago Dr. Despard operated on Massi for appendicitis, but the patient was under the illusion that he was no better afterwards than before. This fact preyed on his mind to the point of insanity. Yesterday he borrowed \$2 from his wife and bought cartridges. On entering Dr. Despard's surgery he shot the physician with a revolver in the back without warning, and then fired three shots at his own body, the last of which was fatal. The news of the surgeon's death was received by the Davis household with deep distress. Dr. Despard, like the former Ambassador at St. James's, was born at Clarksburg, West Virginia, and both grew up together. Mrs. Davis travelled today to Philadelphia, and remains at the Despard home until after the funeral. Mr. Davis also desired to go to Philadelphia, but was prevented by urgent political engagements.

AN INGENIOUS SWINDLE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. PARIS, WEDNESDAY.

A large jeweller, M. Weingart, of the Boulevard Poissonniere, has just been made the victim of a clever coup, which the swindler had been carefully preparing for months, and on which he had spent money lavishly in order to inspire confidence in his victim. About six months ago, a man whose general manner conveyed an impression of high social standing called at M. Weingart's shop and asked to see a selection of diamond watch bracelets. He eventually purchased one and paid for it on the spot with 6,500fr in cash.

Twice after that the same client called at the shop to have the glass replaced in the watch, and on one visit he spoke of buying a diamond necklace, saying that he was not disposed to pay the prices of the Rue de la Paix, but would prefer to deal with M. Weingart. The jeweller eventually made a diamond necklace, and when he had finished it his client telephoned to ask that it should be brought to his flat, a richly appointed place in the Rue Auber. The jeweller, on visiting the flat, found a brass plate on the door describing his client as M. Delahaye, wool dealer, of Roubaix. He was received by a smart manservant and conducted into a luxuriously furnished study. "M. Delahaye" had just motioned him to take a seat when the telephone bell rang, and the jeweller was greatly impressed to hear "M. Delahaye" reply to his interlocutor: "Yes, M. le President. My uncle the Senator will see to the affair." Having examined the necklace, valued at 194,000fr, he said he would not have time to get along to the shop but would pay for it at once by cheque on a neighbouring bank which the jeweller would go and cash straight away. He could leave the necklace.

Impressed by the luxury of the flat, by the expensive purchase his client had made six months before, and by the fact that he could present the cheque in less than an hour, the jeweller consented. Within an hour he had found that the cheque was valueless, but his client had disappeared by that time from the flat, which, it appears, he had taken furnished, paying 15,000fr as a fortnight's rent. His previous purchase, six months of waiting, brass plate, and impressive flat had all been part of a skilfully planned campaign.

Chess

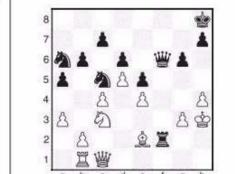
Royal appointment

By Malcolm Pein
SHREYAS Royal, 15, from Woolwich became the youngest ever British chess grandmaster, after securing his third grandmaster result.

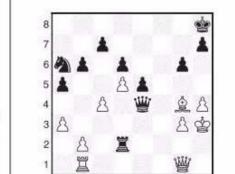
Royal had a series of near misses throughout 2024 and some bad luck, so he deserved some good fortune at Hull. In the last round, Michael Adams missed a winning move and Royal escaped with the draw he needed.

Royal looked like a contender for the championship when he defeated Howell in round four, doubtless buoyed by this escape the day before.

14.g3 b6 15.0-0 Qe7 (A dream KID for Black. White's queenside play is not even under way. See board left) 16.Kg2 Rf7 17.Nb3 Na4 18.Nb5 fxe4 19.fxe4 Rf8 20.Rh1 Rf2+ 21.Rxf2 Bb3+ 22.Kxh3 Rxf2 (White has a stranded king and hopelessly placed pieces) 23.Qe1 Qf6 24.a3 Kh8 25.Nc1 Nc5 (25...Nc5) 26.Nc3 Bxc1 (26...g5 opens White up or if 27.Nd1 g4- 28.Bxg4 Rc2 29.Ne2 Nd3) 27.Qxcl



27...Nxe4! 28.Nxe4 Qf5- 29.Bg4 Qxe4 30.Qg1 Rd2?? (30...Kg7 31.Qx2 Qxb1 followed by Nc5 is an easy win because of 32.Be6 Qh1- 33.Kg4 h5- 34.Kg5 Qc1-) White to play and win:



Answer: 31.Qf1-0-0 Black cannot prevent

Announcements

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Anniversaries

Diamond weddings

RICKHUSS - BULL.—On 8th August 1964, at Holy Trinity Church, Short Heath, Keith to Gillian Maureen. With love on your Diamond Anniversary from all the family.
Online Ref: W0027247

Deaths

BARNDEN.—Diana (née Stroud) lately of Kingsbridge, formerly of Newtown, Wickham died peacefully aged 92. Wife of the late Captain Tony Barnden RN, much loved mum to Louise, Liz and Tim, and treasured Gran and Great-Gran. No flowers, donations to RAB. All family and friends are welcome to celebrate her long life with us at South Hams Natural Burial Ground at 11.30 a.m. on 28th August 2024.
Online Ref: W0027185

BATEMAN.—Jennifer, 11.03.35 - 26.07.24 "...a lady in every sense of the word". A Celebration of her life on 20th August at 2 p.m. at Barham Crematorium. All her friends are welcome. Enquiries to Co-op Funerals. Tel: 01227 463067.
Online Ref: W0027299

BEATTIE.—Michael John Colpoys, died peacefully aged 92 on 23rd July. Darling soulmate of Val, very proud father of Tim, Robin and Belinda and of his six grandchildren. Body donated to science. Celebration of his life to be held in October in Woodbridge. Donations in his memory to British Heart Foundation or Macmillan Cancer Support.
Online Ref: W0027253

BIGGS.—Kenneth John, aged 92, died after a short illness on July 28th. For 63 years beloved husband of Mary. Dearest father of Roger and Timothy, devoted father-in-law of Linda and Jennifer, proud grandfather of Kaitlyn, Matthew, Abbie and Charlie. He will be greatly missed. Our inspiration, role model and hero. Private funeral. Memorial lunch at a later date.
Online Ref: W0027214

BOLT.—Madeleine 'Peggy'. (20.01.1922-09.07.2024). Passed away peacefully after a long and full life. Beloved wife of Bram H. Kerr and F.D. (Ben) Bolt. Proud and loving mother of Thomas and Caroline. Devoted 'Pepi' to Katy, Alex and Georgie. Great grandma to Romy, Cassius, Tollyn and Theodora. One of the last Blechley Park Wrens (1942-1945). No flowers or letters but donations in her memory to Sense, for blind and deaf children, London N1.
Online Ref: W0027252

CALLANDER.—Mona Patricia (née Meldrum), wife of the late Alexander (Sandy) and adored mother of Sheena, Alison and David. Died peacefully at Colldon on 3rd August, aged 93, surrounded by her children. Grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 14. Funeral Service to be held at Port of Menteith Church FRS 38A on Wednesday 14th August at 11.30 a.m.
Online Ref: W0027292

COLWYN.—Ian Anthony. Much loved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Died peacefully on 4th August 2024, aged 82. Private family funeral. A celebration of life will be held in London at a later date. Email: colwynfamily24@gmail.com for details.
Online Ref: W0027320

HARCOURT-SMITH.—Air Chief Marshal Sir David, GBE, KCB, DFC, died on Sunday 4th August in Amesbury Abbey Nursing Home. Much missed by his family and friends. Funeral on Wednesday 4th September at 11.30 a.m. at Wyndham Hall, 50 Church Street, Amesbury. Enquiries to Will Case & Partners. Tel: 01980 623204.
Online Ref: W0027283

HERCOCK.—Timothy died suddenly on 30th July 2024, aged 61. Much loved husband to Sara, loving father to Ned, brother to Jeremy and Sally. Proud former 9th/12th Lancer, High Sheriff of Leicestershire, MFH. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Thursday 29th August 2024 at St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray LE13 1AE at 2.30 p.m. No flowers. Donations to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and the Matt Hampson Foundation.
Online Ref: W0027318

LAWRENCE.—Caroline May. Wife of David Lawrence. Passed away on 18th June following a long illness, bravely borne. The Funeral and interment will be held at St Mary's Church, Bloxholm LN4 3QF on Monday 19th August at 12 noon. Enquiries to Lincolnshire Co-op Funeral Services, Spalding PE11 1JD. Tel: 01775 723199.
Online Ref: W0027270

