

## Taylor Swift cancels concerts after 'planned terror attack' exposed

Jessica Tomlinson, David Crossland

Three sold-out Taylor Swift concerts have been cancelled in Vienna after two men were arrested on suspicion of plotting an Islamist terrorist attack, with police said to be searching for potential accomplices.

A major police operation took place yesterday in Ternitz, south of the Aus-

trian capital, with residents evacuated and roads closed, according to reports.

Kronen Zeitung, an Austrian newspaper, reported that a 19-year-old man, who is said to have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, was arrested at his parents' house on suspicion of terrorism. Another suspect was arrested in Vienna. Counter-terrorism investigators believe the suspects may have been

planning a suicide attack with an explosive device. Kurier, another Austrian newspaper, reported that three more suspects were still on the run.

Initially police said security would be stepped up at the venues and that the concerts, which were due to start today, could go ahead. But a statement shared on the pop star's official Taylor Nation Instagram account announced that the

Vienna dates would be cancelled "due to government officials' confirmation of [a] planned terrorist attack".

"We have no choice but to cancel the three scheduled shows for everyone's safety," the statement from the Eras Tour promoter in Austria said.

Karl Nehammer, the Austrian chancellor, said "a tragedy was prevented". He wrote in a post on Twitter/X: "Thanks to the intensive co-operation of our police and the newly established DSN with foreign services, the threat was identified early on, combated and a tragedy prevented."

tragedy prevented."
Gerhard Pürstl, the Vienna police chief, said that 65,000 people had been expected to attend each concert at the city's Ernst Happel Stadium while 15,000 could have gathered outside.

# Thousands take to street to confront the far right

Police warn of 100 clashes across EnglandRioters handed sentences of up to three years

#### David Woode, Tom Witherow Steven Swinford, Constance Kampfner

Thousands of anti-racism demonstrators gathered across England last night as the first far-right rioters were sentenced to up to three years in prison.

Large numbers of counter-protesters thronged Walthamstow, in northeast London, and Sheffield holding placards reading "stop the far right" and "bigots out". In Liverpool, they formed a protective ring around a mosque targeted by extremists. Others gathered in Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton.

Police had warned they were preparing for riots at up to 100 locations across

Police had warned they were preparing for riots at up to 100 locations across the country, but widespread disorder failed to materialise. One of the few places to witness unrest was East Belfast, where rioters threw bricks, bottles and fireworks at police.

and fireworks at police.

It came after three men who pelted officers with rocks and bricks at protests in Liverpool and Southport became the first rioters to be handed prison terms. Derek Drummond, 58, of Southport, was jailed for three years for punching an officer and violent disorder. Declan Geiran, 29, was jailed for two years and five months and Liam Riley. 40, for one and a half years.

the Dectain Genain, 29, was jailed for two years and five months and Liam Riley, 40, for one and a half years. Assaulting an emergency worker carries a maximum sentence of two years in custody, while violent disorder has a starting range of a community order to up to four and a half years in jail.

der to up to four and a half years in jail.

Judge Andrew Menary KC told
Liverpool crown court the "collective
grief of the residents of Southport was
hijacked" by the men's "callous" actions.

Prosecutors said at least 12 people
had been convicted over the disorder

had been convicted over the disorder and "many will be going to prison". At present, with a backlog in crown

At present, with a backlog in crown court cases, a not-guilty plea can lead to suspects waiting a year or more to stand trial. But the prime minister has promised quick punishment, meaning rioters are being sentenced within days.

Sir Keir Starmer said the sentences



Crowds gathered in Walthamstow, northeast London, to ward off far-right activists. Widespread disorder failed to materialise

should serve as a deterrent. "If you provoke violent disorder on our streets or online, you will face the full force of the law," he tweeted.

As well as scores of anticipated farright protests, police were tracking 30 counter-protests. About 6,000 riot officers were deployed and some magistrates' courts sat late into the evening to deal with suspected rioters.

Other developments:

The King asked for daily updates on

the evolving situation but faced criticism for not issuing a public statement in response to riots.

• Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, described claims of two-tier policing — the idea that white rioters are treated more harshly than Muslims — as nonsense.

than Muslims — as nonsense.

MPs were urged to consider working from home amid fears their offices could be targeted.

Robert Jenrick, the Tory leadership

contender, drew criticism after saying that people shouting *Allahu Akbar* (God is great) in the street should be arrested.

Stephen Parkinson, the director of public prosecutions, said one case of alleged terrorism was "actively under consideration".

Tweets by Tommy Robinson, the farright leader who has been blamed for whipping up tensions, have been Continued on page 2

#### Medics disown union over puberty drugs

Eleanor Hayward Health Editor

The British Medical Association is being criticised by doctors and NHS leaders over its "unethical" demand for children to be given puberty blockers. The doctors union announced last

The doctors' union announced last week that it would oppose the implementation of recommendations in a report by Dr Hilary Cass, which called for an overhaul of services for children wanting to change gender.

At a meeting that critics described as secretive, the BMA's governing council passed a motion calling for a "critique" of the Cass review, arguing it was discriminatory to stop prescribing sex hormones to children

hormones to children.

The BMA's decision angered medical leaders and doctors, including many of the union's 195,000 members. They have organised an open letter saying that the stance "does not reflect the views of the wider membership".

that the stance does not reliect the views of the wider membership".

The letter, addressed to Professor Philip Banfield, chairman of the BMA, says: "We write as doctors to say, 'Not in my name.' We are extremely disappointed that the BMA council has passed a motion to conduct a 'critique' of the Cass review and to lobby to oppose its recommendations.

oppose its recommendations.

"The passing of the motion was opaque and secretive. It does not reflect the views of the wider membership, whose opinion you did not seek. We understand that no information will be released on the voting figures ... that is a failure of accountability to members and simply not acceptable."

The letter says that implementing the

The letter says that implementing the Cass review is essential to ensuring children get appropriate care and it "is the most comprehensive review into healthcare for children with gender-related distress ever conducted". It adds: "By lobbying against the best evidence we have, the BMA is going against the principles of evidence-based medicine and against ethical practice."

The letter is understood to have gathered dozens of signatures from leading doctors. These include Professor Simon Kenny, a paediatric surgeon who is national clinical director for children at NHS England. The Continued on page 2

# Today's highlights 7am 8.45am Diana Johnson, the policing minister Sir Steve Redgrave, the five-time Olympic gold medallist, right, on the latest from Paris Kate Weinberg discusses her experience with long Covid and her new novel There's Nothing Wrong With Her A thorough look at the latest polls with Luke Tryl TIMES RADIO ONLINE SMART SPEAKER APP

#### TODAY'S EDITION

#### **NEWS**



PEAK INTEREST
Buyers circle mill
featured in
Peaky Blinders
PAGE 18

#### **SPORT**



HIGH DRAMA Speed climbing, a thrilling event faster than the 100m

#### TIMES2



NOT SO WILD After two animal murals, has Banksy gone soft? PAGES 8-9

#### **COMMENT**

'Reeves now has to find growth with a lot less cash and a much lower appetite for risk'

KATY BALLS, PAGE 19

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#### Why Kamala Harris chose Tim Walz

Kamala Harris has named the former geography teacher Tim Walz as her running-mate. He's seen as a safe pick — but will the Minnesota governor win over white working-class voters in swing states?

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#### THE WEATHER



Unsettled with a band of rain spreading eastwards, heavy at times further north. Full forecast, page 51

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## Whitehall denies secret ban on exporting arms to Israel

George Grylls Political Correspondent Larisa Brown Defence Editor

Britain has denied suspending arms exports to Israel after a suggestion that a de facto ban had already been implemented.

David Lammy, the foreign secretary, has ordered civil servants to investigate potential breaches of international law amid mounting expectations of a partial arms embargo. Last week The Times revealed that ministers could withdraw export licences for specific weapons that they could link to suspected war crimes.

According to The Jewish Chronicle, one person involved in selling weapons to Israel was told by British officials that licences had been "suspended pending policy review". The report was dismissed by Whitehall sources, who insisted there had been no change in export licensing.

The Department for Business and Trade is responsible for issuing arms export licences. A spokesman said:

"There has been no change to our approach to export licences to Israel. We continue to review export licence applications on a case-by-case basis against the strategic export licensing criteria.

"It is vital that we uphold both our domestic and international legal obligations when it comes to arms exports. We are reviewing the advice regarding exports to Israel and no decision has been made."

Britain's relationship with Israel has become more strained since the election of the Labour government last month. Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, has restored funding to UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for dispensing aid to Palestinian refugees, and dropped British objections at the International Criminal Court in the Hague to the arrest warrant proceedings against Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

A decision on arms exports is expected later this summer after officials review evidence of war crimes in Gaza.

A government source said it was "quite likely" that the Labour government would take a different approach from the previous administration and this could happen before parliament returned after the summer recess.

"They want to do a full assessment. An update to parliament does not have to wait until parliament returns," the source said. They were unable to clarify whether this meant a total ban or a ban on certain equipment such as components for E.35 fighter jets.

on certain equipment such as components for F-35 fighter jets.

Britain's arms sales to Israel were worth £18.2 million last year. There is concern in government that a blanket arms embargo could undermine the UK's privileged role in constructing F-35 fighter jets.

Britain lobbied to become a tier-one partner for the United States fighter jet programme to protect jobs in the arms industry. The fifth-generation stealth jets have been used to bomb Gaza, where nearly 40,000 people have died, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

## Southport attacker 'was like a crouching tiger'

Constance Kampfner
Northern Corresponder

The Southport knifeman who killed three young girls was like a "crouching tiger", a businessman who was stabbed trying to stop him has revealed.

John Hayes, 63, was one of the first people on the scene on Monday last week after he heard children's screams coming from the Taylor Swift-themed dance class.

The grandfather was stabbed in the upper thigh while grappling with the attacker, suffering a 12cm-deep wound that narrowly missed an artery.

He said he was "hugely upset" he had

He said he was "hugely upset" he had been unable to do more to protect the children, three of whom were killed and eight of whom were seriously injured alongside two adults. "I don't know to what extent I've interfered or helped or delayed." he told the BBC.

Hayes, who has an office in the same complex as the dance studio on Hart Street, said he "ran the full length of our building" when he heard screaming.

He described opening the door to find a girl on the floor who looked badly injured. "She had bloodstained clothing, she was motionless," he said. Then he saw the attacker in front of him clutching a bloodied knife.

Hayes continued: "When I opened

Hayes continued: "When I opened the door he was standing there. He had a hoodie on, but most of his face was concealed. We locked eyes on each other and he looked pretty menacing.

"I described him at the police station as like a crouching tiger. It registered immediately that he shouldn't have been there. The next minute he's coming at me and then we had a bit of a grapple. He was flailing this knife around in front of me and I was trying to get it off him."

Hayes said he kicked out at the attacker, who ran from the scene, and one of his colleagues managed to close the doors. He added: "My overriding thought at the time was not for myself, but hugely upset that I couldn't have done more to prevent this guy from doing what he did."

Hayes, who has been discharged from hospital after major surgery, said: "The last couple of days I had the stark realisation that I was lucky. It only narrowly missed my femoral artery and I've been told if it had caught that I probably wouldn't be here."

He added: "I've not even begun to

process the horror show that I've seen."
Axel Rudakubana, who turned 18
yesterday, appeared at Liverpool crown
court last Thursday charged with the
murders of Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot
Stancombe, seven, and Alice Dasilva
Aguiar, nine. Rudakubana, from the
nearby village of Banks, was also
charged with the attempted murder of
eight children and two adults.

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Counter-protesters take to street

viewed more than 434 million times.

Ofcom urged social media companies to start complying with the Online

Safety Act.
On a visit to a hotel attacked by far-right rioters in Rotherham, Angela Rayner, the deputy prime minister, said: "It's not a legitimate complaint to throw bricks at police and to try and set fire to public buildings — that's not acceptable. I hope that the public and anyone who sees what is happening online, that they will know that online and offline criminality will be faced with the courts and with the law."

Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, chairman of the National Police Chiefs' Council, said that those arrested could face up to five years in jail. "You won't be going home to see your family and friends. If you carry out this thuggish behaviour, then you need to know the personal consequences" he said.

personal consequences," he said.

Planned far-right rallies at 39 immigration law firms, trailed on social media since Monday, had led businesses across the country to shut early, board up windows and send staff home.

However, when the scheduled 8pm start time for the co-ordinated action came, police preparations and counter-protests meant that right-wing rioters were nowhere to be seen. Instead the evening became a moment of celebration for anti-racist campaigners. In a crowd that stretched back a mile in Walthamstow, groups chanted: "Whose streets? Our streets!"

Reports, pages 6-9

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**BMA under fire over Cass report

Cass review took four years and issued 32 recommendations, calling for a fundamental shift in approach away from medical interventions and towards a holistic model addressing other mental health problems. Cass also recommended a ban on prescribing puberty blockers outside clinical trials. Details of the open letter emerged as

Details of the open letter emerged as the NHS outlined its plan to overhaul gender services for children. Early next year it will begin a clinical trial of puberty blockers in children, led by experts at King's College London. It will evaluate the "potential harms and benefits". The trial is expected to involve hundreds of children referred

to NHS gender services, and will track the long-term outcomes of those prescribed, and not prescribed, the drugs.

Puberty blockers suppress the release of sex hormones that cause physical changes, such as breast development or facial hair, during puberty. They have been widely prescribed over the past decade to under-16s in distress about their gender. But use of the drugs on the NHS was banned in March after Cass raised concerns they were unsafe. The government subsequently passed legislation making it illegal to prescribe them outside clinical trials.

The NHS is opening a network of eight gender clinics for children, to replace the previous gender clinic at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust in London. Children will be referred to the

gender clinics only if they have seen a paediatrician or mental health services, rather than simply their GP, as was previously the case. The new services will have no minimum age requirement and will accept referrals from across the country. Two have already opened, at Great Ormond Street in London and Alder Hey in Liverpool, with the next due to open in Bristol in November.

Alder Hey in Liverpool, with the next due to open in Bristol in November. Cass said: "I am pleased that NHS England is planning to fully implement the recommendations of my review."

Wes Streeting, the health secretary, welcomed the new services and the trial into puberty blockers, saying 'children's healthcare should always be led by evidence".

The BMA declined to comment on the open letter.

## Wall Street wolf thwarted by newt

Billionaire's building project is compromised by a rare creature from the Blackstone lagoon, **Charlotte Wace** writes

As one of Wall Street's most influential figures, Stephen Schwarzman is used to facing all kinds of challenges — and winning them.

But the Blackstone chief executive

But the Blackstone chief executive and co-founder has been forced to compromise over his latest project after coming up against an unlikely adversary: the great crested newt.

Schwarzman, 77, was going through the arduous planning process required to develop Conholt Park, his personal estate in Wiltshire that he bought in 2022 for a reported £80 million.

Council planners approved his proposals but on the basis that various conditions were met such as "habitat mitigation and enhancement strategy" and an ecological management plan. This includes a requirement that all work stop if any great crested newts or reptiles are found during construction.