LLOYD.—Brenda (née Dalton). Passed away peacefully at home in Winchcombe on Sunday 28th July 2024, aged 92 years. Wife of the late Walter of Roel Hill Farm, mother of Bridget and Jackie. Granny to Caroline, Katherine, Oli and Abi, and fun loving GG to twins Henry and Oscar. Funeral Service to be held on Wednesday 21st August 2024 at 1 p.m. at Cheltenham Crematorium, Oak Chapel GL52 5JT. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity may be placed in the retiring collection or sent c/o Alexander Burn Funeral Directors, 11 North Street, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, GL54 5LH. Tel: 01242 604888.
Online Ref: W0027266

MEDHURST.—Patricia 'Anne' (née Beer) died peacefully on holiday in Norway on 1st August 2024 aged 90. Much loved wife of Brian, mother of Juliet, Nigel and George, Granny of Thomas, Sophie, Matthew, Laurie, Hattie, Monty, Neve and Rudi, and Great Granny of Imogen. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.
Online Ref: W0027271

MUMFORD.—Geoffrey Charles died aged 82 on 21st July. Beloved husband of Jenny, proud father of Catherine and Tim. Granddad to Jake, Oliver, Artie and Otto. Co-founder of Burton Bridge Brewery. Funeral Service on Monday 19th August at 12 noon at Brettey Crematorium. Donations to Buxton Rugby Club c/o Waits Funeral Directors. Tel: 01283 516666.
Online Ref: W0027290

RADCLIFFE.—Derwent James St John died at home on 31st July 2024, surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Helen, father, brother and grandfather. A Memorial Service will be held at 2.30 p.m. on 26th September 2024 at St Mary's Church, Easebourne, Midhurst GU29 0AJ. Donations to Midhurst Palliative Care c/o W. Brydler & Sons.
Online Ref: W0027221

ROBINSON.—Colonel Richard Henry, OBE. Passed away on July 15th 2024. Beloved husband to Elizabeth, much loved father to Rick, Victoria and Tim, grandfather to Olivia, Josh, George, Sam, Ellie and Molly and great grandfather to Freddie, Sienna and Harry. Funeral Service at St John's College, Cambridge on Friday August 16th at 12 noon followed by a private burial. Family flowers only. Donations to The Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity.
Online Ref: W0027300

The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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Personal

Text of the day

I THANK my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.
Philimon 1:4-6 (AV)

Birthdays

JACK NOON IS 40! To our wonderful colleague Jack, we hope you have a great birthday. We cannot wait to see the photos from your amazing trip! All the best, Jose, Kirk, Danny, Abigail, Lisa and Jessica.
Online Ref: W0027335

General personal

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The Telegraph

1960s

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'Dixie' Lee and Jim Burrowes

Last of Australia's unsung 'coastwatchers' who covertly reported on Japanese offshore movements

ON "DIXIE" LEE AND JIM BURROWES, who have died in Melbourne within hours of each other, aged 100 and 101 respectively, were the last two Australian coastwatchers of the Second World War. The legendary and secretive coastwatchers represent one of the most illustrious chapters in Australia's military history.

Prewar, the Royal Australian Navy had the foresight to set up a network of expatriates who would covertly report on Japanese movements around the coastline of New Guinea and the Solomons. This Coast Watch Organisation morphed into the Combined Field Intelligence Service, which reported to the Allied Intelligence Bureau.

In 1939 the network was expanded by the Swedish-born former New Guinea district officer Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, formally known as Staff Officer (Intelligence) at Port Moresby. He named it Operation Ferdinand, after the classic children's book *The Story of Ferdinand*, about a bull who did not fight in the ring but sat under a cork tree and smelled the flowers. Feldt's point was to remind his coastwatchers that it was not their duty to fight and so draw attention to themselves.

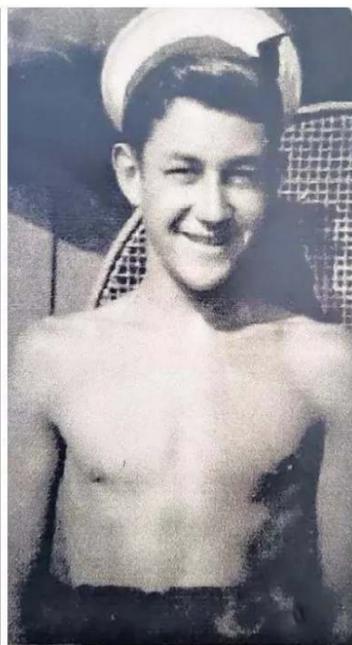
He recruited planters, policemen, a priest, and one woman, the Sydney-born Ruby Boye, for the dangerous task. When the Japanese invaded the Pacific islands in 1942, these coastwatchers accepted their changed mission with great courage and at great personal cost. Some were captured and beheaded, others simply disappeared, while others continued their clandestine task for months on end with the help of local villagers.

This unsung, heroic group of people displayed selfless bravery, and as the value of the coastwatching network became more fully appreciated, servicemen were also recruited for this most dangerous of missions.

Among them were Signaller Jim Burrowes and Able Seaman Coder "Dixie" Lee. They joined a cohort of radio operators who provided crucial communication links using the cumbersome AWA telerradio. The AWA was supposedly portable, but in practice only with the help of a dozen local native men who also risked their lives.

The coastwatchers' contribution to the war effort in reporting on Japanese shipping and air movements had a strategic impact. Their finest hour was in the decisive Guadalcanal campaign, which lasted from August 1942 to February 1943, when they reported on waves of enemy aircraft, assisted in the rescue of the future president John F. Kennedy, and oversaw the launch of guerrilla raids on the Japanese with the assistance of fearless Solomon Islanders. It led USN Admiral "Bull" Halsey to say: "The coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific."

James Burrowes was born on March 29 1923 in Melbourne and served both on the north coast of New Guinea and then on the island of New Britain, where he and two fellow coastwatchers reported on the Japanese stronghold of Rabaul.



Lee, above left, and Burrowes, soon after joining up, and, right, in 2019 for a commemoration at the Tidal River training camp in Victoria; they died within hours of each other



That town had a special significance for Burrowes, as his older brother Bob had been in the army and captured there in 1942. Bob lost his life when the Japanese prison ship, *Montevideo Maru*, was sunk later that year by the submarine USS *Sturgeon* with the loss of more than a thousand prisoners of war and civilians. Jim's twin brother Tom was a wireless air gunner in a Beaufort bomber which was lost over Rabaul in 1943.

Burrowes was proud of the role he had played. "The singular mandate of coastwatching was not to confront the enemy but to report their movements," he wrote.

"I was lucky to be selected to be a radio

operator, instead of infantry. I was lucky to be replaced as the radio operator in the disastrous Hollandia infiltration party when the original guy, Jack Bunning, was ambushed by the Japanese and killed. I was lucky not to be caught and killed by the Japanese, while hiding in the jungle. Thirty-eight other coastwatchers were killed. I was lucky to come home."

Postwar, Burrowes qualified as a chartered accountant, a chartered secretary and a licensed companies auditor, and joined AV Jennings Industries, then the largest housebuilding company in Australia, as assistant to the company secretary. He was to work at Jennings for 33 years,

eventually becoming executive director of the Jennings Mining and Manufacturing Groups.

Ronald George "Dixie" Lee was born on July 4 1924 in Ulverstone, Tasmania, and joined the Royal Australian Navy as a coder aged 17. A high-spirited young rebel who got into his fair share of scrapes, he was still only 19 when he was encouraged to join the Allied Intelligence Bureau and he volunteered for coastwatching duties.

He served in the Treasury group of islands and the nearby Stirling Island, and then Finschhafen, Milne Bay and Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. At Bougainville he served with Lieutenant "Snowy" Rhodes, one of the most famous coastwatchers, and provided some invaluable reports of Japanese aircraft approaching Guadalcanal.

In 2020 Lee told the Australian War Memorial: "The [Treasury] islands were completely controlled by Japan, and we set up a little camp there. There were three of us, an officer, a sergeant in the army, and then me, a coder from the navy.

"Your heart probably beats a little bit faster because you don't know what's ashore... but I realised early on that I was immortal, so nothing frightened me. Terrible things happened and some of our blokes were beheaded, but I just did my job. The fighter pilots, and tail gunners, and things: they were the brave ones."

After nearly five years in the RAN, over half of them as a coastwatcher, Lee was discharged in early 1946, going on to become a successful land surveyor.

In the 1970s he hand-built a 30ft wooden ketch, but gave her up after forever chasing leaks that occurred after rough weather. He next yacht was larger and drier, a custom-built, steel-hulled 45ft ketch, and he sailed in her for three years through some of the South Pacific, retracing some of his wartime adventures.

Lee was especially anxious to reach the Treasury Islands and Bougainville, and for a time he worked there as a surveyor. It was like stepping back in time, and "Masta Dix" was reunited with many of his wartime friends.

In 2015 Lee was among the Second World War veterans who returned to Papua New Guinea to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in the Pacific.

JFK's daughter Caroline Kennedy, who serves as the US ambassador to Australia, recalled having "had the privilege to meet and honour Jim and Dixie at a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial... An Australian coastwatcher and two Solomon Islander scouts rescued my father and his crew when their PT109 sank in the Solomon Islands. My sympathies go out to their families and friends - I am truly grateful for their service."

Burrowes is survived by his wife Beryl, whom he married in 1950, while Lee is survived by his fifth wife, Mem.

Jim Burrowes, born March 29 1923, died July 7 2024; Dixie Lee, born July 4 1924, died July 8 2024

Ian Keatley

Inspiring director of music and organist at Southwark Cathedral

IAN KEATLEY, who has died suddenly on holiday in Austria aged 42, was the organist and director of music at Southwark Cathedral, responsible not only for music at the daily services but also for special events, including the memorial for the author Dame Hilary Mantel in April 2023 and the service two months later to celebrate the Windrush generation.

Previously he was organ scholar at Westminster Abbey, playing for state occasions including the service to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. He also played at the memorial services for the former prime minister Jim (Lord) Callaghan and the comedian Ronnie Barker.

In 2009 he gave an organ and bagpipe duet recital at Westminster Abbey with Pipe Major Jim Motherwell, personal piper to Queen Elizabeth II, a first for the Abbey's recital series. A colourful and stylish figure, Keatley was a lover of wine, food and travel whose hospitality was legendary and whose laughter filled a room. Hundreds of choristers had their views shaped by his pursuit of excellence and his joy in music.

Moreover, he took his faith seriously, regarding choral directing as a vocation. He told colleagues at Southwark Cathedral that he considered church music to be "a bridge to Heaven".

Ian Keatley was born on March 10 1982 in Belfast, where his passion for choral music began at St George's Church. He first visited Southwark Cathedral while on the choir's 1989 tour of England and was photographed, aged seven, in cassock and surplice with his father and brothers in front of the high altar.

Four years later his choirmaster arranged for him to spend a week with the choristers of St Albans Abbey under Barry Rose.

"I found Barry's choral direction mesmerising," Keatley said, "and it sparked in me a love of singing and an appreciation for our great Anglican choral tradition."

In 1996 he was appointed organ scholar at Methodist College Belfast. He then became a vicar choral of Wells Cathedral, singing countertenor, and in 2000 joined Croydon Minster as assistant organist. Two years later he took up his first position at Southwark Cathedral, as organ scholar, during which time he



Music was 'a bridge to Heaven'

founded the Merbecke Choir to enable former choristers to continue singing at a high level.

Meanwhile, he was pursuing his organ studies at the Royal College of Music, where on one occasion he played continuo for a performance of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* conducted by Peter Schreier.

He worked with choirs at the Chapels Royal and the Tower of London and in 2004 became organ scholar at Westminster Abbey, including director of music at the Abbey's choir school.

From 2012 Keatley spent seven years at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, before returning to Southwark in 2019 as successor to Peter Wright. During the Covid-19 lockdowns he worked in the deanery garden preparing click tracks to send to the lay clerks, who in turn recorded their separate parts on video to be spliced together for the cathedral's online services.

He gave recitals across the country and was also founding director of the girls' choir for the Charles Wood Festival of Music, held each summer in churches across Co Armagh. He recalled with delight how in February 2020 the Southwark choristers took part in filming for season four of *The Crown* for Netflix and enjoyed meeting the show's stars, including Olivia Colman and Helena Bonham Carter.

Two months ago, Keatley invited parish church choirs from across the diocese to join the choristers of Southwark Cathedral and Croydon Minster for a special celebration of Evensong, filling the nave with music and jubilation.

He is survived by his parents and two brothers, one of whom, Niall, is professor of trumpet at the Royal College of Music.

Ian Keatley, born March 10 1982, died August 5 2024

Thomas Hoepker

Photographer of Muhammad Ali and life in East Germany, later embroiled in a 9/11 controversy

THOMAS HOEPKER, who has died aged 88, was best known for his intimate 1960s photographs of Muhammad Ali, and of everyday life in 1970s East Germany; then, in 2006, he became the object of heated discussion on both sides of the Atlantic when a "taboo" photograph came to light that he had taken on September 11 2001 of five young people seemingly chatting amiably in the sun in Brooklyn while a thick plume of smoke billows from the Twin Towers behind them.

Hoepker was vice-president of the Magnum Photos agency, and on 9/11 he was one of 12 members who happened to be in New York for a meeting. He was driving to get a better view of the attack when he spotted the disconcertingly idyllic scene, which he later compared to Bruegel's *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*, in which a peasant ploughs his field oblivious to Icarus's demise in the background.

When Hoepker came to marshal the Magnum photographers' records of the day into an exhibition and then a bestselling book, which he edited, he left out that picture, finding it "ambiguous and confusing".

The rejected image, titled *A Day in the Sun*, then had a brief outing in 2002 in a London photography exhibition, where it was praised by the *Evening Standard* for courageously depicting an alternative reality on a day when "it seemed that the whole of America was on the verge of collapse".

The German press interpreted the image as an indictment of American hedonism and individualism. But it was not until it appeared in David Friend's 2006 book on 9/11, *Watching the World Change*, that it was widely noticed.

The *New York Times* called it shocking but prescient: "This is a country that likes to move on, and fast. The young people in Mr Hoepker's photo aren't necessarily callous. They're just American." *Slate* magazine ran an outraged response, entitled "Those New Yorkers Weren't Relaxing!" An artist called Walter Sipser then wrote into *Slate*, under the headline "It's Me in That 9/11 Photo", claiming that he and his friends had been misrepresented by Hoepker, and had actually been "in a profound state of shock and disbelief".

The question of what the picture meant, whether it was "true", and indeed what relationship photography has with "truth", was chewed over by bloggers and broadsheet critics.

"I think the image has touched many people exactly because it remains fuzzy and ambiguous in all its sun-drenched sharpness," wrote Hoepker. "It asked questions but provided no answers... Was



this the callousness of a generation, which had seen too much CNN and too many horror movies? Or was it just the devious lie of a snapshot, which ignored the seconds before and after I had clicked the shutter?"

On the 10th anniversary it was one of the most widely reprinted pictures of 9/11, but by then it had long ceased to be about "judging individuals", as Jonathan Jones put it in *The Guardian*, and instead had become "a picture about history, and about memory".

Thomas Hoepker was born on June 10 1936 in Munich, the son of a journalist. He was given a glass-plate camera aged 14 by his grandfather; two years later he won his first prize, with a picture of his schoolmates.

He studied art history and archaeology at university and worked for the magazines *Münchener Illustrierte* and *Kristall*, which gave him his first big job, a road trip across the USA in an Oldsmobile Cutlass. In 1964 he joined *Stern* magazine, where he met his second wife, the writer Eva Windmüller.

In 1966 the couple were sent to London to interview Muhammad Ali, who had come to fight the British heavyweight champion Brian London. Newly converted to Islam, Ali was not willing to talk to white women alone. Hoepker was thus both photographer and chaperone to Eva

Windmüller. They shadowed him everywhere: at the gym, in a Savile Row tailor, out late with his friends. "He loved to saunter down the streets, to banter with real people," recalled Hoepker. Ali kept proclaiming: "I'm the greatest!"

The photographer found him an ideal model, although "he wouldn't do anything twice, so I had to be very alert. You would have one chance." He was as unpredictable in real life as he was in the ring: "charming and charismatic one day, introvert and distant the next."

Stern let them follow Ali to Chicago six months later, where Hoepker took his most famous shot, of the boxer punching towards the camera.

Downtown, Ali kept going back to the same baker for refills of doughnuts, which perplexed Hoepker, who thought Ali was on a strict diet of steak and salad. But when he saw the baker's daughter, he understood. Four years later, when he visited Ali in Philadelphia, the baker's daughter, Belinda Boyd, had become Ali's wife.

In 1974 Hoepker became the first West German photographer officially allowed to live and report from East Germany, under a journalist-swapping agreement. Whereas the East Germans knew all about West Germany through television, the lives



Right, Hoepker and his much-discussed photo, *A Day in the Sun*. Below, his celebrated shot of Muhammad Ali: 'He wouldn't do anything twice, so I had to be very alert'

of the "Ossis" remained a mystery. Hoepker and Eva Windmüller, working again as a *Stern* team, stayed until 1976.

He photographed pompous state occasions and everyday life, such as school dances, householders carrying coal in baskets, and the string shopping nets that everyone carried just in case, which were called "perhaps bags": "Perhaps you will find an orange or a banana, perhaps some chocolate..." He was shocked to discover how relaxed children were about playing on the Berlin Wall.

Hoepker and his wife took it for granted that their apartment was bugged. When they invited their East German relatives to drop by for a chat, he recalled, "there was zero enthusiasm". But as a favour they were able to smuggle back commodities such as knitting wool, film, coffee, and once even a whole dishwasher, from their frequent trips to West Berlin. Because they had immunity, the officials could not open their car boot.