Schwarzman is said to have been updating Rachel Reeves, the chancel-lor, on the hoops he has had to jump through. The pair were due to have dinner together on Tuesday night, their third meeting, the Financial Times reported

reported.
Allies of the chancellor told the publication that Schwarzman

lication that Schwarzman had previously regaled her with his experiences of trying to get things built in Britain.
Blackstone is also

Blackstone is also looking to build a big new data centre at Blyth in Northumberland, and Reeves is said to have reassured Schwarzman that she has been doing everything she can to expedite such projects.

After the American businessman bought Conholt Park, he submitted building proposals, including a new lake with a decorative structure



Stephen Schwarzman is developing Conholt Park in Wiltshire but has encountered hurdles in the planning process — the main one being the great crested new

known as an eyecatcher, and a renovation of the stables.

ion of the stables.

Ecologists reported that Conholt
Park was "unlikely to host
terrestrial GCN [great
crested newts]", also
known as the
warty newt —
although they
found that

anown as the warty newt — although they found that other common amphibians might also be present.

Protective measures include having a qualified ecologist on site during "the clearance of vegetation of value to reptiles and amphibians".

Schwarzman must also ensure that vegetation clearance works take place outside of the hibernation period. During the construction, a site-wide check for reptiles and amphibians must take place at the start of every working day.

An ecological management plan for the development added: "If at any point Igreat crested newts] or reptiles are found during development, all works must cease until further advice has been obtained from a qualified ecologist and the relevant regulators."

gist and the relevant regulators."
Almost black in colour, with spotted

flanks and vivid orange bellies, great crested newts are protected due to their significant population decline. It is an offence to kill, injure, capture or disturb them, to damage or destroy their habitat, or to possess, sell or trade them.

Schwarzman is not the first highprofile figure to have to bow before the great crested newt. Last year, Boris Johnson found his plans to construct an outdoor swimming pool at his Oxfordshire home disrupted by the potential presence of the amphibian.

The former prime minister wrote in his Daily Mail column: "If it turns out that our garden is so honoured and so fortunate as to be the home of some newts — great crested, palmate, whatever — I want you to know that I will do whatever it takes to protect them.

"If we have to build little newt motels to house them in their trips past the swimming pool, then we will. We will excavate new ponds in which they can breed. We will make a Newtopia!" Great crested newts are the biggest

Great crested newts are the biggest newt species in the UK, but the least common. The creatures have been around for approximately 40 million years. Habitat loss is the main reason for their decline in numbers and remains their biggest threat.

We need to get things built, leading article, page 23

## When in Rome ... tread carefully

Philip Willan Rome

An actor-director famous for his comic depictions of Rome has complained of a decline in civic decency in his home city where he says that tourists and drunks are relieving themselves in the open because of a lack of public lavatories.

Carlo Verdone said that the worsening problem — as well as the traffic, rubbish, graffiti, roadworks and bad behaviour — were tempting him to leave the city where he has lived since he was born there in 1950.

"I think about it, really, two or three times a week: let me escape," he told the newspaper II Fatto Quotidiano (The Daily Fact), pronouncing the last words in Roman dialect. "It's not just me. I have a lot of friends who are thinking in concrete terms of leaving Rome. It's the first time it has happened."

Raising the need for more public lavatories, he said: "If you spend 20 minutes looking out from Ponte Garibaldi or Ponte Sisto bridges, you'll

see someone drop their trousers and leave a souvenir. It's shameful, unthinkable for a 'normal' European capital."

The banks of the Tiber have traditionally provided a dormitory for the homeless and there are people sleeping in tents and under the bridges.

He said: "From my window I see kids, drunks — Romans and tourists — who hide behind cars, statues, bridges. Every time you return home you have to check the soles of your shoes."

Verdone acknowledged that a scant civic sense was at the heart of the issue. "But dear city hall, what would it take to install some Vespasians?" he said. Public urinals, which were named after the Roman emperor Vespasian when he became the first to tax their use, dispensered from the city decades ago.

appeared from the city decades ago. Verdone, who is seen as the heir of Alberto Sordi (one of the scions of the Italian-style comedy movement of the 1940s and 1950s), said he felt uncomfortable in his role as a critic. "But how can you avoid it? Wherever you look, you can't see a normal street. Tags, signatures, graffiti, ugliness, damage." The city ought to be treated as if it were everyone's home, he said. "When a house is neglected, on the contrary, everyone feels entitled to mistreat it."

Verdone cited a scene from *Roma*, Federico Fellini's 1972 film, showing chaos and fury on the city's ring road after an accident blocked the traffic. "It was 1971. More than 50 years have passed ... nothing has changed."

Roadworks in preparation for next year's jubilee of the Catholic Church were making things worse.

were making things worse.
Like many other Italian cities, Rome has been affected by overtourism. The authorities have reported a 12 per cent increase in visitor numbers in the first helf of this town with 15 million tourists.

half of this year, with 15 million tourists. Perhaps concerned he had been over-critical, Verdone called the mayor for what Roberto Gualtieri's office called a "cordial" conversation. He may have been reassured to learn that 120 new public layatories will be coming soon.

## Canon's 'drunken' Austen gets the council's blessing

A controversial statue of Jane Austen that was likened to "a drunk leaning on a table" has been given the go-ahead to be built in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral.

Rev canon Dr Roland Riem, the vice-dean of Winchester, submitted the application last month to mark the 250th anniversary of the author's birth.

Critics claimed the £100,000 life-sized artwork in the Inner Close would turn the site into "Disneyland" with American tourists swarming to take selfies.

The statue is by Martin Jennings, who designed the portrait of King Charles III for the Royal Mint.

Philip Ross, who lives in Winchester, wrote on the city's planning portal: "I object to the installation of a truly awful bronze which looks like a drunk leaning on a table. The bronze will be out of place in the selected site and an eyesore. I can only assume that the proposer wishes to have the

that the proposer wishes to have the thing plonked there as some kind of memorial to themselves."

The planning application said the "tranquil" location "is along her funeral procession route and a path she would have taken during her lifetime when visiting her nephews in Winchester College or her friends".

Winchester city council planners said the statue is "not considered to cause an adverse impact on the landscape".

> The statue has been approved for the grounds of Winchester Cathedral

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#### News

#### 'Motherhood penalty' driving women to have fewer children

**Oliver Wright** Policy Editor

Women in Britain are having fewer children than they would like because the "motherhood penalty" makes them worse off and less secure in their jobs, research suggests.

research suggests.

The latest figures show that England and Wales face a "birth gap", with the birthrate falling to a new low every year. The last time that enough children were born to prevent population

decline was in the early 1970s. Yet despite only 1.49 babies being born per woman in 2022, research suggests that women would like, on average, to have two or three children.

The reasons they do not, the study concludes, are material factors such as the lack of financial support for new mothers, the cost of childcare and the housing crisis, which has made homes suitable for families more expensive. The research was carried out by the

think tank Onward and backed by the parenting website Mumsnet. Among its recommendations was for higher-rate statutory maternity pay to be offered for 12 weeks rather than six, as well as wider eligibility for paternity leave.

It also called for a change in the law to reduce the period — currently 26 weeks — for which women must have been employed before qualifying for statutory maternity pay. The research cited evidence that becoming a mother

was associated with earning less and accruing fewer savings in later life.

Phoebe Arslanagic-Little, of Onward, said: "Many people delay having children, or are not able to have as many as they wish, because they feel priced out of parenthood.

priced out of parenthood.
"But instead of smoothing the way
for parents and prospective parents,
our tax, benefit and employment rights
systems are letting them down: children are our future."

Tickety-boo Hot weather caused tickseed to bloom at Wakehurst botanic garden in West Sussex. It is home to the Millennium Seed Bank, a collection of 2.4 billion seeds

# NHS gene editing to transform lives of blood disorder patients

Poppy Koronka Health Correspondent

Since Kirthana Balachandran was a baby she has needed a blood transfusion every three weeks to stay alive. At the age of 21, she has had hundreds

At the age of 21, she has had hundreds of transfusions that have left her veins "bruised and scarred". Her future with the rare blood disorder — transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia (TDT) — is uncertain.

Balachandran could now look forward to a future free of needles after a "historic moment" for the NHS in which gene-editing therapy is to become available.

The treatment, called Casgevy, is the first to be licensed using Crispr, the gene-editing tool for which Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier were awarded the Nobel prize for chemistry in 2020.

NHS patients will be among the first in the world to be treated with the therapy after the National Institute for

Health and Care Excellence (Nice) approved it for use. Casgevy has been recommended for patients aged 12 and over with TDT, an inherited disorder that affects about 800 people in the UK.

The treatment takes stem cells from a patient's bone marrow and adjusts the



At 21, Kirthana Balachandran has scarred veins from a rare condition

mutated gene that causes the disease. The edited cells are transfused into the patient, allowing "normal" red blood cells and haemoglobin to be produced.

cells and haemoglobin to be produced.

Patients will first need chemotherapy and remain in hospital for up to six weeks while the treated stem cells embed in the bone marrow.

Balachandran said the gene therapy

would change her life. "I constantly worry about the future and what blood transfusions would be like when I'm older," she said. "I wouldn't have to be in pain while clinicians find a vein. I'm young but my veins in my hands and arms are bruised and scarred."

The treatment could be a cure for the life-limiting disease. A clinical trial found 93 per cent of patients who had the therapy did not need a transfusion for at least a year. But it is not known how long the effects could last.

Of the 800 people with the disorder in the UK, an estimated 460 will be eligible for treatment. TDT mainly affects people of Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and south Asian descent, with many not expected to live past their fifties. The only cure is a stem cell transplant for which few are eligible because donor matches are rare. Amanda Pritchard, chief executive of

Amanda Pritchard, chief executive of NHS England, said the treatment was "truly amazing news". She added that

the therapy offered people a life free from "painful side effects and regular transfusions".

Casgevy is an option for patients when a stem cell transplant is suitable but no donor can be found.

The Nice guidance says the list price for a course of Casgevy is \$1.65 million but it is available to the NHS at a discount through a commercial agreement with Vertex, the manufacturer based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Nice recommended that Casgevy be used as part of the Innovative Medicines Fund, which will allow more data to be collected. Romaine Maharaj, executive direct-

Romaine Maharaj, executive director of the UK Thalassaemia Society, said the therapy was "a beacon of hope". Ludovic Fenaux, the senior vice-

Ludovic Fenaux, the senior vicepresident of Vertex, said: "Securing access to Casgevy is a historic moment for people living with TDT who, for too long, have had limited options for this life-shortening disease."

# each letter underneath once only 1 Great ---, large dog breed (4) 2 Knock down with a heavy blow (7) 3 Relevant (7) 4 US Midwestern state (7) 5 Easily snapped or broken (7) A A A A B D D E E E E E E G I

#### **Threat to Barrier Reef**

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 Solutions see MindGames p15

 Cryptic clues MindGames p14

The Great Barrier Reef has been turning white amid the hottest temperatures for 400 years over the past decade, Australian and US researchers have said. Data showed waters surrounding the reef were relatively stable before the 20th century but warmed up by about 0.12C per decade since the 1960s, while temperatures were about 1.5C up since 2016.

#### Ancient abbey is raided

Silverware worth thousands of pounds has been stolen from a 1,300-year-old church in Dorset. Sherborne Abbey's Saxon-era wooden door suffered significant damage and a processional cross, two verges and a bishop's crook were taken, along with a small amount of cash. The raid occurred between 9pm on Tuesday and lam yesterday.

#### Worker's £1m fall

A logistics company was fined £1 million after a worker suffered "life-changing" injuries when he fell at a container terminal. Christopher Hooper had fractures to his skull and pelvis in 2022. Southampton Container Terminals, based in Westminster, central London, pleaded guilty at Southampton magistrates' court to breaking safety regulations.

#### Tennis rape case

A bodyguard for tennis players at Wimbledon molested and tried to rape a female colleague in her bedroom after they returned from the pub in June last year, a court heard. Phillip Harrison, 32, of Browney, Durham, pleaded not guilty to attempted rape and assault by penetration. The trial at Kingston-upon-Thames crown court continues.





## Strictly staff tell of insults, bullying and screaming

#### Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Junior members of staff working on Strictly Come Dancing have complained about a toxic culture that allegedly included "shouting, screaming and insulting to an extraordinary level" by its celebrities and professional dancers

The show, which begins recording its 20th anniversary edition on September 4, has become embroiled in controversy after allegations about the behaviour of its dancers towards celebrities including Amanda Abbington and Zara McDermott.

Now a number of production staff have told BBC News that they were also mistreated during their time on *Strictly*, after it spoke to 15 present and former workers anonymously.

The claims have been denied by BBC Studios, the production company responsible for the show.

One former runner, named as Oscar, said he suffered "bullying behaviour"

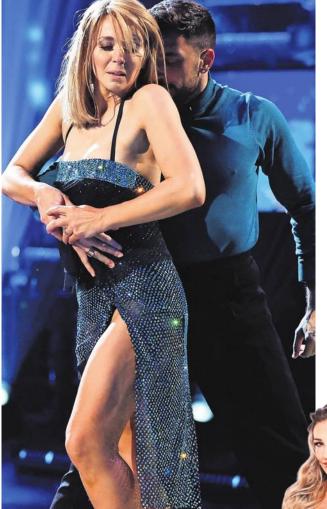
that left him unable to sleep or eat, including being berated by one star contestant after passing on some simple instructions before a show.

"Ĥe was shouting and he was so close up in my face, I had to close my eyes as his spit flecks were hitting me," Oscar said. "The fact it was in front of everyone made me feel awful and helpless. People were stopping in the corridor to catch a glimpse of what was

A second runner, who worked on a Christmas edition of the show several years ago, said that a former male dancer would act in a "disgusting and chauvinistic" way towards the female professionals and junior staff members.

'We'd be warned about working with him," she said. "I was a nobody, a little runner, I didn't think I could complain.'

Another individual, named as Jane, who worked on the spin-off show It Takes Two, said that junior staff would tell her they had experienced verbal



Amanda Abbington claims she was mistreated by her dance partner Giovanni Pernice last year. Zara McDermott, right, has also complained about behaviour on the show, which returns to screens next month

abuse from some dancers, including "shouting, screaming and being insulted, to an extraordinary level".

'Whatever mood the dancers were in would dictate how your day would go,

A fourth person claimed that those in charge of the show believed that junior staff members were "lucky to be on the show" and thought they could behave with impunity. "I guess the problem is that [Strictly is] so big and so valuable to the BBC, one of their main money-makers, those who are running the production feel untouchable," they said.

Others spoke about having a positive experience working on the series.

A BBC Studios spokesman denied the allegations and highlighted its "industry-leading" complaints process as it apologised to staff who felt unable to raise issues.

The welfare and safety of our crew on each series has always been, and remains, our utmost priority," the spokesman said. "We do not recognise these anonymous claims nor will hundreds of production personnel who have worked with us through multiple series and across the two decades the show has been on air. We act speedily when any issues are raised and have thorough, effective and longstanding processes to manage them.

More than a third of *Strictly*'s production team had worked on the show for more than five years and been promoted to senior positions, he added. Before the show's return next month,

the BBC has announced seven contest-ants. They include Chris McCausland, a blind comedian. Toyah Willcox, the singer and actress, and Dr Punam Krishan, the BBC Morning Live medic.