In 1976 Hoepker moved to New York and briefly served as art director for *Geo*, an edgy rival to *National Geographic*, where he was criticised for being "the only person who ever succeeded in making Florida [look] dark and gloomy".

He joined Magnum in 1989, and became its president in 2003. He admitted that 9/11 had turned around the fortunes of the prestigious but impoverished co-operative, even though a chunk of the proceeds had been donated to the victims. "All the TV images you have seen, they kind of disappear, evaporate from your mind. What stays is still images."

His many books included *Return of the Maya* (1999), about latter-day Maya communities in Guatemala, *DDR Ansichten - Views of a Vanished Country* (2011), *Big Champ* (2015), about Muhammad Ali, and *Italia* (2023), from a trove of negatives he took in 1950s Italy as a teenager.

He is survived by his third wife, the filmmaker Christine Kruchen.

Thomas Hoepker, born June 10 1936, died July 10 2024

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Television & Radio

Television reviews Anita Singh



Dougray Scott excels in TV's grittiest crime drama

Award-winning Scottish series *Crime* returned for a second run on ITV1

Dougray Scott wasn't nominated for a Bafta for his performance in the first series of *Crime*, which is a crime in itself, because he was terrific. He did win a Scottish Bafta and an International Emmy, which is some consolation. The second series is now on ITV1, after kicking about for months on ITVX. Once again, Scott is superb as Edinburgh's DI Ray Lennox, managing to overcome any clichés – a troubled detective battling addiction and his personal demons – to make his character seem painfully real.

Murder, torture, vice, drugs – it's all here in a satisfyingly knotty thriller. But the opening episode also takes a detour into the gender wars, which comes as a surprise. The plot brings Lennox into contact with an old colleague, who was once a man called Gerry and is now a woman called Lauren.

Meanwhile, Lennox's nephew comes down to supper in a dress, which prompts a row in which the boy brands his mother a "TERF", and the mother yells about "dangerous stooges of the patriarchy attacking women's rights". She thinks he's a confused youth. "We're all confused youths, pal," says Lennox. "We just get better at covering it up."

I didn't find any of this particularly gripping, and initially worried that what was a truly gritty crime drama in

series one had turned into a middling episode of *Van der Valk*. Stick with it, though, it gets good; the gender talk has mostly fizzled out by episode two. We pick up a while after series one, with Lennox returning to work after a breakdown. He is no longer with his girlfriend, and his strongest relationship is with his shrink (Laura Fraser). As the series progresses, we discover that there are hidden depths to Lennox's partner, DI Drummond (Joanna Vanderham) – perhaps a response to criticism that writer Irvine Welsh is far better at creating male characters than female ones.

Welsh does excel at dangerous sleazebags, and doesn't disappoint here: the rancidly misogynist officer from series one, played by Jamie Sives, has been replaced by another, played by David Elliot – this one, Tommy Stark, is less combustible than his predecessor but also less likeable.

Two supporting performances stand out: Ken Stott is wonderful and funny as Lennox's supportive boss, while the late Brian McCardie, who died in April aged 59, is excellent as a shifty detective recently transferred from Glasgow. McCardie was given free rein to use his native "Weegie" accent, and for the non-Scots among us, this is a series best enjoyed with the subtitles on.

Elon Musk may hog all the headlines, but he isn't the only character involved in the commercial space race. *Wild Wild Space* (Sky Documentaries), a feature-length film, focuses on what its makers call "the weird underbelly" of this world and the men – they're all men – who inhabit it.

So here we have "genius engineer" Pete Beck, CEO of Rocket Lab, "space hippie trying to save the world" Will Marshall of Planet Labs, and "slick Silicon Valley entrepreneur" Chris Kemp of Astra. Beck is a self-taught scientist – he never went to university – who started out by putting a rocket engine on a bicycle, before testing out a rocket pack while wearing roller skates.

All share the same goal of wanting to put satellites into space. Marshall is a Brit who believes that being able to monitor the Earth will advance our ability to take care of it: collecting daily imagery can help with tracking crops, forest fires, the health of coral reefs and so on. It's a laudable aim but also seems pretty naive in a world of nefarious regimes.

The most compelling character here is Kemp, and the film begins and ends with him. A mini-Musk, girlfriend, and his strongest relationship is with his shrink (Laura Fraser). As the series progresses, we discover that there is little regulation of space: "That's the opportunity right now because, if you can get there first, you can have a seat at the table defining laws that will govern space."

There's a juicy rivalry between Kemp and Beck. Kemp once visited Beck's factory in his capacity as a consultant for another company, was given a VIP tour of how it all worked, and then set up his own firm with the intention of under-cutting the New Zealander on price.

Journalist Ashlee Vance, author of the book on which this documentary is based (*When the Heavens Went on Sale*), spells out the high stakes. "A lot of people don't realise that we're in the midst of a revolution in space. It's like the Wild West. It's a quest for power, a celestial land grab." And if it comes down to Musk vs the space hippie, I think we all know who will win.

Irvine Welsh's *Crime* ★★★★★
Wild Wild Space ★★★★★

What to watch

THE MALLORCA FILES
Amazon Prime VideoJulian Looman and Elen Rhys star in this enjoyable, *Death in Paradise*-esque police procedural

David Sefton's (*Doctors*, *Mr Selfridge*) easygoing police procedural returns for a third series, having moved from BBC One to the streamer (series one and two are available on Amazon Freevee). It's another odd-couple cop drama, in which by-the-book Welsh detective Miranda Blake (Elen Rhys) and her more laidback German partner Max Winter (Julian Looman) solve crime on the Spanish island. It's

an improbable set-up, but who cares? Think of it as *Starsky & Hutch* with sunscreen. Tonally it's most evocative of *Midsomer Murders* and *Death in Paradise* – serious crimes involving arson, murder and kidnapping are neatly solved within each episode, lightly juxtaposed with undemanding domestic tiffs, warm humour and engrossing romance plots set against lovely scenery. The sexual tension between

the lead characters, meanwhile, adds to the show's charms. That last element is given an airing in the opener – an engaging caper involving high-end property, luxury cars and fast boats – in which Blake and Winter pose as a super-rich couple in order to ensnare international conman Ramon Silva (guest star Antonio de la Torre). All eight episodes are available from today. *Veronica Lee*

ARTS

Classic Movies: The Story of Brief Encounter

Sky Arts, 8pm

Ian Nathan returns with a new series analysing iconic films. Tonight it's the turn of David Lean's 1945 romance, starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. Followed at 9pm by a repeat of *The Directors*, a deep-dive into Lean's illustrious career, from *Doctor Zhivago* to *Lawrence of Arabia*.

COMEDY

Slip

ITVX
There are shades of *Outlander* to this sharp new



Eyewitness to History: how Watergate ruined Nixon

comedy with a metaphysical twist by Zoe Lister-Jones. She stars as New Yorker Mae, trapped in an unfulfilling marriage to Elijah (Whitmer Thomas), who travels through parallel

universes to live out "what if" versions of her life with other lovers.

DOCUMENTARY

Eyewitness to History: Norma Percy on Watergate

BBC Four, from 8pm

Film-maker Norma Percy reflects on her acclaimed 1994 docu-series about the political scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. The first episode of *Watergate* follows at 8.10pm; then at 9pm comes Alan J Pakula's 1976 masterpiece *All the President's Men*, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the



Washington Post reporters who exposed the scandal. Finally, at 11.15pm, Amol Rajan talks to the pair in *Watergate to Trump*.

DRAMA

The Umbrella Academy
Netflix
Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally join the cast for the final season of the quirky superhero dramedy centred on the dysfunctional Hargreeves family. Having had their timeline reset, the siblings must grapple with life as "normies" without powers. Elliot Page stars.

Interview with

the Vampire

BBC Two, 9pm

The impressive reinvention of Anne Rice's *The Vampire*



The Umbrella Academy: Elliot Page stars in the final series

Chronicles continues; we're still in post-Second World War Paris with Louis (Jacob Anderson) and Claudia (Delainey Hayles), who come to the attention of the local vampire coven Theatre des Vampires – which has a secret connection to Louis's former lover, Lestat (Sam Reid). Armand (Assad Zaman), meanwhile, continues to irritate interviewer Daniel (Eric Bogosian).

FACTUAL

Fresh vs Frozen: Which Is Better?

Channel 5, 8pm

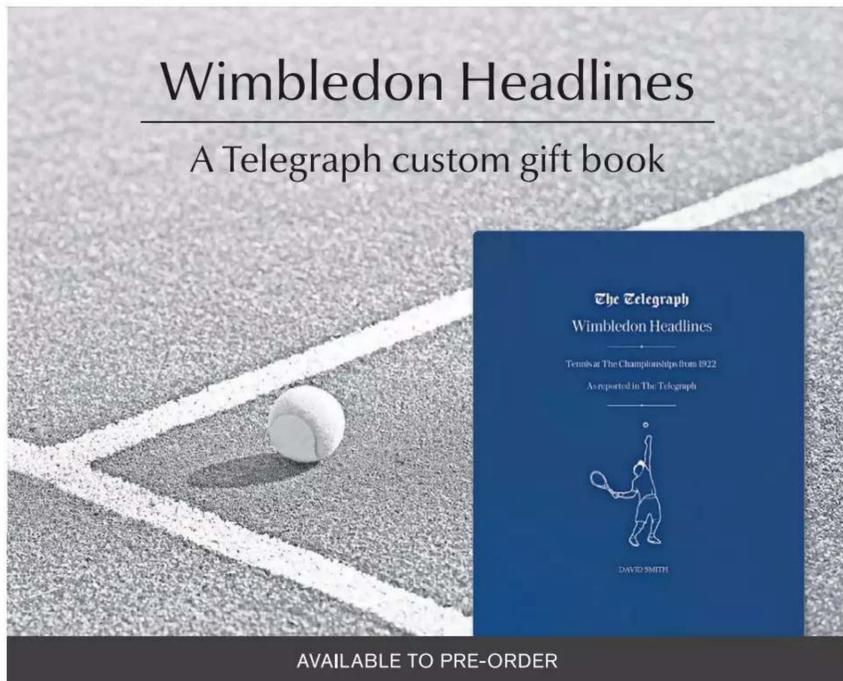
Another example of the kind of programming that this channel does so well – a jaunty compare-and-contrast between the benefits of fresh and frozen food, from peas and fish to chicken, with taste, price and nutritional value among the markers. *VL*

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The Daily Telegraph

A Telegraph Podcast

Radio choice



The Documentary: Erasing Hong Kong
World Service, 9.30am & 8.06pm

Historical integrity is the subject of today's edition

of *The Documentary*. Paul French reports on how the Chinese government has set about waging a "memory war", revising and erasing official histories of Hong Kong's colonial legacy and

history with Britain in particular. Plus, Anne McElvoy is back with another run of her terrific, always thought-provoking conflict-resolution series **Across the Red Line**

(*Radio 4, 4pm*), beginning with two people on opposing sides of the obesity divide. Is obesity a tragic disease or a lifestyle choice made by the lazy? *Gerard O'Donovan*

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12: 45 **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat @ 17: 45 **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing Dance **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1.00am** Danny Howard Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **3.00** Radio 1 Happy **4.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Sam & Danni

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** Scott Mills. Music and chat **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing **7.00** Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio **2.7.30** Jo Whaley. Music and chat **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris. A personal selection of fine tracks **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. Trevor kicks off the show with his Olympic Games-themed Magnificent **7.12.00** Ellie Brennan **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Musical Olympians – Joseph Bologne **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape.

Featuring works by Khachaturian, Ravel, Schubert and Smetana **7.30** BBC Proms 2024. BBC Philharmonic and Anja Bihlmaier in music by Brahms and Gibson **10.15** Night Tracks. An immersive soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz

6.00am Today **9.00** The Briefing Room **9.30** The Long History of Ignorance – from Confucius to Q-Anon **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Infinite Monkey Cage **11.45** Battle Grounds: Culture Wars in the Countryside **12.00** News **12.04pm** You and Yours. Consumer affairs **12.30** Dough. Sam White looks at the business behind irons **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Jonny Dymond **1.45** How They Made Us Doubt Everything **2.00** The Archers. The spotlight falls on Emma and there's confusion for Chris **2.15** Drama: Belgrano. Part one of two. Richard Monks' drama about the sinking of the General Belgrano **3.00** Open Country. New series. Martha Kearney visits Helpston and Fen Edge **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal. On behalf of STOP THE TRAFFIK **3.30** Feedback. Listeners' views with Andrea Catherwood **4.00** **Across the Red Line** See Radio choice **4.30** BBC Inside Science. The latest scientific research **5.00** PM. With Paddy O'Connell **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** The Train at Platform 4. Two American tourists celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary **7.00** The Archers. Kate takes a walk down memory lane **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Empire of Tea **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Enlightenment **11.00** The Today Podcast **11.30** Lights Out **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am**

Battle Grounds: Culture Wars in the Countryside **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909kHz

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** 5 Live Olympics **3.30** 5 Live Olympics **6.30** 5 Live Olympics **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Aled Jones **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE

DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** The Inquiry **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary: Erasing Hong Kong See Radio choice **10.00** News **10.06** The Media Show **10.30** Happy News **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** The Food Chain **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **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** The Documentary: Erasing Hong Kong **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World

Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The Media Show **12.30** Happy News **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Life **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Someone Dangerous **6.45** The One About the Social Worker **7.00** Our Man at Wembley **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** My Teenage Diary **8.30** No Room for Secrets **8.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **9.00** The Train at Platform 4 **9.30** New Storytellers **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Great Lives **10.30** The Greatest Ever Faker **11.00** Someone Dangerous **11.45** The One About the Social Worker **12.00** Our Man at Wembley **12.30pm** Dad's Army **1.00** My Teenage Diary **1.30** No Room for Secrets **1.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **2.00** Dilemma **2.30** No Commitments **3.00** The Carlingford Chronicles: Miss Marjoribanks **4.00** Great Lives **4.30** The Greatest Ever Faker **5.00** Someone Dangerous **5.45** The One About the Social Worker **6.00** Our Man at Wembley **6.30** Dad's Army **7.00** My Teenage Diary **7.30** No Room for Secrets **7.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **8.00** Dilemma **8.30** No Commitments **9.00** The Carlingford Chronicles: Miss Marjoribanks **10.00** The Train at Platform 4 **10.30** Knowing Me, Knowing You **11.00** Britain in Bits with Ross Noble **11.30** I've Never Seen Star Wars **12.00** Great Lives **12.30am** The Greatest Ever Faker **1.00** Someone Dangerous **1.45** The One About the Social Worker **2.00** Our Man at Wembley **2.30** Dad's Army **3.00** My Teenage Diary **3.30** No Room for Secrets **3.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **4.00** Dilemma **4.30** No Commitments **5.00 - 6.00am** The Carlingford Chronicles: Miss Marjoribanks

Today's television

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **8.00** Olympics: Paris 2024. Jeanette Kwakye and JJ Chalmers present the opening coverage on day 13, with much of the British focus on the start of Katarina Johnson-Thompson's quest for heptathlon gold (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** Diving and track cycling take centre stage as day 13 continues in Paris, featuring the men's 3m springboard final from 2.00 at the Aquatics Centre. Hazel Irvine hosts (S)

6.00 **BBC News at Six; Weather** (S)

6.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)



Olympics: Paris 2024

7.00 **Olympics: Paris 2024** Gabby Logan introduces live taekwondo and athletics coverage as day 13 concludes. A showdown between women's 400m hurdles world record holder and reigning champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the USA and Dutch world champion Femke Bol is expected to be among the highlights, while Noah Lyles starts as favourite in the men's 200m and India's Neeraj Chopra will be hoping to retain his Olympic title in the men's javelin. The schedule for this evening's final features the women's long jump from 7.00, men's javelin from 7.25, men's 200m at 7.30, women's 400m hurdles at 8.25 and men's 110m hurdles at 8.45, along with the heptathlon 200m at 7.55 (S)

10.00 **News; Weather** (S)

10.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)

10.40 **Olympics: Paris 2024 - Tonight at the Games** Isa Guha and Mark Chapman introduce highlights from day 13 in the French capital (S)

12.00 **Kin 12.50am** **Kin 1.45 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.30 am Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **7.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (AD) (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** Continued live coverage of day 13 (S)

1.45 **Make Me a Dealer** (R) (S)

2.30 **Beechgrove Repotted** (R) (S)

2.45 **The Hundred** Welsh Fire Men v Northern Superchargers Men (start-time 3.00pm) (S)

6.00 **Olympics: Paris 2024** The conclusion of the women's keirin and men's omnium track cycling events (S)



Interview with the Vampire

7.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** Bonnie Langford, Myra DuBois and Tyler West test their skills (R) (S)

7.30 **EastEnders** Linda is in shock after receiving a blackmail letter (AD) (S)

8.00 **Why Bridges Collapse: The Genoa Disaster** An investigation into the Ponte Morandi disaster (AD) (R) (S)

9.00 **Interview with the Vampire** A visit to the revelatory Théâtre des Vampires disrupts Louis's quiet life **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

9.50 **Live at the Apollo Bites** (S)

10.00 **Not Going Out** Lucy and Lee aim to answer an age-old question (R) (S)

10.30 **Newsnight** (S)