> investigating Strictly after claims by Abbington she was mistreated by her dance Giovanni partner Pernice while appearing on the show last year.

BBC

Pernice, who has denied any wrongdoing, has since left. Another left. Another dancer, Graziano Di Prima, has also left after admitting he kicked McDermott, celebrity partner, during rehearsals last year. The BBC has since introduced various measures including chaperones in every rehearsal to protect both dancers and celebrities.

#### Concern over MI5's late files on IRA spy

#### Mario Ledwith

MI5 has been accused of misleading an eight-year criminal investigation into Britain's most important spy in the IRA.

Sir Iain Livingstone, head of Operation Kenova, said he had "great concern" after the security service revealed it had found potentially significant evidence relating to Freddie Scappaticci, the agent codenamed Stakeknife by army intelligence, only weeks before a legal amnesty was introduced.

Investigators were made aware that the files had been discovered in April, eight years after Kenova began looking into whether Scappaticci was involved in murder, torture and kidnapping. The Legacy Act, which was passed last year, introduced a May deadline for prosecutorial decisions.

The latest evidence came to light after prosecutors had decided not to bring criminal charges against former IRA members, soldiers from army intelligence units, police officers and public officials as a result of the investigation. The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland has rejected the prospect of convictions contained in 28 files and relating to 35 people, including a public prosecutor.

In a letter sent to Hilary Benn, the

Northern Ireland secretary, and copied to Ken McCallum head of MI5 Livingstone said the evidence raised doubts about previous statements by the security service. He said the two files, made up of hundreds of pages of documents, contained "significant new material which appears to point to new investigative leads". Although the documents did not point towards any additional murders committed by Stakeknife, Livingstone said they cast doubt on witness evidence, statements

and documents contained in Kenova's

interim report published in March.

He wrote: "It is of course of great concern that further material continues to be given to Operation Kenova by MI5 nearly eight years after Operation Kenova commenced."

MI5 is understood to have come across the two files in the process of digitising its historical records. One was found in April, and another in July.

Scappaticci died last year, aged 77, having spent 20 years in witness protection in England. Kenova, which has cost £40 million, examined 101 murder and abduction cases and concluded he could be directly linked to at least 14 murders and 15 abductions. Livingstone intends to publish a full investigation report, presenting evidence of the murders, before the end of the year.

The Home Office did not respond to a request for comment.

#### Begum loses latest effort to regain UK citizenship

#### Seren Hughes

Shamima Begum will not be allowed to challenge the removal of her British citizenship at the Supreme Court, judges have ruled.

Last year Begum lost an appeal against the decision to revoke her citizenship on national security grounds at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. Yesterday the UK's highest court said Begum could not appeal again after she lost a Court of Appeal case in February.

Begum was 15 when she and two

friends from Bethnal Green, east London, travelled to Syria to join Islamic State in 2015. She has been in a refugee camp in northeast Syria since the fall of the caliphate. In 2019 Sajid Javid, then the home secretary, took advice before he stripped Begum of her British citizenship after she was found by The Times in a Syrian refugee camp.

In their decision, Lord Reed, Lord Hodge and Lord Lloyd-Jones denied Begum approval to go to the Supreme Court, finding that her proposed appeal grounds "do not raise an arguable point of law". They said there was no arguable challenge to the Court of Appeal's decision, including on whether Begum, 24, should have been able to make representations to the home secretary before her citizenship was removed.

In March, Court of Appeal judges rejected Begum's initial attempt to take her case to the Supreme Court. She then asked the Supreme Court directly for permission to have her case heard.

**News** Riots

## 'There aren't any protesters to

Tom Witherow, Charlie Parker James Beal, Shayma Bakht

Counter-protesters claimed last night they had "scared off" far-right extremists after taking to the streets in their thousands.

Police had prepared for the worst after thugs threatened violent protests outside the offices of law centres providing advice to immigrants. How-ever, they were far outnumbered by anti-racism demonstrators.

As of 9pm last night, a small number of arrests were made in Northampton for public order offences, and in Blackpool, after 50 people, mostly young men, turned up at an immigration solicitors' office near the seafront. Fears of widespread violent disorder

failed to materialise. Some 6,000 riot police had been mobilised and many businesses had boarded up shop fronts.

Police intelligence had suggested that more than 100 protests were planned across the country last night.

Thousands of counter-demonstrators had gathered in Walthamstow, east London, ahead of a planned protest, with groups chanting "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "Free Palestine". One Muslim resident said: "It was a great showing from the community. There's a lot of people there, it's mass solidarity.

In Brighton dozens of police had to push through hundreds of counter-protesters to allow a few far-right demonstrators to escape the crowd. People shouted "shame on you" and cheered and waved as they were escorted into a police van and removed from the area.

About 500 anti-fascist demonstrators gathered on Glossop Road in Shef-field but there was no sign of antiimmigration agitators.

There were 50 anti-immigrant dem-

onstrators in Southampton but they were outnumbered by 200 anti-racism

campaigners.
About 200 counter-protesters in Harrow joked that they had "no protests to counter" after far-right groups failed to show up at the town's immigration centre, with one saying: "We've scared them off."

There were about 500 anti-racism campaigners and supporters in Newcastle and 200 in Oldham.

Dozens of protesters outside the Aldershot Enterprise Centre chanted and held banners reading: "Refugees

#### King urged to break silence

Kate Mansey Assistant Editor

The King has been criticised for not issuing a public statement in response to the riots.

Although Charles and the Prince and Princess of Wales expressed their condolences after the Southport attack, the Palace has yet to comment on the unrest. It is understood that the King has asked for daily updates and is engaging privately with issues concerning community cohesion and interfaith dialogue.

Any statement or visit from a member of the royal family to the affected areas is only likely to happen on the advice of the government, as was the case in the 2011 riots when the late Queen Elizabeth did not issue a public statement. However, the continued silence from the Palace

has drawn criticism. Kate Williams, a history professor at Reading University, said that she believed the King ought to address the nation and that "something ought to be said

on behalf of the royal family".

Speaking to Times Radio,

Williams said: "This would be a moment for the King to talk about multiculturalism, the Commonwealth, people coming together, and I think that if I were advising him I would suggest

making that statement sooner [rather] than later." She said if the King felt unwell as a result of his cancer treatment, he could offer a written statement.

The King visited Helmsdale in the Scottish Highlands yesterday to mark the centenary of a war memorial and the 150th anniversary of its railway line.

Any decision for a royal visit to Southport or areas affected by the violence would be considered only if the visit did not create an additional burden on the police.

welcome. Stop the far right." Bristol also

wetcome. Stop the larright. Bristofalso attracted large crowds.

Farooq Siddique, 55, who was at the Bristol counter-protest, said: "I was heartbroken when I saw all of the shops boarded up. They are paying to do that themselves, just to be safe. Everyone was so afraid." was so afraid."

was so afraid."
Farooq, a community activist and self-employed restaurateur, said: "Now, suddenly, to see this turnout of at least 2,000 people — it is heart-warming. It makes you so proud to be Bristolian."
Outside the Asylum Link Merseyside

centre on Overbury Street in Liverpool, supporters of the charity filled the road after reports that a protest was due to be held outside. A police van blocked off the road as hundreds turned out to protect the building, which had boards over the windows.

Placards were held by demonstrators including ones which read "Nans against Nazis", "Merseyside pensioners fight back" and "When the poor blame the poor only the rich win"

Hundreds of counter-protesters assembled outside an immigration advice centre in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, holding banners reading "Oppose Tommy Robinson" and "Stamp out Islamophobia". Hundreds of counter-protesters sang

and chanted outside the Asylum Welcome centre in Oxford and asylum seekers who had retreated to their rooms in a nearby hotel stepped out to wave to well-wishers.
Police arrested three people for

public order offences in Northampton. The suspects were in custody last night, police confirmed, adding that no members of the public or police officers were injured. About 150 counter-protesters had gathered.

In Blackpool, an anti-immigration crowd of 50, some wearing balaclavas, were watched by officers in a police

One man, 3I, who declined to be named, said: "I wanted to show my face because this isn't about the far right. The government has let all these illegals in and no one knows what is going on. Where's the fairness?'

He claimed that immigrants get "free benefits and free hotels", adding: "We're not saying no to them, we're saying we've taken enough." Additional reporting: Mario Ledwith,



Thousands filled the streets of Walthamstow, east London, to see off far-right

#### Agitator's riot posts viewed 434m times

Mark Sellman

Technology Correspondent

Posts on Twitter/X by Tommy Robinson, the far-right activist whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, have been viewed more than 434 million times since the riots began.

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) said Robinson had an average of 54.3 million daily views on the social media site. Before the wave of unrest, he would get 11.1 million views.

The agitator has been posting from a £400-a-night resort in Cyprus outside Ayia Napa, on the southeast coast. He is subject to an arrest warrant after leaving the UK before he was to appear in court on contempt charges last week.

CCDH, a not-for-profit organisation, said that on July 30, the day after the Southport attacks, Robinson repeatedly linked the fatal stabbings to the Muslim community in posts that racked up 13 million views. Police said

that the suspect was not Muslim. On August 3, Robinson claimed that far-right protesters were "stabbed by Muslims in Stoke" in a post that had 2.7 million views. Staffordshire police said two men were hit by an object but no stabbings had been reported.

The former leader of the English Defence League was banned from X but Elon Musk, the site's owner, allowed him back along with other extremists. Robinson's account has a blue tick, which prioritises ranking in the network's algorithm.

CCDH has estimated that ten of the reinstated accounts, including Andrew Tate, the controversial influencer, and Andrew Anglin, a US neo-Nazi, would earn up to \$19 million a year in advertising revenue based on their combined 2.5 billion tweet impressions in 47 days.

X appears to be preventing advertisements from appearing next to Robinson's content. Musk is in a legal battle with advertisers, some of whom have boycotted the platform.

On Tuesday Musk sued Unilever, Mars and the Global Alliance for Responsible Media, a US industry body,

claiming their boycott was illegal.

During an interview at a conference Musk had sworn at advertisers he believed were trying to blackmail him. He said he allowed the extremists back as part of a drive to create a platform for free speech, so long as the content was not illegal. He is believed to regard content moderation to be a form of censorship and has put his faith in the usergenerated Community Notes system to correct inaccurate posts.

CCDH said, however, that since the stabbings only one of Robinson's 679 posts displayed a fact-check label. It added that what he claimed to be a burning police station was a Citizens

Advice centre next to a police office. Imran Ahmed, 45, the founder of CCDH, called for the Online Safety Act, which will not come into force until next year, to be brought forward.

Ofcom has already urged social media companies to comply with the act, which forces them to remove content that is illegal and harmful to children.

Adam Hadley, executive director of Tech Against Terrorism, said X bore a moral responsibility for any violence

resulting from extremist activity. He said: "Telegram and X must take immediate action to improve their content moderation?



#### News

## counter — we scared them off'



activists. Counter-protests were also held in Bristol, below, and Liverpool, bottom, where police moved on a masked man

# Blackpool Manchester Liverpool Birmingham Brighton





## First members of lawless mob jailed

David Woode Crime Correspondent

Justice was seen to be served yesterday when the first offenders were jailed for their roles in violent disorder linked to the Southport stabbings.

the Southport stabbings.

Three men aged 29, 40 and 58 received prison terms for crimes including punching a police officer, violent disorder and racially aggravated threatening behaviour.

Prosecutors said that 12 people had so far been convicted "for their part in the ongoing disorder — and many will be going to prison".

#### 'I'VE LET MY FAMILY DOWN'

A haulier who punched a police officer in the face as he squared up to a riot cordon in Southport has been jailed for three years.

Derek Drummond, 58, was part of a 1,000-strong "utterly lawless mob" who took to the streets hours after three schoolgirls were fatally stabbed at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class.

Liverpool crown court was told that chants included "this is our f\*\*ing country" and "England till I die" as the protesters marauded through the town.

Video from officers' body-worn cameras showed Drummond approaching the riot cordon line saying "shithouses, shithouses". He punched an officer in the face after being told to go back. Some 30 minutes later, Drummond confronted the officers again and tried to break through another cordon.

Drummond handed himself in to the police after a public appeal and said he was a "fool". He accepted his behaviour was "appalling" but could not give any explanation.

The defendant, who has since lost his job, told police: "I'm ashamed of the way I acted. I've let Southport down, I've let the kids down. I've let my family down."

He admitted violent disorder and assaulting an emergency worker and was jailed for three years. Judge Andrew Menary KC told him: "This was not mindless thuggery. You made a choice to get involved."

#### THREW BRICKS AT POLICE

A teenager who was seen celebrating after he struck a police officer with an object during violent protests in Darlington, County Durham, faces

prison.

Cole Stewart, 18, attended a far-right protest during which he was caught throwing bricks and other objects at police officers on Monday night.

Heather Blair, for the prosecution, told Teesside magistrates' court that Stewart had been filmed on CCTV throwing bricks at police.

He was later seen with arms in the air in what appeared to be a celebration.



Derek Drummond was sentenced to three years in prison after he punched an officer

Stewart admitted violent disorder.

Judge Marie Mallon remanded him in custody and said: "You've pleaded guilty to this offence at the first opportunity so when you are sentenced you will be credited for that guilty plea."

Stewart, who has previous convictions for arson, weapon possession and theft of a motor vehicle, will appear at Teesside crown court tomorrow.

#### WHEELIE BIN DENIAL

A teenage woman denied setting fire to a wheelie bin and smashing up a pizza shop during riots in Willington, County Durham, last weekend.

Leah Lee, 19, is accused of violent disorder. Teesside magistrates' court was told she joined a group of other protesters in setting fire to the bin.

Lee pleaded not guilty and was remanded in custody. She will appear at Teesside crown court on August 28.

## Police plea to use rubber bullets and water cannon

#### David Woode

Riot police should have access to water cannon and plastic bullets to stop officers being "brick magnets" when violent disorder breaks out.

Brian Booth, acting national deputy chairman of the Police Federation of

Brian Booth, acting national deputy chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, which represents 130,000 rank-and-file officers, said he was "sick to his hind teeth" at seeing public order officers being injured in the line of duty.

The number of officers hurt responding to far-right protests across England this week has not yet been released but police sources believe the figure is "significantly" higher than anticipated.

Booth said: "We would like to see every technology available to officers so they are not just standing in line behind shields, being brick magnets.

"We want water cannon, CS canisters and attenuated energy projectiles (AEPs) [known colloquially as rubber bullets] to be considered for when we get into highly critical incidents and need proper dispersal equipment." Water cannon, which are

Water cannon, which are crowd-control vehicles that can project high-velocity streams of water over several metres, are not used in public order policing. Police sources said there were no plans to introduce them.

It costs £1,000 a year to train an officer to be allowed to use rubber bullets, which cost £25 a round.

Booth cited the violent disorder in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, on Sunday when a masked mob attacked a Holiday Inn Express hotel. Riot officers formed a line to protect the building. Booth said: "If that hotel had gone up

booth said: If that noter had gone up in flames and water cannon or AEP had been available we could have used them to ... secure a safe ... area that allowed the fire brigade to deal with the burning building and rescue the occupants."