11.05 Colin from Accounts **11.35** **FILM: Mud** (2012) Drama starring Matthew McConaughey **See Film choice**

1.40am Sign Zone: Miriam Margolyes: A New Australian Adventure **2.40** Sign Zone: Dom Does America **3.10 - 6.15am** 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)

1.30 **News; Weather** (S)

1.55 **Regional News; Weather** (S)

2.00 **Dickinson's Real Deal** (AD) (R) (S)

3.00 **Tenable** (R) (S)

4.00 **Tipping Point** (R) (S)

5.00 **The Chase** (R) (S)

6.00 **Regional News; Weather** (S)

6.30 **News; Weather** (S)



Tom Kerridge Cooks Britain

7.30 **Emmerdale** Victoria meets a relative stranger (AD) (S)

8.30 **Tom Kerridge Cooks Britain** The chef heads up the border between England and Wales starting in Powys (AD) (S)

9.00 **Irvine Welsh's Crime** The killer makes contact with Lennox (AD) (S)

10.00 **News; Weather** (S)

10.35 **Regional News; Weather** (S)

10.45 **FILM: Mission: Impossible** (1996) Action thriller starring Tom Cruise (AD) (S)

12.35 am Shop on TV **3.00** Big Zuu's 12 Dishes in 12 Hours **3.35** Unwind with ITV **4.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** In for a Penny **5.30 - 6.00am** Gino's Italian Express

Channel 4

6.20 am Cheers (R) (S) **6.45** Cheers (R) (S) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.00** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

12.00 **Channel 4 News** (S)

12.05 pm **Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** (AD) (R) (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?** (S)

6.00 **Come Dine with Me** (R) (S)

6.30 **The Simpsons** (AD) (R) (S)



George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

7.00 **Channel 4 News** (S)

8.00 **The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick** A Labrador puppy is rushed in after being hit by a car. Last in the series (AD) (R) (S)

9.00 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** The architect shows off an amazing space of his own creation. Last in the series (AD) (S)

10.00 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** The chef tries to transform six-month-old gastropub Bask 46 in New Jersey (S)

11.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** **12.00** Gogglebox **1.00am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.50** **FILM: Primal** (2019) Action thriller starring Nicolas Cage **3.25** Love It or List It Australia **4.20** Food Unwrapped **4.50** Frasier **5.15** Frasier **5.40 - 6.20am** Countdown

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.30** Storm Huntley (S)

12.45 pm **Friends** (AD) (R) (S)

1.10 **Friends** (AD) (R) (S)

1.40 **5 News at Lunchtime** (S)

1.45 **Home and Away** (AD) (R) (S)

2.15 **FILM: Murder and Matrimony** (2021, TVM) Thriller starring Kristen Vaganos (AD) (S)

4.00 **The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits at Sea** (R) (S)

5.00 **5 News at 5** (S)

6.00 **Amazing Railway Journeys with Nick Knowles** (R) (S)

6.55 **5 News Update** (S)



Fresh vs Frozen: Which Is Better?

7.00 **Bank Scams: Don't Get Caught Out** Alexis Conran and his team look into the banking app infiltrated by criminals (R) (S)

7.55 **5 News Update** (S)

8.00 **Fresh vs Frozen: Which Is Better?** How a fast-freezing process revolutionised the food industry **See What to watch** (S)

9.00 **Susan Calman's Grand Day Out** The comedian visits Eastbourne on the southeast coast (S)

10.00 **The Child Snatcher: Manhunt** Documentary about the investigation into serial killer Robert Black (R) (S)

11.55 **Cold Case Killers 12.55am** Entertainment News on **5.1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Tyrant: The Rise of Adolf Hitler **3.50** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **4.40** House Busters **5.05** House Doctor **5.30** Entertainment News on **5.55 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice



Lucky Number Slevin (2006) Great! Movies, 9pm ★★★

Paul McGuigan creates a crime story à la *Usual Suspects* - hip and clever, with a twisty plot that unravels if you think about it too much. Josh Hartnett takes on leading man duties, but it's the supporting players who dominate: Ben Kingsley and Morgan Freeman's warring mobsters; Bruce Willis's lurking, mysterious hit man. Stanley Tucci, meanwhile, is the cop trying to figure out what the hell's going on.



Alien Resurrection (1997) ITV4, 10.10pm ★★

Sigourney Weaver returns as heroine Ellen Ripley for this fourth instalment. Two hundred years have passed since the ending of *Alien 3*, and Ripley has now been cloned by scientists, which gives her greater strength - and conflicting loyalties. Despite the talent on board, this is a poor effort. Hopefully, new film *Alien: Romulus* (released in cinemas on 16 August) will be better.



Mud (2012) BBC Two, 11.35pm ★★★★★

Matthew McConaughey's ascent from romcom heartthrob to serious actor was boosted by this fab (loosely inspired by Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*) written and directed by Jeff Nichols. Two teenage boys (played by Tye Sheridan and Jacob Lofland) discover a drifter (McConaughey) sleeping rough on the banks of the Mississippi and decide to help him win back his true love.



with *Camilla* and *Kamal*

TOMINEY AHMED



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BBC Four

7.30 pm Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure

8.00 **Eyewitness to History: Norma Percy on Watergate** **See What to watch**

8.10 **Watergate** **See What to watch**

9.00 **FILM: All the President's Men** (1976) **See Film choice**

11.15 **Watergate to Trump: Amol Rajan Interviews** **See What to watch**

12.00 Paris

1.00 am Great British Railway Journeys

1.30 Great Welsh Adventure

2.00 Watergate

2.50 - 3.50am Ardal O'Hanlon: Tomb Raider

ITV3

11.20 am Heartbeat

12.25 pm Heartbeat

1.30 Classic Emmerdale

2.05 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 Vera

10.00 Cracker

11.05 Cracker

12.00 The Royal

12.50 am Upstairs, Downstairs

2.00 Bless This House

2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

11.20 am BattleBots

12.20 pm Robin of Sherwood

1.25 The Champions

2.30 Kojak

3.35 River Monsters

4.05 The Professionals

5.15 ITV Racing: Racing League Live. Coverage from Chepstow

8.45 Football Rivalries

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet

10.10 **FILM: Alien Resurrection** (1997) Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Sigourney Weaver **See Film choice**

12.15 am The Professionals

1.20 Minder

2.15 Auto Mundial

2.40 Unwind with ITV

3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected

2.00 My Greatest Shot: Street

2.30 My Greatest Shot: Animals

3.00 Buster Keaton: The Genius Crushed by Hollywood

4.00 Discovering: Michelle Yeoh

5.00 The Joy of Painting

6.00 Tales of the Unexpected

7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents

8.00 **Classic Movies: The Story of Brief Encounter** **See What to watch**

9.00 **The Directors** **See What to watch**

10.00 Kubrick by Kubrick

11.35 Have You Got It Yet?

1.35 am Comedy Legends

2.35 The Other Art Show

3.35 - 4.00am Inside Art

Sky Atlantic

11.25 am Britannia

12.25 pm Game of Thrones

1.45 The Sopranos

2.50 The Sopranos

3.55 Riviera

4.55 Riviera

5.55 Britannia

6.55 Britannia

7.55 Game of Thrones

9.00 House of the Dragon

10.25 Yellowjackets

11.30 Succession

12.40 am Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty

1.45 Watchmen

2.55 - 4.00am We Own This City

Film4

11.00 am **Stardust** (2007) Fantasy adventure starring Charlie Cox and Claire Danes

1.35 pm **Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief** (2010) Fantasy adventure starring Logan Lerman

3.55 **The Legend of Zorro** (2005) Swashbuckling adventure starring Antonio Banderas

6.30 **Mortal Engines** (2018) Fantasy starring Hera Hilmar

9.00 **Old** (2021) Horror starring Gael García Bernal

11.10 **The Running Man** (1987) Sci-fi action starring Arnold Schwarzenegger

1.10 - 3.00am **Cube** (1997) Sci-fi horror starring Nicole deBoer

U&Drama

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 Annika

9.00 Whitstable Pearl

10.00 New Tricks

11.20 Silent Witness

1.25 am Footballers' Wives

2.35 - 4.00am Classic Holly City

Northern Ireland

BBC One: No variations

BBC Two: No variations

UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: No variations

BBC Scotland: 7.00pm River City **7.30** The Island That Saved My Life **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Return to Uist **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Edinburgh Unlocked **2024 10.30** The Karen Dunbar Show **11.00** The Agency: Unfiltered **11.30** The Agency: Unfiltered **midnight** Close

STV: 7.00 - 7.30pm Animal 999 **3.35am** Unwind with STV **4.50 - 6.00am** Unwind with STV

Wales

BBC One: No variations

BBC Two: 8.00pm Eisteddfod 2024 with Huw Stephens **8.30 - 9.00** SOS: Extreme Rescues **10.00 - 10.30pm** Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop

ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **10.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **4.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **5.10** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **7.50** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024 **9.30** Am Drol **10.30 - 11.35pm** Y Babel Llen 2024

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **7.00** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI **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** Bottom **10.35** The Royle Family **11.15** The Thin Blue Line **11.55** The Vicar of Dibley **12.30am** Harry Enfield and Chums **1.10** Bottom **1.50** The Royle Family **2.30** Sandylands **3.35-4.00am** The Forsters

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress **1.00pm** Celebrity Wheel of Fortune **2.00**

Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30am** Bob's Burgers **1.30** Deal or No Deal **2.35** Unwind with ITV **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** 24 Hours in A&E **11.05** Surgeons: Life in Their Hands **12.00** 999: On the Front Line **1.05am** 24 Hours in A&E **3.15-3.45am** Food Unwrapped

PBS America

11.55am WWII in Color: Road to Victory **1.00pm** Broken Arrows, the Lost Bombs of the Cold War **2.05** Vikings: The Rise and Fall **3.05** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **4.00** The First World War: The People's Story **5.10** WWII in Color: Road to Victory **6.15** Grand Tours of Scotland **6.55** Vikings: The Rise and Fall **7.55** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **8.50** The First World War: The People's Story **10.00** WWII in Color: Road to Victory **11.00** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony

Robinson **12.00** The First World War: The People's Story **1.10am** Grand Tours of Scotland **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at:

11.05am **FILM: Doctor in the House** (1954) Comedy starring Dirk Bogarde **12.55pm** **FILM: Knock on Any Door** (1949, b/w) Courtroom drama starring Humphrey Bogart **3.00** Crown Court **4.30** Enemy at the Door **5.35** **FILM: 36 Hours** (1953, b/w) Crime drama starring Dan Duryea **7.20** **FILM: The Spare Tyres** (1967) Short comedy starring Terence Alexander **7.55**

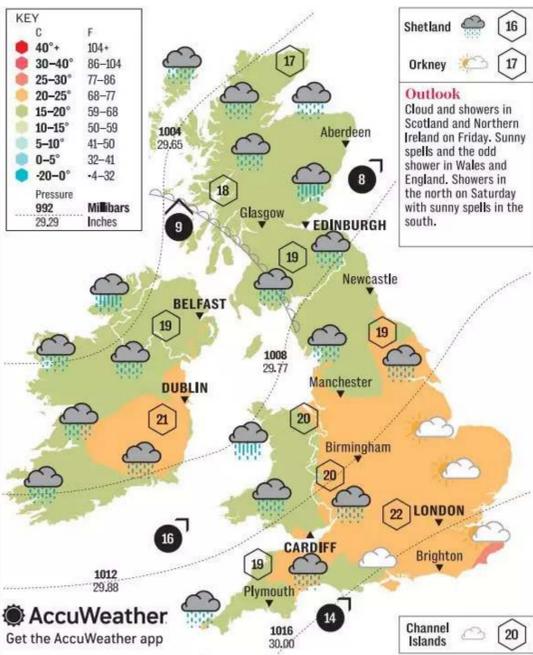
Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

A warm front will spread spells of rain, some heavy, across the United Kingdom today, but drier in far southeast England with sunny breaks. Breezy, especially in the south.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Breezy today with rainy spells in the Midlands. Sunny periods and the odd shower elsewhere. A moderate SW wind. Max 66-73F (19-23C). A shower tonight. Min 58-65F (15-18C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake District, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Spells of rain, some heavy, today. A gentle SW wind. Max 57-70F (14-21C). Showers tonight. Min 48-58F (9-15C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Broken cloud today and tonight with showers. A moderate SW wind. Max 62-68F (17-20C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** Spells of rain today. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 63-68F (17-20C). A couple of showers tonight. Min 52-57F (11-14C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyle, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Rainy spells, some heavy, today. A gentle southerly wind. Max 48-58F (9-20C). Scattered showers tonight. Min 40-57F (4-14C).

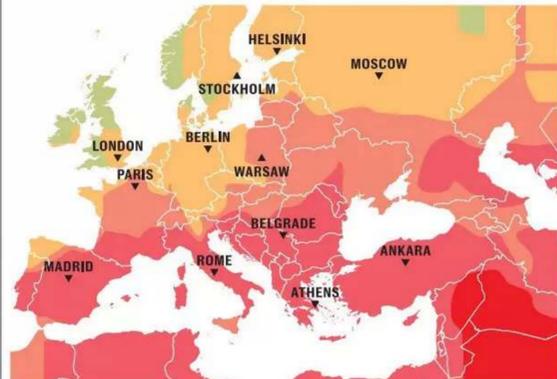


Four day forecast

- Friday:** Cloud and showers in Scotland and Northern Ireland on Friday. Sunny spells and the odd shower in Wales and England. Showers in the north on Saturday with sunny spells in the south.
- Saturday:** [Weather icon]
- Sunday:** [Weather icon]
- Monday:** [Weather icon]

European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm			Max Min Daytime			Max Min Daytime					
	°C	°F	°C	°F	weather	°C	°F	weather			
Akrotiri	32	23	sunny	Frankfurt	28	16	storms	Oslo	24	14	rain
Alicante	33	23	windy	Funchal	27	21	sunny	Palermo	31	26	windy
Amsterdam	24	17	p/cldy	Gdansk	25	12	p/cldy	Paris	25	15	p/cldy
Athens	35	25	sunny	Geneva	28	17	storms	Perpignan	34	23	p/cldy
Barcelona	30	23	p/cldy	Gibraltar	31	22	sunny	Prague	30	14	p/cldy
Bari	31	21	sunny	Hamburg	26	19	showers	Reykjavik	16	7	p/cldy
Belgrade	30	16	sunny	Helsinki	23	11	p/cldy	Rhodes	35	27	sunny
Benidorm	34	23	sunny	Innsbruck	29	18	storms	Riga	24	12	sunny
Bergen	20	15	rain	Istanbul	28	23	sunny	Rome	31	22	sunny
Berlin	30	15	p/cldy	Kyiv	26	18	p/cldy	Saint Malo	22	11	p/cldy
Biarritz	27	19	cloudy	La Rochelle	24	16	sunny	Salzburg	28	17	storms
Bodrum	38	24	sunny	Lisbon	28	19	p/cldy	Santander	23	18	rain
Bordeaux	28	20	p/cldy	Locarno	26	19	showers	Santiago/Comp.	24	15	p/cldy
Brest	21	13	cloudy	Luxembourg	21	17	cloudy	Sofia	30	12	sunny
Brussels	24	16	rain	Madrid	39	21	sunny	St. Petersburg	22	14	showers
Bucharest	32	16	p/cldy	Majorca	38	21	sunny	Stockholm	24	13	p/cldy
Budapest	30	13	sunny	Malaga	34	21	sunny	Strasbourg	27	17	p/cldy
Cagliari	32	22	sunny	Malta	31	24	sunny	Tenerife	28	20	windy
Chamonix	22	17	p/cldy	Marseille	34	22	sunny	Tirana	37	29	sunny
Copenhagen	24	19	p/cldy	Menorca	31	25	sunny	Toulouse	29	19	p/cldy
Corfu	36	23	sunny	Milan	31	19	storms	Valencia	32	22	sunny
Cork	15	12	showers	Monaco	30	25	showers	Venice	32	22	sunny
Corsica	31	19	sunny	Moscow	23	15	p/cldy	Vienna	31	15	p/cldy
Crete	31	23	sunny	Munich	24	14	sunny	Vigo	30	16	sunny
Dublin	20	13	showers	Naples	35	25	sunny	Vilnius	23	14	p/cldy
Dubrovnik	33	25	sunny	Nice	30	25	p/cldy	Warsaw	26	15	p/cldy
Faro	29	22	sunny	Nicosia	38	20	cloudy	Zagreb	32	16	p/cldy
Florence	36	23	p/cldy	Oporto	29	15	sunny	Zurich	26	17	storms