A Home Office spokesman said:
"The police have our full backing in
taking the strongest possible action
against this unacceptable violence."

News Riots

## Jenrick in row over 'aggressive' Allah chant

#### Max Kendix

Robert Jenrick has drawn criticism from Labour and a Tory leadership rival after saving that people shouting Allahu Akbar (God is great) in the street should be arrested immediately.
The Tory leadership contender told

Sky News that he had been "very critical" of the police in the past, particularly over the policing of pro-Palestinian

marches in London and elsewhere. "I thought it was quite wrong that somebody could shout *Allahu Akbar* on the streets of London and not be immediately arrested," he said. "Or project genocidal chants [a reference to the phrase 'From the river to the sea'] on to Big Ben and that person not be immedi-

Big Ben and that person not be immediately arrested. That attitude is wrong and I'll always call out the police."

Jenrick subsequently clarified his position on Twitter/X. "Allahu Akbar is spoken peacefully and spiritually by millions of British Muslims in their daily lives." he wrote. "But ... aggressive chanting [is] intimidatory and threatning And it's an offence under section ening, And it's an offence under section 4 and 5 of the Public Order Act. Ex-tremists routinely abuse common expressions for their own shameful ends." Angela Rayner, the deputy prime

minister, said: "People like Robert Jenrick have been stirring up some of the problems we have seen in our communities. What we want to see is communities coming to-

Mel Stride, a centrist Tory MP standing for the leadership, said his rival's comments were "unwise and insensitive".

Earlier Jenrick had accused a Home Office minister of appearing to "explain away or justify" masked men threat-

Robert Jenrick said it was "wrong" not

ening a female journalist in Birmingham. Jess Phillips, the minister for safe-guarding and violence against women and girls, responded to a video of the incident, shot in her constituency on Monday, by saying there was "misinfor-mation being spread to create trouble". Becky Johnson, a Sky News corre-

spondent, was reporting live on Muslim men forming a protective ring around a mosque amid rumours of far-right protesters plotting to attack the site.

Masked men approached her, one saying "free Palestine" and "#\*\* the EDL" — a reference to the far-right English Defence League — and making a wing at the say in the ing a gun sign at the camera. Another man tried to slash the tyre of one of the camera crew's vans.

Richard Tice, the Reform MP and deputy leader, posted a video of the con-frontation on social media, saying it demonstrated "two-tier policing". Phil-lips responded: "These people came to this location because it has been spread that racists were coming to attack them. This misinformation was spread entirely to create this content. Don't spread it."

Jenrick told Times Radio it was "quite wrong" that Phillips "appeared to explain away or justify intimidation against a female journalist and sectarian gangs on the streets of her own city

He added: "Neither the prime minister nor the home secretary has made any comment upon that. That's wrong. I don't think that's leader-ship. We need now to be bringing the country together with a unify-ing message. And the way to do that is to call out violence and

extremism wherever it's

Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, told colleagues during a call that they should not inflame tensions by encouraging counterprotests.

Responding to riots,





There were counter-protests in north London yesterday; far-right clashes with police in Southampton, left, and Brighton, below; and boarded-up shops in Bristol. right



### Stokers of hate, from fight clubs to football hooligans

#### Emma Yeomans, Georgia Lambert

Organised far-right groups and leaders are whipping up riots and sharing hate messages and misinformation on social media despite efforts to crack down on harmful online activity.

Logically, a UK-based tech firm that tackles online disinformation, uncovered the promotion and planning of riots by an international network of "extreme right-wing Telegram chan-nels" with links to the proscribed terrorist groups Atomwaffen Division and National Action.

Sir Keir Starmer first called for tough action against Telegram three years ago, after evidence emerged that the app, which largely resists moderation, was hosting extremist content. However, it has remained a home for British far-right activists.

Twitter/X has also reinstated dozens of banned users since it was taken over by the billionaire Elon Musk, including Tommy Robinson, leader of the now defunct English Defence League.

#### CHARLIE FOX

Fox is the leader of Identity England, a small group belonging to the identitarian movement. He and his followers have claimed that the recent disorder will be the beginning of England's "own Troubles", comparing the violence to that in Northern Ireland. Identity England has predicted the riots will lead to "urban warfare" and supporters should prepare for an "intensification".

Identitarianism is a branch of the far right that emerged in Austria and was cited as an inspiration by Brenton Tarrant, the mosque terrorist who murdered 51 people in New Zealand in 2019.

#### ACTIVE CLUBS

Active Clubs began in the United States, where they have been promoted by the neo-Nazi Robert Rundo, who has numerous convictions and was recently jailed for rioting in the US. The movement sees fight clubs and gym training as essential for building "warriors" for its cause. Branches exist in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

#### FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM

Two Telegram channels focused on football hooligan "firms", with nearly 35,000 combined followers, have amplified locations for riots.

One posted a call yesterday for "football lads to unite the firms" and protest together.

#### WHITE LIVES MATTER

This movement began in the US as a slogan in response to the Black Lives Matter movement

The network perpetuates extreme racism and has shared false information about the murders in Southport.

#### Shops board up over fears of attacks

#### Emma Yeomans

Businesses in areas listed as targets for riots were boarding up and closing early over fear of violence last night.

In North Finchley, London, workers were seen boarding up shops while restaurants had their shutters down.

Police patrolled the area. An Audi dealership in Brent said that it was closing at 4pm and moving its cars off the forecourt. A branch of the THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

#### News



national estate agents Foxtons closed its high street offices in Walthamstow,

east London, yesterday.

The nearby Nags Head pub informed customers via social media that it would be shut because of a "potential protest", to "ensure safety" of its customers and employees.

In Essex, small businesses in Westcliff-on-Sea boarded up their shop fronts before planned action nearby and said that police had been visiting local stores to offer their support and advice on precautions they could take.

Saira Hussain, who runs HAD, a small architectural practice with offices in Manchester, Burnley, Blackburn and north London, said that the events of the last week were "really unsetting"

the last week were "really upsetting".

She said one shop next to HAD's offices in central Manchester had recently had its windows smashed.

Hussain added: "I've only ever known this country to be my home ... I'm a third-generation British Pakistani. I was born here, studied here, trade here and employ people from this country. It would be nice to live and work in peace."

An office manager at an immigration advisory service in the east Midlands said that he felt "very, very scared and very upset" regarding the threats his workplace had received.

The manager, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "Around this area, all of the shops that are next to us — they're very scared as well."

Divyesh Ruparelia, 6l, said he was "absolutely terrified" and he would leave his home town of Harrow with his wife for the night. A protest is planned outside an immigration solicitor's office there. "It's a nightmare coming true," the cah driver said

## Starmer needs Thatcher's iron to restore the state

#### Tom McTague Comment

e are witnessing a breakdown of order with few obvious parallels in recent British history. There have been moments of resemblance, of course: the London riots of 2011 or the "skinhead terror of the early Seventies. The clashes between Mosley's blackshirts and the coalitions of anti-fascists in the Thirties. Yet none of these comparisons feels quite right. What we are seeing here is something more modern and frightening.

A more apposite comparison is the period of state failure that marked the tumultuous period in British life between the imposition of direct rule in Northern Ireland in 1972 and the miners' strike in 1984. This was a time when the state appeared to lose its authority to govern, and its willingness to do so, as war in the Middle East led to recession, political strife, international retreat and finally industrial confrontation. The trade unions entered a war to the death first with James Callaghan and then Margaret Thatcher.

Too often Thatcher's premiership is understood as a battle to curtail the state, rather than what it really was: the battle to reassert the state's supremacy. In the years before her victory in 1979, the British state had repeatedly failed to impose its will, from the strikes that brought down Ted Heath in 1973-74 to the IMF bailout in 1976 and the Winter of Discontent in 1978-79. For all the U-turns and incoherence of Thatcher's record as prime minister, the source of her political success was that she was willing to pay a higher price than anyone previously thought possible to reimpose the authority of the British state at home and abroad.

This is the political reality Sir Keir Starmer faces. In such moments, the job of the prime minister is to play leviathan; to impose order so that civility can return. The state must reassert its authority and, crucially, its primacy. Little platoons are all well and good, but not when they have tooled up.

have tooled up.
During the recession of the early Eighties, Thatcher doubled down on her programme of austerity, even as it drove unemployment to levels previously seen as morally unacceptable. In 1982, she went to war for a set of "small islands inhabited by three sheep", as François Mitterand described the Falklands, not because they offered any real advantage to Britain but because of the principle that they were British. And then, in 1984, she used every means at her disposal —formal and otherwise — to break the miners' power and take the war to the IRA after they tried to assassinate her and her entire cabinet; the most serious attack on the British state since 1945.

As David Edgerton notes in his sweeping account of postwar Britain, *The Rise and Fall of the British Nation*, "the key difference in the politics of the Eighties from what went before was the preparedness of government to fight dissenters very hard and to exert the

rights of elected authority very strongly". What marked Thatcher out as something different, Edgerton argues, was her willingness to press on "in the face of odium" and in so doing transform the self-confidence of the British elites. "In the Seventies there emerged the idea that the United Kingdom was becoming ungovernable," Edgerton writes. "The answer was, of course, 'rolling back the state', rhetorically speaking, but it also involved making the state more autonomous, more powerful."

Today, there is a similar sense of British state failure; not quite that the United Kingdom is ungovernable but that it is slipping that way, with the state unable to impose its will or that of the people it serves. This is not just a question of this week's explosion of racist thuggery and violent counter-rioting - important though this is the seeming inability to perform even the basic functions of a state: providing prison places, timely court hearings, adequate sentencing and enough police to patrol the streets. Even simply ensuring there is a functioning health service, uncorrupted police force, humane asylum regime and working borders seems out of reach today.

Too many areas of Britain today simply do not work. These mobs did not form in Tunbridge Wells and Cambridge, but the cities that have been failed for decades. Just as my colleague Aris Roussinos has argued,

we use euphemisms to hide the reality of what we can all see in front of our eyes; we also ignore our basic failures of government. No one can say that Birmingham, Belfast, Liverpool, Rotherham, Blackburn or Sunderland — the centres of violence in recent days — are beacons of good governance and prosperity. Few can say that of Britain more generally.

say that of Britain more generally. This is not a crisis that Starmer is responsible for. What we are witnessing is a breakdown of order which has exposed the anarchic ethnic strife hiding in plain sight. The past week stands as another appalling indictment of British state failure. How has it come to this? How have we allowed gangs of balaclava-clad (and Nazi-tattooed) men to form pseudo-paramilitary mobs in our cities?

One of the most worrying aspects has not just been the breakdown of order, but the fact that the breakdown is seemingly between groups, neither of whom any longer trust, respect nor fear the police nor the law, it seems — a scene more reminiscent of Northern Ireland than the recent history of mainland Britain. An irony of Thatcher's premiership, in fact, is that the one place where she was never able to fully reimpose the authority of the state was in Northern Ireland, whose uneasy communal truce was only reached after her departure.

As prime minister, Margaret Thatcher championed monetarism only to quietly abandon it, decried European integration while signing the Single European Act and portrayed herself as the Iron Lady while reducing defence spending from 4 per cent of GDP to 3 per

cent. What she offered, though, was a display of willpower to reimpose the authority of the British state. Any prime minister who has since offered the merest hint of losing this authority has suffered. The only time during Tony Blair's first term as prime minister when his personal poll ratings dropped into negative territory came during the fuel protests of 2000. Blair's own authority never recovered from the anarchic disorder which resulted from the Iraq invasion in 2003.

In contrast, David Cameron's ratings soared in the wake of the riots of 2011 when — supported by Keir Starmer, then director of public prosecutions — he responded with a display of indignant strength, condemning "criminality, pure and simple", which he said would be "confronted and defeated" with the full force of the law. "If you are old enough to commit these crimes, you are old enough to face the punishment."

In his message to the public, Starmer offered a similar line, condemning the "far-right thuggery" while warning anyone who had participated in the violence: "I guarantee you will regret taking part in this disorder." Yet it was slow to come and stilted and unconvincing when it did, read from a piece of paper rather than flowing from a place of anger. He needs to be quicker, fluent, less

rehearsed and more

emotional. He must also find a way to deal with the rise of the 'Muslim Defence League' and the constant baiting from Elon Musk. Both demand displays of strength, conviction and authority. People will remember how he deals with these challenges.

Too often the role of prime minister is misunderstood — even by prime ministers themselves. Theresa May, who, like Starmer,

Theresa May, who, like Starmer, was a hard-working, serious, respectable politician, struggled to meet the performative demands of the office. When a suicide bomber murdered 22 parents and children attending an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester in 2017, she chose to dispatch her home secretary to attend a commemorative service so that she could bunker down in No1 to manage the crisis. This decision was taken for perfectly noble reasons, but it was wrong. It was her job as leader to mourn and explain, not simply to manage.

not simply to manage.
May offered herself as the embodiment of strength and stability but was unable to match the rhetoric and paid for it. In the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, she became a shell, barely able to function in the role.

Starmer, scarcely one month into the role, must understand the task at hand, the connecting thread tying together each of his "missions" for government — authority. If he is to succeed with any of his pledges, the prime minister must use this crisis as an opportunity to define his purpose and to play the role demanded of him: from discord to harmony, as someone once said. This article originally appeared on UnHerd. Tom McTague is the author of Betting the House: The Inside Story of the 2017 Election





## Troops on standby to evacuate Lebanon

Larisa Brown Defence Editor

More than a thousand British troops are on standby to take British nationals to safety from Lebanon because of fears Israel will "go hard" and bomb the country's international airport.

country's international airport.
Military personnel from all three services, including Royal Marine commandos, have already been deployed to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, while hundreds of troops in the UK are ready for deployment, The Times can disclose.
The risk of a sudden escalation in bestilities between larged and Lebenare.

The risk of a sudden escalation in hostilities between Israel and Lebanon is considered to be so acute that military planners have prepared for an evacuation on a similar scale to Operation Pitting, the mission to rescue British citizens and eligible Afghans from Kabul after the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

The UK issued a safety notice last night advising airlines not to fly over Beirut because of a "potential risk from military activities". Egypt also told its airlines to avoid Iranian airspace for three hours this morning after officials in Tehran warned that military exercises would be held.

Ministers are bracing themselves for a co-ordinated attack on Israel by Iran, Hezbollah and other Iranian-backed proxies after the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Iran. Israel had blamed Fuad Shukr, the killed Hezbollah commander, for a rocket attack that killed 12 children and teenagers in the Golan Heights. Officials familiar



The evacuation of British nationals from Lebanon has been planned on a similar scale to Operation Pitting in Kabul in 2021

with US intelligence think Iran will retaliate this week after a meeting yesterday of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation. Foreign ministers from Islamic countries gathered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to "discuss the continued crimes of the Israeli occupa-

tion against the Palestinian people". There are fears Israel will retaliate against any action with airstrikes on Lebanon, sending the crisis into a regional conflict that could drag in the United States and the UK.

A government source said the expec-

le to Operation Pitting in Kabul in 2021 tation was that Israel would "go hard".

widening its targets from the areas in

south Lebanon it frequently strikes.

The source said they were concerned the country could become "red hot", with Israel targeting areas such as Dahiyeh, the Beirut stronghold of

Hezbollah. There are fears that the international airport in Beirut could be a target. The source added: "The question is, what comes after that?"

In the worst-case scenario, UK personnel are prepared to extract British nationals on the same scale as in 2006, when about 4,500 people left Beirut on British ships. Up to 16,000 British nationals are believed to be in Lebanon, a third of them Christian, although only 3,000 have registered with the embassy.

David Lammy, the foreign secretary,

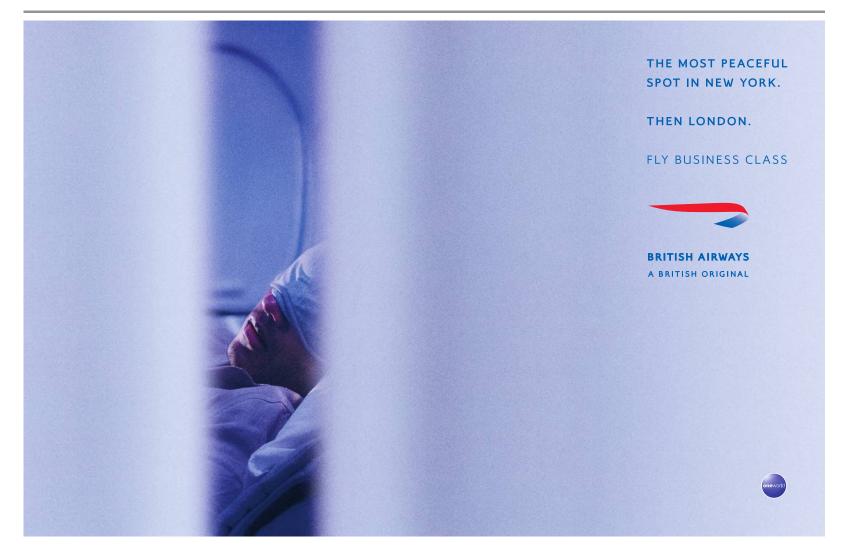
David Lammy, the foreign secretary, has urged them to leave the country immediately.

Two Royal Navy ships and several RAF transport helicopters are on standby in the eastern Mediterranean. There are fears, however, that British nationals may be unable to travel to pick-up points.

Hezbollah, which is proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK, is one of the most heavily armed non-state military forces in the world, estimated to be equipped with up to 200,000 rockets and missiles. It owes its allegiance to Iran and is a separate entity from Lebanon's armed forces, which have been supported and trained by British troops for years.

Edmund Fitton-Brown, a former

Edmund Fitton-Brown, a former senior United Nations counterterrorism official who is a senior adviser at the Counter Extremism Project, a nongovernmental organisation, warned that it appeared to be getting "harder to prevent escalation each time". He believed that the crisis was "likely to get nasty in the next 24 to 48 hours".



#### **Sport Paris Olympics 2024**

## Runner hauls himself from pit of despair to the podium

#### Rick Broadbent Paris

When Matthew Hudson-Smith called his athletics ascent "a tale of the good, the bad and the damn right ugly" last

year, he was not exaggerating. From the pit of despair to the podium in Paris, the silver medal he won last night was a tribute to his resilience. It

has been a rocky and sometimes tortuous road for the man from Wolverhampton: at its worst he tried to take his own life. His one lap of wonder, with 70,000 people sounding a chorus of approval, should be an inspiration to others going through tough times.

This was not the hue he wanted. The World Championship silver medallist

ran the race of his life to finish behind Quincy Hall of the US, broke his own European record and was 0.04 seconds away from emulating Eric Liddell of Chariots of Fire fame by winning the Olympic gold in Paris. The fine margin will hurt but it was a first men's medal for Team GB in this race since Roger Black finished second to Michael Johnson in 1996, and Hudson-Smith should banish disappointment quickly.

If you want an idea of how hard things have been for the 29-year-old, you could go back to 2012 when Great Britain was in the midst of a two-week party. While the host nation was losing its collective head, Hudson-Smith was in danger of losing a leg; he had a gangrenous ulcer.

"The whole of my left leg was rotting away," he once told me. "I just woke up one day and thought I had burnt it on the radiator, but I was on antibiotics for about a year. My leg shrunk. And I remember the stench. I would spray my bandages with deodorant so that people at college did not think I smelled. I almost lost my leg and it could have been different — I could have been on the Paralympic team.

He did not know the origins of the ulcer but had scars and would wear long socks to protect the thin skin. "Eventually it just popped and I had to let it heal," he said. "God bless the NHS. They did an amazing job. My mum is a nurse so God bless her too."

He was on the books of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC's academy, but joined the Birchfield Harriers athletics club in 2006. Talented enough to win a 200m bronze at the European Junior Championships, injuries became the

bane of his sporting life.

Knowing he did not want to go down the university route, he felt directionless. Working in Asda, he had already signed up for the army when he went to Glasgow one day in 2014 to run in a Diamond League meeting. That lap around Hampden Park would

change his life. Hudson-Smith shocked all by clocking the second-fastest time by a European that year. Within a month he had won silver at the European Championships and followed it up with a relay gold at the Commonwealth Games. More medals followed including a European gold in 2018 — but it was the bronze at the World Championships in 2022 in Eugene, Oregon, that thrust him into the sport's global consciousness.

After that medal the darkest times came out in the post-race adrenaline rush. "It's been tough, man. It's been an emotional rollercoaster. In 2019 I tore my Achilles, tore my hamstring, messed up my hip; 2020 was Covid Huge mental health issues in 2021. Yeah, not a lot of people know this, but I literally attempted suicide."

Those shocking words shone a light on the pressures of trying to pursue an Olympic dream. A combination of lost synnipt dream. A Combination of lost sponsorship, spiralling medical bills in the US, being denied a green card and the deaths of two beloved coaches, Lloyd Cowan and Neil Black, left him at his lowest ebb.

Among those who helped Hudson-Smith get back was Christine Ohuruogu, the most recent British athlete to win the Olympic 400m, in Beijing in 2008. "I call her Granny O and she is a big part of my life," he has said. Another was Noah Lyles, the 100m champion from the US who has largely been portrayed as a brash, alpha-male loud-mouth this week. Lyles, though, had to wean himself off antidepressants to make the last Olympics and, as a former housemate at their shared Florida

training camp, is a supportive voice. Hudson-Smith wanted a global gold and still does, but this new chariot

of fire is a special runner. Olympics reports, pages 56-64





#### Golfer's hopes up in smoke?

#### David Brown

Charley Hull feared an Olympic smoking ban would affect her game. Things didn't get off to a good start yesterday,

with a double bogey on the first hole.

The BBC apologised after a live broadcast recorded the 28-year-old shouting "shit" after another wayward shot at Le Golf National course.

Hull, from Kettering, Northamptonshire, learnt there was no smoking on the greens when she arrived in Paris on Monday. "I [usually] smoke on the course," she said, adding of the ban: "Will that affect me? Yeah, I think it will because it relaxes me a little bit." Hull came seventh at the Rio Games

2016. She finished third from bottom of the 60 players yesterday with nine over par, blaming her return from a shoulder injury rather than the desperate need for a drag. Play resumes today.



#### Sport



# GREGT PRITE

George Mills had stern words for Hugo Hay, of France, after he fell in a 5000m heat. The Briton advanced to the final on Saturday after a review. Left. Matthew Hudson-Smith was pipped to gold in the men's 400m final, while Team GB's Andy Macdonald 51 came 18th in the skateboarding



#### Skateboarder, 51, is a winner with fans

#### David Brown

When Andy Macdonald completed his skateboarding round yesterday with a nollie heelflip, there was a roar from the crowd. The Team GB skateboarder invented the trick before many of the other competitors were born.

The 51-year-old known as "Rad Dad"

The 51-year-old known as "Rad Dad" was venerated by spectators in the bowl erected in the beautiful Place de la Concorde beside Cleopatra's Needle. He admitted before the men's park competition he was unlikely to qualify from the heats against skaters a third his age.

But would he go down in history as skateboarding's Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards, the British ski jumper at the 1988 Winter Games? The youngest competitor at the

The youngest competitor at the Olympics is II-year-old Zheng Haohao, from China, who finished 18th in the women's preliminary skateboarding park round on Tuesday. The youngest in the men's competition vesterday was Viktor Solmunde, 16, from Denmark.

Macdonald has been skating professionally for decades and even has his own video game. Although he has won numerous competitions, the Olympics was never an option until it was added in the last Games in Tokyo.

The glint of brilliant white when Macdonald smiled at the edge of the bowl for his first run suggested he may not be entirely British, however. He was born in America but decided his best chance of reaching the Olympics when work dried up during the Covid lock-down was with Team GB. "Originally my grandma was from Luton, my grandda is from Dumfries, Scotland, and my dad was born in Luton," he said.

Having obtained his father's birth certificate he applied for a British passport and was set on the path to Paris with National Lottery funding

with National Lottery funding.

Macdonald brought his wife,
Rebecca, a teacher, and oldest son,
Hayden, 18. He could not buy tickets for

the two youngest children, Natalie, 14, and eight-year-old Zoe, so they remained at home in San Diego, California. He was also cheered on by his friend Tony Hawk, the world's most famous skateboarder.

After the first round Macdonald was 19th out of the 22 competitors. When he completed his second round with a dramatic flip there was wild cheering which turned to hostile boos as the judges advanced him only one place up the leaderboard.

"I heard the crowd booing about scores but they don't know," he admitted. "They saw me do a backflip, which is kind of easy but it's a crowd-pleaser."

After being selected to complete the final ride of the heat he ended with another dramatic flip and smashed his board on the ground to a standing ovation. He remained in 18th place, ahead of his 16-year-old rival. Keegan Palmer, 21, of Australia won his second Olympic men's park skateboard title.

# Mills tackles rival like his father in the heat of battle

#### David Brown Paris

Danny Mills was renowned for robust challenges as a footballer with England, Leeds United, Middlesbrough and Manchester City.

His son George proved yesterday that he has inherited that fire when he confronted a fellow runner in a 5000m heat at the Olympics.

Mills clashed with the French athlete

Mills clashed with the French athlete Hugo Hay, whom he blamed for a collision that appeared to have ended his Olympic dreams, having already failed to qualify in the 1500m semi-final.

Olympic dreams, naving aiready failed to qualify in the 1500m semi-final.

Mills, 25, from Steyning, West Sussex, told the BBC he was "probably not allowed" to repeat what he said to his rival at the Stade de France.

"It's pretty clear," he said later. "I got

It's pretty clear, he said later. I got stepped out on as I was about to kick in the home straight and boom, the French lad took me down. From my perspective that was the perfect qualifier for me.

"I was like, 'Nobody in this field can run away from me at this pace.' So I was just sitting, waiting, biding my time, gonna kick off the home straight then bang, hit the deck. What can you do?" Mills was in a crowd alongside Hay

Mills was in a crowd alongside Hay before the tumble. Their arms appeared to connect, causing the British runner to lose his balance slightly.

He recovered but moments later was tipped to his side, taking down Thierry Ndikumwenayo, of Spain, and Dominic Lobalu, a Refugee Olympic Team athlete who was born in South Sudan and lives in Switzerland.

Mike Forpen, of the Netherlands, tried to avoid the jumble of runners but

he too fell and joined the pile.
While Mills was too coy to repeat
what he shouted to Hay, a lip reader
claimed he told the French runner:
"You f\*\*\*ing clown."

Jeremy Freeman, the lip reader, told MailOnline that as Mills advanced towards Hay, he shouted: "You f\*\*ing did." When his rival protested that he had not pushed him, Mills said twice: "Yes you did."

Hay later insisted that he was innocent. "There was a big collision," he said. "It's not me. Somebody pushed me. Something happened. I turned around



Danny Mills, of Middlesbrough, makes a point to Arsenal striker Thierry Henry

and everyone was on the floor so I hope it's not me. I feel really good."

Officials agreed after a video review that Mills had been disadvantaged. They allowed him and the three others brought down to proceed to the final on Saturday. Hay advanced automatically by finishing seventh.

Steve Cram and Paula Radcliffe, the

Steve Cram and Paula Radcliffe, the BBC commentators and former athletes, suggested the crashed athletes were all to blame because they had allowed the pace to drop too much.

allowed the pace to drop too much.
Radcliffe said: "If you choose to jog
around that slowly and people fall, it's
kind of your own fault.

"When there are that many people around I'm not sure you are going to be able to say, 'I had somebody trip me up.' There were too many men there because nobody took it on."

After seeing the images of Mills confronting Hay, Cram said that Radcliffe was right "to some extent". He added: "With the exception of [Narve Gilje] Nordas [the Norwegian who won the heat], most of them have got themselves to blame. George was in a bad position from a long way out. He should have checked out much earlier. George, from what I could see, did do a big push

there in the home straight."

In the post-race interview, Hay said:
"Like I said to George, I will watch the
images and if I'm the guy that did it, I
will enploying

will apologise.

"For me, I didn't do anything, I just hope that I can go in the final."

## Australian hockey player held for 'buying cocaine'

#### David Chazan Paris

An Australian Olympic hockey player has been arrested in Paris for allegedly buying cocaine from a street dealer

buying cocaine from a street dealer. Tom Craig, 28, is accused of buying about one gram of the drug from a 17-year-old dealer in the Pigalle neighbourhood, according to France Info.

Police detained him after watching what appeared to be "a cocaine purchase" shortly after midnight, the state prosecutor's office said. He was in police custody yesterday morning.

The Australian Olympic Committee confirmed that a member of its hockey team had been arrested in Paris and was in custody. It told the broadcaster: "No charges have been laid. The AOC is continuing to make inquiries and arrange support for the team member."

The suspected dealer was also arr-

ested. Craig, who is the partner of Alice Arnott, a star of the Australian women's hockey team, risks a €200 (£170) fine.

Under more lenient drug laws introduced in France in 2020, only people caught with more than ten grams of cocaine or more than 100 grams of cannabis generally face court proceedings.

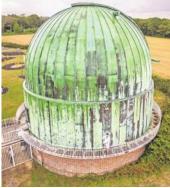
nabis generally face court proceedings. If the fine is paid within 15 days it is reduced to &150 (£130). If an offender fails to pay within 45 days it is increased to &450 (£385).

The penalties are discretionary. In theory, Craig could be jailed for one year and fined up to €3,750 but in practice the stiffer penalties are rarely applied. Payment of a drugs fine implies an acknowledgment of guilt and preempts any further legal proceedings.

Craig played in the men's field hockey quarter-final on Sunday in which Australia went out to the Netherlands 2-0.

#### News





Fault in our stars Jack Linsell checks the Thompson telescope in Dome E and the Congo Schmidt telescope in Dome F, right, at the Observatory Science Centre in Herstmonceux, East Sussex. It may have to close due to its lease not being renewed

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# Thousands of top university courses in clearing battle

#### Georgia Lambert, Nicola Woolcock

Thousands more courses have been made available in clearing at top universities this year as school leavers wait to receive their A-level results next week.