World readings

Max Min Daytime			Max Min Daytime			Max Min Daytime					
	°C	°F	°C	°F	weather	°C	°F	weather			
Accra	29	23	windy	Damascus	39	21	haze	New Orleans	34	26	sunny
Addis Ababa	24	14	cloudy	Dar es Salaam	29	22	p/cldy	New Delhi	32	26	rain
Adelaide	17	5	sunny	Dhaka	33	27	storms	New York	23	18	showers
Alexandria	32	27	sunny	Dubai	42	35	cloudy	Ottawa	24	13	sunny
Algiers	38	24	sunny	Falkland Is.	4	0	cloudy	Perth	19	9	rain
Amman	34	23	sunny	Harare	27	9	sunny	Port-of-Spain	30	25	showers
Anchorage	16	14	rain	Havana	32	24	showers	Rio de Janeiro	30	22	sunny
Ankara	32	16	sunny	Hong Kong	34	29	storms	Riyadh	42	30	cloudy
Ascension Is.	27	22	p/cldy	Honolulu	26	25	sunny	San Francisco	18	12	sunny
Auckland	14	5	p/cldy	Jakarta	32	25	p/cldy	Santiago	9	3	p/cldy
Baghdad	47	30	sunny	Jeddah	40	31	p/cldy	Seattle	17	12	p/cldy
Bahamas	30	26	storms	Jerusalem	31	20	sunny	Seoul	33	26	storms
Bahrain	40	33	p/cldy	Johannesburg	21	4	sunny	Seychelles	29	25	cloudy
Bangkok	33	26	rain	Kabul	42	19	sunny	Singapore	31	26	cloudy
Beijing	32	24	storms	Karachi	33	28	windy	Sydney	21	6	sunny
Beirut	31	25	sunny	Kolkata	31	28	p/cldy	Taipei City	33	28	storms
Bermuda	31	28	p/cldy	Kuala Lumpur	29	26	storms	Tangier	32	20	sunny
Bogota	20	8	showers	La Paz	10	-1	sunny	Tel Aviv	34	26	sunny
Bridgetown	31	27	p/cldy	Lahore	36	28	storms	Tokyo	33	27	rain
Brisbane	23	12	cloudy	Lima	16	15	cloudy	Toronto	23	14	sunny
Buenos Aires	15	9	p/cldy	Los Angeles	26	20	sunny	Tunis	33	22	sunny
Cairo	39	26	sunny	Manila	32	27	storms	Vancouver	18	14	sunny
Canberra	15	-6	sunny	Marrakesh	37	20	sunny	Washington	31	25	storms
Cape Town	17	7	p/cldy	Medbourne	17	7	p/cldy	Wellington	13	7	windy
Casablanca	32	18	p/cldy	Miami	33	27	storms	Winnipeg	19	15	rain
Chicago	24	19	sunny	Montego Bay	31	28	showers				
Christchurch	12	-3	p/cldy	Mumbai	30	26	showers				
Colombo	31	28	storms	Nairobi	26	12	sunny				

Nature Notes

Breeding success as eagles fly nest

Two white-tailed eagle chicks have fledged from a nest on the Isle of Wight as part of a reintroduction project. It marks only the second time the birds of prey have bred in southern England in 240 years. The male chicks are the offspring of two white-tailed eagles released on the Isle of Wight in 2020. The parents were the same pair that successfully raised a single male chick last year. The eagles were widespread in southern England until the 18th century, when persecution led to them being wiped out in the region. Thirty-seven young birds, taken as chicks from wild nests in Scotland, have been released on the Isle of Wight. So far, 22 of the reintroduced birds have survived. A spokesman for the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, said: "To see this second year of breeding success is really encouraging... this is a very significant milestone".

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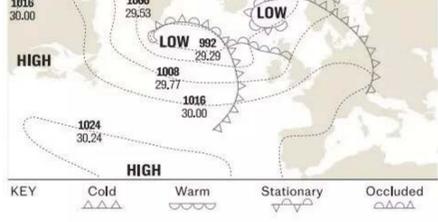
British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings					
Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	weather	
Aberdeen	5.8	0.03	19	11	showers
Aberystwyth	0.0	0.01	19	13	showers
Antrim	1.6	0.04	18	12	showers
Aviemore	2.2	0.24	19	9	showers
Barnstaple	0.4	0.13	20	14	showers
Barrow-in-Furness	0.0	0.00	18	15	cloudy
Basingstoke	5.1	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Bedford	5.3	0.00	22	11	cloudy
Belfast	4.9	0.08	19	13	showers
Berwick	2.7	0.02	20	11	showers
Birmingham	4.1	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Bodmin	0.8	0.03	19	12	showers
Bournemouth	3.5	0.00	22	9	cloudy
Braintree	7.6	0.00	21	10	p/cldy
Brecon	0.6	0.02	17	12	showers
Bridlington	8.9	0.00	23	13	p/cldy
Brighton	6.6	0.00	22	9	cloudy
Bristol	2.7	0.19	21	13	showers
Camborne	0.0	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Cardiff	0.9	0.09	19	14	showers
Carlisle	0.8	0.00	18	14	cloudy
Catterick	0.3	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Chesterham	3.1	0.04	21	12	showers
Chester	0.0	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Conventry	3.8	0.02	22	12	showers
Doncaster	5.1	0.02	22	13	cloudy
Dover	6.4	0.00	21	14	cloudy
Dundee	4.2	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Eastbourne	4.1	0.02	22	11	showers
Edinburgh	3.1	0.00	20	12	windy
Epsom	5.9	0.00	20	12	cloudy
Falmouth	2.0	0.00	19	15	cloudy
Farnborough	7.0	0.00	21	9	p/cldy
Fort William	1.0	0.39	17	11	rain
Glasgow	0.6	0.18	18	13	showers
Great Malvern	2.5	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Grimsby	7.8	0.00	22	11	p/cldy
Guernsey	6.2	0.04	20	14	showers
Hereford	2.8	0.01	22	9	showers
Heresford	2.8	0.01	22	9	showers
High Wycombe	5.7	0.00	22	10	cloudy
Holyhead	0.9	0.00	18	15	cloudy
Huddersfield	3.5	0.00	19	12	cloudy
Ipswich	6.5	0.05	22	9	cloudy
Isle of Man	1.3	0.00	18	14	windy
Isle of Skye	0.4	0.70	15	11	rain
Isle of Wight	6.2	0.00	19	17	cloudy

Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	weather	
Isles of Scilly	5.8	0.02	20	14	cloudy
Jersey	5.4	0.00	21	16	sunny
Keswick	0.0	0.05	19	14	showers
Kew Gardens	7.3	0.00	23	13	p/cldy
King's Lynn	6.3	0.00	21	10	windy
Leeds	3.8	0.03	19	12	showers
Leek	2.4	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Leominster	0.9	0.00	22	9	cloudy
Lincoln	3.0	0.00	22	13	cloudy
Liverpool	0.0	0.00	21	12	cloudy
London	4.1	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Manchester	0.0	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Middlesbrough	3.6	0.00	22	11	cloudy
Newcastle	9.6	0.00	21	11	p/cldy
Newquay	0.0	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Nottingham	2.7	0.02	22	11	cloudy
Orkney	2.0	0.17	17	12	showers
Oxford	1.8	0.00	22	11	cloudy
Perth	1.2	0.11	18	13	showers
Peterborough	1.9	0.00	22	10	cloudy
Plymouth	1.7	0.00	20	14	cloudy
Portsmouth	6.5	0.00	22	11	cloudy
Prestwich	2.2	0.04	18	13	showers

Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	weather	
Ramsgate	5.9	0.00	24	13	cloudy
Rhyl	1.3	0.00	19	13	showers
Rugby	4.0	0.01	22	11	showers
Salisbury	5.5	0.00	22	10	cloudy
Scunthorpe	5.8	0.01	23	11	showers
Sheffield	5.1	0.02	22	13	cloudy
Shetland	5.5	0.00	16	12	cloudy
Shrewsbury	0.8	0.01	21	10	cloudy
Skegness	7.8	0.00	22	10	showers
Southampton	8.0	0.00	21	11	p/cldy
South-on-Sea	6.2	0.00	23	13	cloudy
Stockport	0.0	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Stornoway	2.3	0.92	15	12	rain
Swansea	0.6	0.15	21	14	showers
Swindon	4.6	0.00	19	12	cloudy
Thirsk	5.0	0.00	22	9	cloudy
Tiree	4.3	0.21	16	12	showers
Weymouth	6.8	0.00	20	16	cloudy
Whitehaven	2.5	0.00	17	13	cloudy
Windermere	0.4	0.33	18	13	rain
Worcester	2.5	0.00	22	12	cloudy
Yeovil	1.6	0.00	22	9	cloudy
York	4.6	0.02	21	12	showers

Atlantic front



Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises 0537
Sun sets 2037
Moon rises 0945
Moon sets 2200
First quarter Aug 12

Yesterday

Warmest Ramsgate 24C (75F)
Coldest Cairngorm Summit 4C (39F)
Wettest Anoch 1.33 in.
Sunniest Newcastle 9.6 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen 2106 to 0524
Belfast 2111 to 0550
Birmingham 2046 to 0541
London 2037 to 0538
Manchester 2051 to 0540
Penzance 2053 to 0603

High water

Aberdeen 0417 4.1m 1649 3.8m
Belfast 0209 3.5m 1433 3.0m
Cardiff 1016 11.2m 2224 11.3m
Dover 0214 6.2m 1427 6.4m
Falmouth 0832 4.8m 2041 4.5m
Harwich 0256 3.7m 1501 3.8m
Holyhead 0113 5.4m 1334 5.1m
Hull 0920 7.2m 2148 6.7m
Liverpool 0201 8.2m 14