Analysis by The Times showed that 18 of the 24 Russell Group universities had more than 4,000 degree courses with vacancies.

According to the website of the admissions service Ucas, more than 200 courses were available at Sheffield, Birmingham, Cardiff, Exeter, Nottingham and Liverpool universities, and more than 300 at Newcastle, Manchester, Southampton and Glasgow.

Universities are increasing efforts to attract students because the proportion of school leavers applying to higher education is plummeting and demand from overseas waning.

It has been suggested that pupils receiving their grades next week could find many vacancies on results day, particularly at cash-strapped universities that rely on income from tuition fees.

Clearing is an option for those who do not meet the requirements of their offers on results day, as well as for those who did not receive any offers. It is also available to pupils who have reconsidered their choice of course or institution and to those who applied outside the normal application window.

Teenagers receiving their results on Thursday are likely to face less of a scramble than in recent years if they miss the grades required for their chosen course.

chosen course.

Analysis by the PA news agency showed 3,892 courses available at Rus-

sell Group universities by lunchtime yesterday, almost double the 2,021 offered at the same time last year.

Overall, there are more than 23,300 courses with vacancies for undergraduate students living in England at the UK's 130 largest higher education institutions, up from 22,410 last year.

Among the usually competitive courses available were medicine at

St George's, University of London. Exeter was offering places to study English, maths or natural sciences.

The University of St Andrews, which ranked first in The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024, had no course vacancies listed on the Ucas clearing website; nor did Oxford, Imperial College London and the London School of Economics.

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute (Hepi) think tank, said he believed pupils "who act fast" after getting their results "could find many university courses still

He said: "While the fall in international applications is partly about postgraduate study, it still leaves universities with unused resources and empty places. The end result is a real battle for students with, for example, quite probably more courses at Russell Group institutions in clearing this year, and also lots of voluntary redundancy schemes for staff at many universities."

schemes for staff at many universities."
Universities UK, which represents vice-chancellors, said there was "plenty of space in the system".
Rose Stephenson, director of policy

Rose Stepnenson, director of policy at Hepi, said: "Given the financial concerns many institutions are facing, higher education providers will be concerned about the increase in course vacancies at this point in the application cycle.

"We have heard from applicants this year that they are concerned about the cost of living while studying and how the impact of Covid-19 and related mental health challenges are affecting their application decisions."

their application decisions.

"Institutions will be hoping to see their vacancies filled and, most importantly, that every student who has the potential to thrive in higher education feels able to take up a place that lets them do so."

Several universities are in financial peril, with the Office for Students forecasting that 40 per cent of England's higher education institutions will run budget deficits this year.

## Scammers target Jay Slater funeral with fake livestream

#### Fllie McDonald

A charity working for the family of Jay Slater, the teenager who died after going missing in Tenerife, has said online scammers are targeting his funeral by offering a fake livestream of the ceremony.

LBT Global, the overseas crisis support charity, has said the fraudsters were profiteering from the funeral by pretending to provide access in "return for likes, follows and even donations".

Slater's family have denied there would be a livestream of the service on Saturday.

on Saturday.

Matthew Searle, chief executive of LBT Global, said: "We are inundated with reports of these scams and as fast as we can get the platforms to remove them, more appear.

"There is no livestream of Jay's funeral and anyone claiming to offer one is a scam. As much as being hurtful and deeply unrespectful, this is taking vital

donations away from a small charity." He confirmed the only legitimate donation channels to support Slater's family were on its fundraising page or via the LBT Global website.

The charity has told the public to act cautiously to avoid being scammed.

Slater, 19, from Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, died on holiday in Tenerife in June. A post-mortem confirmed that he died from traumatic

head injuries consistent with a fall from height after Spanish police discovered his body in the mountains after weeks of extensive searching.

> Jay Slater, 19, went missing while on holiday with friends

## Stone Age calendar 'records the birth of civilisation'

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Scientists have discovered what they believe is the world's oldest solar calendar, a monument created more than 12,000 years ago that may document a comet strike that gave rise

to the first civilisation.

The calendar was carved by Stone Age hunter-gatherers into a pillar of rock at Gobekli Tepe, a complex of temple-like structures found between the upper reaches of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in what is now southern Turkey.

A team of researchers led by Martin Sweatman, of Edinburgh University, has proposed that it records how a swarm of fragments from a passing comet crashed into Earth in 10,850BC.

There is a theory that dust kicked up by these impacts blocked the sun, triggering a mini ice age that lasted

more than 1,200 years.
Some experts believe hunting and gathering became tougher as temperatures plunged, contributing to the emergence of agriculture and the birth of civilisation in the same "fertile

crescent" region of Upper Mesopota-mia. Sweatman said: "It appears the inhabitants of Gobekli Tepe were keen observers of the sky, which is to be expected given their world had been

devastated by a comet strike.

"This event might have triggered civilisation by initiating a new religion and by motivating developments in agriculture to cope with the cold climate. Possibly, their attempts to record what they saw are the first steps towards the development of writing millennia later."

That a comet strike triggered the mini ice age, known as the Younger Dryas, is disputed. However, Sweatman and his team believe that another pillar at Gobekli Tepe could be interpreted as depicting the Taurid meteor shower— a possible source of the comet fragments — as lasting for 27 days and emanating from the direction of the constellations of Aquarius and Pisces in

the night sky.

The researchers focused on a pillar with a number of carved V-shaped symbols. They argue that each V repre-sents a single day. This allowed them to make out a solar calendar of 365 days, consisting of 12 lunar months plus 11 extra days.

The summer solstice appears as a separate, special day, represented by a V worn around the neck of a birdlike creature.

As the cycles of both the moon and the sun are depicted, the carvings may represent the world's earliest so-called lunisolar calendar — one based on the phases of the moon and the position of the sun. It would pre-date other known calendars of this type by many thousands of years

The Gobekli Tepe site was discovered in the 1960s, with excavations beginning in the 1990s. It is about 12km



The 12.000-year-old carvings may show the effects of a comet strike

northeast of the modern city of Sanliurfa, which had the ancient name of Urfa and has often been suggested as being a possible birthplace of the

A study published in the journal Time and Mind also suggests the site shows that the so-called "pre-pottery" people who created it were able to record dates using precession, which refers to how the Earth "wob-bles" on its axis, affecting how constellations appear to move across the sky. This would have been at least 10,000 years before the phenomenon was documented by Hipparchus of ancient Greece, in about 150BC.

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#### Trump's lost true calling

It is fair to say that Bette Midler would never croon "did you ever know that you're my hero", from her hit Wind Beneath My Wings, to Donald Trump. The American singer has written many rude things about the former president on social media, while he called her a "washed-up psycho". But she loves him really. Interviewed by The Hollywood Reporter, Midler, below, said the problem with Trump is he never followed his true calling. "He probably wanted to be an actor or a comic and he would have been a pretty successful one," she said. "He does have a certain look and brashness and has certain people who enjoy him. As a performer, he would have been a sensation." Sadly, she added, he's "performing in a role for which he is not suited". Maybe he just needs a better agent?

Unlike Trump, whose exotic hairdo is like nicotine-stained candyfloss, the man who would be the tne man wno would be the Democrats' vice-president is bald — a rarity in American politics. Tim Walz blamed this on his previous career in teaching. "[I] supervised the lunchroom for 20 years," he said. "You do not leave that job with a full head of hair. Trust me."

#### TREASURE TRAIL

For all his critics, George Osborne was canny at getting others to pay for things. A story is found in The Critic about Sir Mark Boleat, a City bigwig, being told in 2012 that the chancellor wanted to throw a dinner to mark the 400th anniversary of the first meeting of the Treasury Board. "When was the last meeting?" Boleat asked. "About 390 years ago," Osborne's aide said. "And would he like it in the Guildhall and for the City to

pay?" Boleat asked. "Yes Mark," he replied. "You're being very clever today." Osborne may just have been trying to protect Treasury assets. It turns out the previous meeting was 30 years earlier, at which all the fine silver in the Treasury vaults was on display. Osborne said it took a sharp-eyed security guard to stop Margaret Thatcher swiping two candlesticks.

#### HANDY FALSE STEP

At reshuffle time, no one thinks of ministers' special advisers, whose careers also ebb and flow with a leader's whims. The Institute for Government has interviewed some for a podcast, including Fraser Raleigh, who worked for Sir David Lidington. When his boss was summoned to Downing Street on reshuffle day in 2018, Raleigh was tipped off by a friend in No 10 to expect a "set-up". He braced himself for bad news, so was surprised when Lidders effectively became deputy prime minister. Then he got a text message. "Sorry," it said. "I meant step-up."

Those who find the Olympic athletics quite exhausting should set athletics quite exhausting should set lower ambitions. The comedian Willie Rushton once boasted of his own attempt to do the 100 metres in four minutes. "I would have made it," he said, "but the taxi was late."

#### DAWKINS OFFERS SATISFACTION

While the Rolling Stones keep rocking, Richard Dawkins has decided he is too old for life on the road. The 83-year-old evolutionary biologist and outspoken atheist will start a 22-date speaking tour from Dallas to Dublin next month,

which he is calling his final bow. As well as playing his greatest hits, from *The Selfish Gene* to nts, from The Seifish Gene to
The God Delusion, Dawkins is
keen to grapple with his critics
one last time, announcing this
will be "your last opportunity to
tell me how profoundly you disagree with everything I've written or said".

PATRICK KIDD



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## Tory tried to hide sewage data before election



Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Raw sewage spills in England doubled in duration to four million hours last year when wet weather triggered record discharges into rivers and seas. The total number of spills rose 54 per cent to 464,000, figures published in March revealed.

But in the days beforehand, a fierce fight was taking place in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural

Affairs. Robbie Moore, then the water minister, was telling Environment Agency (EA) officials not to put the key figures on the front page of an online portal.

Moore felt that they did not reflect an expansion in the monitoring of spills and were misleading, emails obtained by the Greenpeace investigative unit Unearthed show. "Minister Moore does not want this data released into the public domain without his approval, and is not content with the 'black box' [total spills and total hours spilt] data being released into the public domain an official in Moore's office wrote.

Another email from Moore's office said that he "has decided that the portal

should be published tomorrow, but should NOT include total hours or total number of spills. Instead, include the average spills per overflow."

Storm overflows are the emergency relief valves on the sewer network, designed to discharge sewage into

rivers and seas during very heavy rain. Full monitoring of all the 15,000 storm overflows in England was not completed until the end of last year, making comparisons with earlier years hard due to patchier data. "MM [minister Moore] pointed out ... the key takeaway is going to be an increase in spills," an official wrote. Moore's position was described as "highly counterproductive" by Philip Duffy, EA's chief executive, who said it "will damage the EA

and it will damage the government".

Experts in the water industry think that between 30,000 and 40,000 of the extra spills recorded last year were due to the increase in monitoring. However, even accounting for monitoring being patchy in the past, 2023 was a bad year. The Times is demanding action to improve the country's waterways with the award-winning Clean It Up campaign.

The headline numbers of duration and incidents were published by the EA on March 27. However, a border and black background were removed "so there is less emphasis on the numbers".

an EA official wrote. The internal battl came to light after a freedom of information request by Unearthed was first refused, then granted, after an internal review and a new government.

Steve Reed, the environment secre-tary, said: "This is yet another example of how deceitful Conservative minis-ters tried to cover up their failure ahead of the general election. If they'd spent more time tackling the sewage crisis instead of hoodwinking voters, our rivers might be less polluted."

An Environment Agency spokesman said: "The agency is fully committed to transparency."

Moore did not comment.



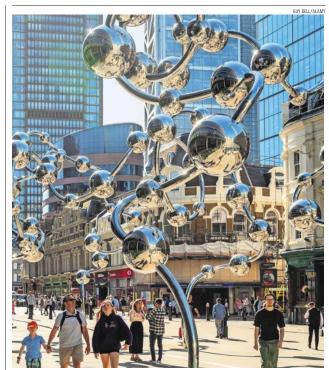
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Glitter balls Infinite Accumulation, outside London's Liverpool Street station, is Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama's first permanent public artwork in the UK

#### TikTok can harm women's body image within minutes

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Just a few minutes on TikTok may make young women feel worse about their appearance and put them at higher risk from eating disorders, a study suggests.

The researchers said their results underscored the need for new controls on content that glamorises starvation diets and very thin physiques.

The study involved more than 270 women aged 18 to 28, who completed questionnaires on how satisfied they were with their bodies. Half were shown TikTok videos featuring "proanorexia" content for about seven minutes, such as women restricting their food intake, sharing weight-loss tips and videos of cinched waists. The other half acted as a control group and were shown videos about nature, cooking, comedy and animals.

Both groups reported a decrease in body image satisfaction after watching the TikTok session, but those exposed to the pro-anorexia content experi-enced a significantly larger decline. "Our study showed that less than ten

minutes of exposure to implicit and explicit pro-anorexia TikTok content had

immediate negative consequences suggesting psychological harm can oc-cur for young female TikTok users even when explicit pro-anorexia content is not sought out," the researchers, based at Charles Sturt University in Australia, wrote in the journal PLOS One.

There is a need for more stringent controls and regulations from TikTok in relation to pro-anorexia content as well as more subtle forms of disordered eating- and body-related content."

Tom Quinn, director of external affairs at the British eating disorder charity Beat, said: "Unfortunately there is a great deal of harmful content shared on social media platforms, most often cir-culated by those who are unwell themselves." He called for tech firms to act by ensuring that pro-eating disorder content isn't promoted in their algorithms, preventing irresponsible content from being uploaded to begin with, and making it easier for users to report and block

any videos they might come across". TikTok said its community guide-lines do not allow "showing or promoting disordered eating and dangerous weight-loss behaviours" or "facilitating the trade or marketing of weight-loss or muscle-gain products".

#### Joy and pain on a potent evening that's hard to forget

**Neil Fisher** 

Fiddler on the Roof Regent's Park Open Air Theatre (160min)

"Tradition!" Eyebrows and possibly skullcaps may have been raised when the director Jordan Fein was entrusted with this Regent's Park revival of a treasured musical that spells out its biggest theme in that opening number. Fein was responsible for a loved and loathed Oklahoma! on the West End that swapped tradition for a barebones rethink. Was he going to fiddle as much with Fiddler on the Roof? Consider Jerry Bock, Joseph Stein

and Sheldon Harnick's masterpiece revved up rather than revamped. Underneath a mighty canopy of wheat — a dramatic set by Tom Scutt that shows us both the deep roots of this Jewish community and its fragility — Fein's production is a fast-paced, ensemble-driven night. Even the Fiddler himself, normally a bookend, is part of the action, winningly performed by the violinist

Raphael Papo. It's unfolksy and unvarnished. The onstage band, the male musicians covering their heads like their acting counterparts, is compact but potent, accenting a primal, percussive quality in the music. The Jewish villagers are on stage all the time and they all join



Helen Goldwyn, Georgia Dixon, Lara Pulver and Liv Andrusier, from left to right, feature in this folksy and unvarnished revival of Fiddler on the Roof at Regent's Park

in for Tevye and his family's celebration of the Sabbath — a ceremony that feels truly communal. The costumes unobtrusively cross eras: some of the Russians could be Putin's thugs as well as the tsar's: Beverley Klein's treasurable Yente, the matchmaker, has a piratical Marianne Faithfull look about her.

Another jolt of fresh energy comes from Julia Cheng's propulsive choreography. Don't worry, Jerome

Robbins's Bottle Dance is still there in

its tipsy glory.

The paterfamilias of this story can be stoic, wry, fierce, anguished, uproarious, pious. The appealing Adam Dannheisser goes for something between all these things not entirely convincingly. His strongest suit is a sitcom frazzlement: this is Reb Tevye meets Ross Geller from Friends. Lara Pulver brings quiet dignity rather than shrewishness to

Tevye's wife, Golde, and Dan Wolff is a triumphantly nerdy Motel. The actresses playing Tevye's three eldest daughters grow in stature as the night goes on, and Liv Andrusier's Tzeitel gets to show her musical-theatre chops in a brilliantly grand guignol staging of Tevye's Dream.

Can I finish on a downer? Fiddler on the Roof does — with exile, loss, blackout. And perhaps Fein's greatest work is to balance the joy with the

pain. With the poignant Sunrise, Sunset (a song magically programmed to sync with sunset in the park) comes a wedding, then a knees-up. And after that, there is a brutal

Rather than an orgy of violence, Fein gives us a brief but awful act of defilement. The audience leave for their interval wine with the smell of burning in their nostrils. Hard to

## Passing wind on worker 'was age discrimination'

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Flatulence is a fact of life, although social mores apply, but a judge has ruled that breaking wind on a younger colleague at work amounts to age discrimination.

At the centre of what could be the start of defining legal boundaries on the matter are two Birmingham city council workers. Lee Marsh, a manager in his late fifties, was said to have found it "amusing" to pass wind on a younger colleague eating his lunch.

An employment tribunal heard that after Marsh did so, he told the younger worker: "I can get rid of you like I have the others in the past.'

The judge at a tribunal in Birmingham has ruled that the incident legally qualified as age discrimination because the older manager harboured animosity towards his "ambitious" colleague.

The younger co-worker, who was in his mid-thirties and was granted anonymity by the tribunal, sued the city council after the event. While the tribunal has ruled that he was a victim of discrimination, he will not be awarded damages as the claim was brought too late. However, he is eligible for compensation for unfair dismissal.

The tribunal heard that the claimant had joined the local authority in 2020



A manager at Birmingham city council had wanted to show "who was boss'

as a caretaker and was responsible for looking after estates in the city. The incident occurred two months after he started his job.

started his job.

In its report, the tribunal said that after Marsh had performed the offending act, he said: "You have got a lot to say for yourself for a newcomer."

The younger man said in evidence that he had "eplied "I haven't", adding that he had "the right to object to dispute the properties of the properties

gusting behaviour".

He claimed Marsh had then told him:

"Be careful how you speak to me, as I can get rid of you." The younger man added: "He said, 'You are only a trainee I can get rid of you like I have the others in the past.'

The tribunal accepted that Marsh

had warned the man about trying to get a more senior role. "If any of you young-sters get this job ... I will tell you to f\*\*\* off," he was alleged to have said.

Marsh also faced allegations that he had threatened his co-worker with violence and at one stage managers suggested that both men could face claims of misconduct.

The younger worker eventually went on sick leave before resigning. Council officials admitted that he had been constructively dismissed and should not have faced the allegations.

In his ruling, Christopher Camp, the employment judge, said that Marsh had wanted to "take [the younger man] down a peg or two, to show him who was boss and to curb his ambitions because he considered him a

'baby' or a 'pup'".

The judge acknowledged that "in many contexts" age-related comments could be "friendly and even affectionate, and can be meant and taken as harmless and good-humoured". However, in this case, he said there was 'an edge" to Marsh's actions and com-

"Even without any edge, some of the comments were outside the realms of acceptable workplace banter," the judge added, ruling that the caretaker had suffered age discrimination and age-related harassment

#### Electric vehicles drive up sales in used car market

Ben Clatworthy Transport Correspondent

Electric vehicles are powering a surge in used car sales, new figures show.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said that 1.93 million cars changed hands in the UK between April and June.

The figure represents a 7.2 per cent increase on the same period last year, a rise the SMMT said was partly the result of sustained growth in the new car market leading to better choice and availability of used vehicles.

Sales of used battery electric cars rose by 52.6 per cent year-on-year to almost 46,800 transactions, giving them a record quarterly market share of 2.4 per cent.

In the first six months of this year overall used-car sales were just 3 per cent below pre-pandemic levels. The used car market stalled when a global shortage of semiconductors put a big strain on the production of new vehi-cles. The cost of living crisis also meant people held on to their cars for longer.

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the SMMT, said: "It's encouraging to see the used car market continue its recovery, with choice and affordability rejuvenated by the new car sector's sustained run of growth.

"The increased supply of electric vehicles to second and third owners is helping more motorists make

He added that maintaining the

momentum "requires reliable, affordable and green EV charging up and down the country".

Auto Trader, the online marketplace, said that three to five-year-old EVs were now broadly at price parity with their petrol counterparts and had become the fastest-selling segment of the used market by some margin.

Ian Plummer, the platform's commercial director, said: "The electric market has been a bright spot this year and, when the price is right, buyers are eager to make the switch. Middle-aged models in particular have seen significant drops [in price], and used EVs are selling at their fastest rate in eight months on our platform.

The Ford Fiesta was the UK's best-selling used car between April and June, with 77,000 transactions. This was followed by the Vauxhall Corsa (63,700) and the Ford Focus (59,000).

James Wilson, chief operating officer of Motorway, an online marketplace for used cars, said: "There is a consumer desire to switch to used electric vehicles, with drivers looking to the used market as an affordable entry point.

"However, if the new government wants to encourage even greater EV adoption and meet sustainability targets, they need to act fast — remov-ing barriers for more charging points, providing financial incentives private car buyers, and introducing legislation on a single charging app. "Then we could really see EV sales

skyrocket."



#### **Buyers set their caps** at Peaky Blinders mill

grade II listed Victorian mill that appeared in the BBC television series Peaky Blinders is attracting interest from buyers two years after an arson attack (Jack

Blackburn writes). Dalton Mills in Keighley, Yorkshire, was listed in 1986 for its elaborate architecture, ironwork and its significance to the 19thcentury textile industry.

It has been largely disused for decades and the main building, Genappe Mill, was destroyed in a fire that also damaged other parts of the site.

After the previous owner went bankrupt



the property became the responsibility of the Crown Estate, which said an "undisclosed" number of people were looking at the site. One

Transformation, a notfor-profit organisation,

Building work on the mills began in 1866. At

The mill was damaged in a fire after being used in the BBC show starring Cillian Murphy, below

BEN LACK/YAPPAPP; ALAMY

its height about 2,000 people were employed at the site, owned by J&J Craven, which specialised in producing worsted wool.

The building had been empty since the 1980s and the family sold it in 2004. A developer bought it in 2013, intending to turn the complex into an arts and wedding venue but this never got off the ground; instead it

served as a set for Peaky Blinders as well as Downton

Abbey. Throughout this period, fires had been an issue. This culminated in 2022 with an arson attack. which caused damage amounting to

£15 million. McKenzie Motron, 18, and a 17-year-old who cannot be named were

found guilty of the blaze last week. They will be sentenced on October 7.

## Gut instinct is key to a winning horse

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Gut feeling really can accurately predict the outcome of horse races, a study has found — but only if the gut in question belongs to the animal doing

the running.
Analysing the make-up of bacteria in the gut of a thoroughbred racehorse at one month old can predict how well they will perform in races when they are older, research shows.

The greater the diversity of bacteria in a young racehorse's digestive tract, the better they will do in races later in life, according to a study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

There is growing evidence suggesting that a diverse and thriving community of bacteria in the gut, known as the microbiome, is crucial to health. These so-called good or friendly bacteria can help with digestion, destroy harmful invaders and affect the immune system in humans and animals

Researchers from the University of Surrey's School of Veterinary Medicine and School of Bioscience took 438 faecal samples from 52 foals and analysed the types of bacteria they found in them. They then tracked any health issues up to the age of three, including respiratory, gastrointestinal, orthopaedic and soft-tissue problems. Finally,

the researchers tracked the official ratings and total prize money earned by each animal.

They found that "the athletic performance of the foals was positively associated with higher faecal bacterial diversity at one month old'

Foals who had more of the Anaeroplasmataceae family of bacteria in their guts at one month old went on to have a higher official rating, measured on their past performances, while those who had more of the *Bacillaceae* family went on to have higher race placings.

Foals given antibiotics during their first month had a much more limited range of bacteria in their guts at 28 days old, going on to win "significantly lower prize money" in their racing careers. They were also more likely to develop

respiratory diseases.
Professor Chris Proudman, a professor of veterinary clinical science at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Sur-rey, said: "Minimising the risk of disease and injury is important for the welfare of racehorses, and maximising their athletic potential is important for their owners. We have found that gut health, in particular the health of gut bacterial communities very early in life, exerts a profound and enduring impact on race-

horse health and performance. Dr Kirsten Rausing, chairwoman of

International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation, who sponsored the study through her Alborada Trust, which funds veterinary causes, said: "This groundbreaking study has identified the importance of gut health in our very young foals. As breeders, if we can get this right, we will produce foals that will be healthier, and that will grow into more successful racehorses

Researchers said the findings could also be true in humans. They noted: "For the first time, this study demonstrates a relationship between early-life gut bacterial communities and subsequent athletic performance that has implications for athletes of all species."

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There's money to be made in being hated James Marriott Page 20



## Comment

## Reeves may regret her faith in Bidenomics

Fears over health of US economy will reinforce chancellor's caution and could leave her with a narrower path to growth

Katy Balls



@KATYBALLS

hen Rachel Reeves first entered II Downing Street there was one counterpart she wanted to speak to above all others: Janet Yellen. The US's first female Treasury secretary has long been a source of inspiration for the new chancellor, with Reeves devoting a chapter to the 77-year-old North American in her book on female economists. She professed herself to be a Yellenite, seeing in her a philosophy that "I will take to the UK Treasury if I get that chance".

Reeves sees her as a fellow smasher of glass ceilings. Someone who is, like her, derided as being a bit of a dull swot (Reeves was famously accused of being "boring snoring" by a Newsnight editor) but who will still make history in their own way. The pair had dinner à deux last month on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rio and have also met one-on-one more formally. Reeves, I understand, asked for advice on dealing with their counterparts.

As the first female chancellor, she is keen to make her mark — even if the chancellor's much-publicised personal urinal must stay, on the ground that it is listed. "To be fair, the urinal has been boxed up and out of use since the Gordon Brown days," says a Whitehall figure.

One of Reeves's first acts on entering the Treasury was to appear before the women's network for an "in conversation" where she talked about balancing personal life and work, something she admitted can be a struggle in politics. In the WhatsApp group of her parliamentary staff there is a saying: "You never really leave 'team RR."

The problem with using Yellen as a blueprint is that her time as Joe Biden's Treasury secretary has been marked by a borrow-and-spend agenda of historic proportions. At one stage Reeves wanted to copy Bidenomics and called her own version "securonomics", intending to spend £28 billion a year on green priorities. But then inflation surged, to Yellen's surprise, and Liz Truss showed the world what can happen when countries the size of Britain want to tap the market for huge sums.

While Reeves patently retains her admiration for Yellen, there are limits. The new GB Energy body is an example of securonomics in action — using state apparatus to

#### Reeves has been on a charm offensive in New York this week

drive and direct investment — but other aspects are hard for a UK chancellor to pull off. Her new approach can be summed up by a phrase she deployed when expressing horror at unfunded Tory plans: "If we cannot afford it, we cannot do it." That sounds more like Thatcher's principles of good housekeeping than Yellen's "modern supply-side economics" — but, politically, Reeves remains a Bidenite.

After just a month, Reeves is positioning herself as the scourge of "unfunded" spending. This has been the message drummed into ministers and MPs from the Treasury.

Downing Street and Cabinet Office. For all the talk of growth being the number one priority of the Labour government, they are trying not to set very high expectations: quite the reverse, with Reeves arguing that the public finances are in such a bad state that she'll have to raise taxes, after having led voters to believe that she would not. This has led to cries from the left of a return to austerity.

Reeves's definition of a good-case scenario is for voters to notice the return of stability to government and the economy and start to see the physical effect of economic and planning reforms before the next election. By then, she hopes to argue that living standards — that is, households' disposable incomes — are at an all-time high. The Office for Budget Responsibility says this could happen in a couple of years if, as expected, inflation stays calm.

So it's now not at all clear that Reeves has the appetite or apparatus to go full Yellen but she will instead take the lessons where valid. Her plan for growth is to attract investment and, to this end, she has been pounding the pavements of New York this week, switching from a pre-election smoked-salmon-andscrambled-eggs City offensive to a bagel one for Wall Street.

When the US charm offensive was first conceived by her team, the idea was that she would use a summer visit to pitch the UK as a safe investment zone to a country ready to do business. But her meetings — including with Blackstone's Steve Schwarzman and Citigroup's Jane Fraser along with an investor lunch — have been against a more problematic domestic backdrop.

Another issue is the global stock market mayhem, seen by some in Labour as another reminder of the scale of the challenge they face. Their



Rachel Reeves has long admired Janet Yellen, the US Treasury secretary

new slogan, "fixing the foundations", is a nod to clean-up work that must be done in the UK, not the least of which is welfare reform. But fears over the underlying health of the US economy raise another question that the Treasury has been grappling with for some time. Might all that stimulus have covered up the realities of a more sluggish economy?

The other fact, which terrifies some around Sir Keir Starmer, is that Biden and Yellen seem to have overseen a voteless recovery. The US economy has grown at rates Britain can only dream about but voters don't seem especially grateful to Biden. Gallup's most recent survey has 46 per cent of Americans rating the economy as "poor" — before the pandemic it was 8 per cent. Many Americans have a poor view of the US economy even if things don't deteriorate further.

Trump is running on the economy for a reason.

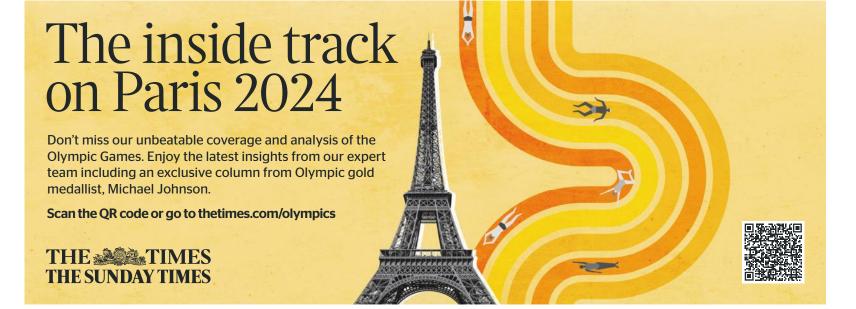
The UK doesn't have the world's reserve currency so could never behave like the US, continually running huge deficits, but now Reeves has scaled things back even further. Some of this was driven by rising interest rates (blamed on Truss but, in reality, a global phenomenon). It's telling that when Reeves had to make savings last week over the so-called black hole, infrastructure projects were seen as low-hanging fruit.

Reeves is also changing the order of things. Following conversations with counterparts and business, she wants to start with supply-side reform, such as rewriting planning rules, then hopes investors will be willing to put money in. It's why a planning push has dominated the first 100 days. The new philosophy is to make it easier to invest and hope that investors then follow.

So Reeves now has to find growth with a lot less cash and a much lower appetite for risk. A change in borrowing rules in the autumn could give her some space to deepen the deficit, but few believe it will mean a spending spree. Instead she is seen as the restraining government force.

"I think Keir will bow to backbench pressure before she does," says a colleague of the pair. There are already nerves in the whips' office as to how long Labour MPs will behave — not helped by the decision to give members of the 2024 intake minister of state jobs in the first week. To avoid harder decisions in the coming years, Reeves needs growth to come fast. As is becoming clear, Bidenomics may not be all that it first seemed. The Yellen model will only get you so far.

Katy Balls is political editor of The Spectator



#### Comment

## There's money to be made in being hated

Contrarians have always attracted fans but a new breed are building careers based on hostility





@J\_AMESMARRIOTT

imone Biles's tiny body seems to be composed entirely of condensed kinetic energy as she springs and loops between the uneven bars. You almost find yourself inspecting her shoulder blades for evidence of miniature wings

Watching the Olympic gymnastics, it is hard to imagine a spectacle more purely life-enhancing. In an age when humanity's self-esteem is shadowed by the dark promise of artificial intelligence and environmental guilt, the celebration of human excellence is invigorating.

Yet Biles attributes her victory to her desire to show her "haters". She's not the only one. This year's Olympic medallists have been full of talk of proving themselves to enemies and "doubters". That anyone could summon the perversity or energy to despise an elite gymnast is remarkable. That more than a few Olympians — omnipotent superhumans from the vantage point of the average sofa — have walked into the arena meditating on the ravings of anonymous online commentators is a salutary lesson in human psychology.

The realisation that people as blameless as synchronised swimmers have to reckon with online brickbats is a reminder that any career in the

public eye now entails exposure to constant criticism. Once upon a time Olympic athletes would have been content to enjoy the ululations of the stadium crowd and respectful notices in the newspapers. But in the harsh landscape of 21st-century media, hate is always as widely available as love. We are familiar with the attention economy. We might call this the "negative attention economy" All modern celebrities must learn to survive in it - though few are able to harness its energies as effectively as Biles.

It goes without saying that online abuse is deplorable. But it is a strange paradox that those who thrive in the internet age are often those best able

#### Is there anyone more energised by 'losers and haters' than Trump?

to harness negative attention as a creative force. To particularly strong personalities negativity can, oddly, be as necessary and encouraging as praise. To others, feeling uniquely persecuted can be just as reassuring a sign of specialness as to feel uniquely praised.

Sometimes, the ubiquitous modern availability of criticism allows otherwise successful people to romantically imagine themselves as bruised underdogs. Taylor Swift, who has a credible claim to being the most successful pop star of all time, once dedicated a whole song to the hurt feelings inflicted by a man named Bob Lefsetz, who criticised her in a blog post. "Make me feel like

a nothing ... picking on the weaker man ... you can take me down with just one single blow", run the lyrics of *Mean*, which will strike many listeners as an unrealistically pessimistic assessment of the power imbalance between an international pop superstar and a man with a blog.

In this case, the fantasy of victimhood was creatively rewarding. Even a homeopathic drop of criticism in a brimming beaker of praise can sting an artist to excellence. The dynamic becomes dangerous when very powerful people learn to relish the idea of themselves as persecuted victims simply because people are rude to them on Twitter/X. Is anyone more self-pitying, vengefully obsessed with, and energised by the "losers and haters" than the billionaire former president Donald Trump?

A version of Trump's attitude is common on social media. Reflective types given to dwelling thoughtfully on criticism tend to fall silent. I am always disturbed by the politicians and celebrities given to gleefully brandishing hostile tweets from their enemies as evidence of the rightness of their causes. Anyone who has spent much time on the internet knows that you can find rude and ignorant people to support any political position under the sun. The fact that your enemies are objectionable doesn't make vou right. Criticism is a banal fact of a career in the public eye, not automatic evidence that you are a uniquely persecuted tribune of righteousness.

At the bottom of the negative

attention economy are those who, unable to earn the public's approbation, are willing to settle for attracting some of the contempt that is so ubiquitously available on the internet. Men like Matt Hancock will throw themselves again and again to the lions of public opinion, knowing that if they will not be loved, they will at least be noticed on Twitter/X.

At the very grimmest end of this bargain are a new breed of extreme contrarians for whom the hostile attention of enemies is more vital to their success than the approbation of fans. Last year I interviewed one of them, the culture warrior and priest Calvin Robinson, who is one of a burgeoning number of bracingly right-wing young people who owe their success and notoriety almost entirely to cultivating the ire of their

political enemies.
Robinson's positions (sex outside marriage is a sin, homosexuality is evil, Enoch Powell had a point) have a minority of adherents in the real world. The point is not to attract a fan base but an enemy base. Once upon a time, even the rudest contrarians might have attracted fans for their daring or dash but Robinson only requires hostility. He is a master of the negative attention economy.

So often on the internet unpleasantness tends to breed further unpleasantness. It takes a remarkable strength of personality to alchemically transform the negativity and abuse that is so ubiquitous on social media into gold. But that is what Biles has done in Paris over the past few weeks.



#### Labour needs to build homes where people want to live Tim Leunig

ince 1995 house prices have tripled in real terms. Simple supply and demand; had we built many more houses, prices would have risen less or not at all. Britain would be a better place if houses were cheaper. More young people could afford to leave their parents' home. More people could afford to buy a place of their own. Fewer people would get evicted for

not paying the rent.
So I am delighted that Labour have announced that councils must now plan for 370,000 rather than 300,000 homes. Unfortunately, only one in seven of the extra houses will be in London and the southeast, whose target has risen by just 5 per cent. This means that prices and rents in this part of the country will keep rising. In contrast, almost half of the extra

houses will be in the north, whose target is up 67 per cent. Lack of commercial viability means many will never get built. Take South Tyneside, where developers build only half the houses the council wants. Why? Because homes are too cheap to make development viable. Decent threebedroom flats sell for £72,000, a price no developer can match. Despite that, South Tyneside has been told to double planning permissions.

The new formula is, at a technical

level, better. Previous plan numbers started from population projections; the new numbers start from current housing stock. That means the new formula gives similar targets for areas of similar size and average price. That is a good thing.

The problem is that the revised targets now have less effect in higher priced areas. The new formula typically demands more houses in areas where terraced houses sell for less than £500,000, and fewer houses in areas where houses are more expensive. That makes no sense and is a serious problem.

The government line is that we should compare the new targets with past delivery. But why? Why should we believe those extra houses will be built in South Tyneside? Why will Kensington and Chelsea build 4,271 houses instead of 267? Labour talk of the newly enforced duty to co-operate but, if that is so great, why not stick to the previous, higher targets for London? They say that the green belt is no longer sacrosanct but the consultation wording is very vague on this.

If Labour want cheaper houses in expensive areas they should raise targets significantly in London and the southeast. They should enforce these by banning councils from declining more than a quarter of planning applications if they are behind target. That approach would deliver more homes where people want to live and make buying and renting more affordable.

Professor Tim Leunig is an economist at the London School of Economics

#### **Janice Turner Notebook**

#### **Morpurgo** rekindles those magic memories

here is something special about meeting an author vour children love. Interviewing Michael Morpurgo a few weeks back, it was all I could do not to hug him, especially as, at 80, he'd just

survived major heart surgery.
I've met my own heroes over the years but not felt nearly the same joy and, well, boundless love. Because Morpurgo was with me all those nights - years ago now - as I read to my sons. His were the words I spoke to a small child in pyjamas as his body relaxed towards sleep, falling into the world of a shipwrecked boy. His were the words about mysterious horned whales that held us spellbound on family car journeys.

I met the late Judith Kerr too who,

although I don't believe in auras, transmitted a kind of pure, white light. I didn't trust myself to tell her what The Tiger Who Came to Tea

meant to me, especially the thrilling bit where they all go out to a café in

Telling a bedtime story is such a calm, slow, intimate thing which, although it sometimes felt like a chore after a long day, I do miss now. There's the moment when a child is so gripped by a book he ups his reading game just to take it from your hand to finish it alone. It means mission accomplished, but also that you'll be

redundant soon.
Anyway, I couldn't say any of this to Morpurgo. But I did bring along our battered, yellowing copy of Kensuke's Kingdom, which he thumbed with satisfaction. And I told him that we once spied him having breakfast in a Cheltenham hotel and whispered to our sons — then about six and eight — that this was the man who wrote The Butterfly Lion, and he must have

seen them gawping

because he beckoned them over to chat. They remember it still.

As I said goodbye to this unusual celebrity who never stops asking questions, whose mind is set to "receive" as well as "transmit", all I could manage was "Please stay well and write more stories" before stumbling off with welling eyes.

#### Scot-free

t's a sunny afternoon and I'm walking past M&S en  $oldsymbol{1}$  route to a nail bar when I spy a youth on a mountain bike. He has a balaclava helmet pulled over his face and is circling the pavement, watching the pedestrians passing by. He starts to approach, so I

walk faster.

Then behind me I hear an angry yell: he has snatched a man's phone and is bombing off down a side street.

The staff at the nail bar see him regularly and were so suspicious they took a photo, which shows the make of his bike if not his face.

On the local community forum there are pictures of several masked cyclists alongside warnings about phone-snatching at the same spot.

You see these modern

highwaymen, with their hoods up and dressed in black, all around London. Yet this isn't lawless Oxford Street but a residential area. So I get a copy of the nail-bar's photo and send it to both the Met's online reporting system and a local police email address accompanied by an account of what happened.

#### Political fixers

Of course, I hear nothing.

he most appealing thing about Tim Walz, Kamala Harris's running-mate and, she says, the "vice-president America deserves", is the short video he made when running for office in Minnesota in which he explains how to fix the headlight harness (whatever that is) on his car. He produces a little plastic widget, notes how it burnt out "Ford, this is unacceptable" tells viewers how to mend it with a bit of clingfilm without paying for a whole new part. Only then does he tell people to go out and vote.

I've seen US politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez talk policy while applying her make-up, but political DIY is far better. I'd happily watch James Cleverly shift a stubborn stain or Lisa Nandy unblock a dishwasher, Basic competence is so soothing.

@VICTORIAPECKHAM

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Comment



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## Macron will hope the Olympic flame burns on

Can French politicians build a coalition now that pessimism has been banished by a wave of medal-winning heroes?





@AGNESCPOIRIER

hen French policemen are seen dancing in the streets of Paris with the public, you know something unusual is under way. When a French crowd cheer their president, expressing gratitude, you wonder what could have suddenly gone right.

On the night of July 26, somebody, somewhere in the universe pushed a button; Paris and France have not felt the same since. It has now been two weeks and that bubble of shared jubilation is our new home for another few days. "If only the Games could last for ever," pleaded the French philosopher Raphaël Enthoven. Indeed.

The opening ceremony was the switch. We knew nothing, we feared everything. In the morning, sabotage on a massive scale had struck France's high-speed rail network. Almost a million passengers were left stranded, among them many Parisians fleeing the Games. The weather forecast warned that rain would pour down on the open-air ceremony and the

6km-long flotillas on the Seine. Hell was on its way; we had been expecting it. But then, despite the deluge, athletes and artists, completely drenched, were beaming, dancing, singing, playing, as if in a trance. Did they know something we didn't? While my British Twitter/X felt's was in sarcasm mode throughout the ceremony, the French audience lapped it up to the last drop — the last notes of Edith Piaf's Hymne à l'amour sung by a phoenix in a white seguin dress Céline Dion

sequin dress, Céline Dion.
What did I like best? The Franco-Malian singer Aya Nakamura performing in front of the Académie Française to the tune and moves of the Garde Républicaine band, mixing her own songs with Charles Aznavour's franglais hit For Me Formidable. When Nakamura's name was circulated among the possible artists who would perform at the ceremony, the far right objected. They couldn't have been more out of tune with the country.

Had some of the four-hour ceremony proved too arcane, too woke, too camp, too kitsch at times? Not chic enough, not French enough, not universal enough, not classic enough? Perhaps. However, in a poll published the day after the ceremony, 86 per cent of the French said they had been "mesmerised", while 96 per cent expressed "satisfaction". End of argument.

Then the Games began. And the rain turned into gold, silver and bronze. Medals started showering on France's athletes in the greatest of settings: Versailles, the Grand Palais, the Invalides, the Place de la Concorde. Never were there more beautiful backdrops to the Games.

The French discovered their new gods, unknown to them only a few days earlier: they were young, handsome, humble, happy, focused, giving their best and more. Not only that but they also had magic wands. With one strike, they gave us back

#### Happiness is a potent drug we French hadn't tasted in a long time

our joie de vivre, which had been buried under a thick layer of resentment. This was no small feat; there was no greater gift. Happiness is a potent drug we hadn't tasted in a long time, and athletes became an entire nation's new drug suppliers.

The 22-year-old swimmer Léon Marchand, a young man of quiet passion, won four gold medals in five days. And always at the time of apéritif. You could hear the roar from every window echoing in empty streets, and the clinking of glasses on balconies. The most googled question last week in France was.

"When is Léon competing today?" There are also the Lebrun brothers, respectively 17 and 20, table tennis prodigies who scare even the most adept of Chinese champions. And, of course, the French judoka legend Teddy Riner and his gang, not to mention French sabre and épée fencers Manon Apithy-Brunet and Auriane Mallo-Breton.

The list is long and, every day, champions emerge from all nations to raise our spirits. For a week France was in the top three and, even though we are bound to slide down the medal table, our athletes have performed better than they have since 1900. As a result, our love is spilling over to other nations — we are even supporting British athletes! Just ask Keely Hodgkinson, winner of the 800 metres: "The public was so fantastic, it felt like performing at home."

Walking in the streets of Paris, you can see people glued to their phones following competitions. With "fan zones" and giant screens installed in gardens, squares and parks, every neighbourhood has free access to live broadcasts. Every day you see lines of people, old and young, queueing to get in to their new "happy place".

The biggest of the fan zones, Champions Park, is at the Trocadéro facing the Eiffel Tower and can accommodate 13,000 people. It's first come, first served and the ambience is pure fire every afternoon. Dancers and DJs warm up the crowds before the arrival of the day's champions, who come here to salute their fans, show off their dance skills and get their emotional batteries recharged. Just like us.

Like everyone else, I looked at buying tickets but they were too expensive. Never mind! I saw the cyclists zoom past on Boulevard Saint-Michel on their way to Montmartre, I watched the games on television, windows open, in communion with Paris's Left Bank, and I just walked in Paris, drunk on people's radiant smiles and good humour.

The Paralympics will no doubt keep the fervour alive until the end of September but then, what? As Olympic prefabs are dismantled throughout Paris so, surely, will the dream of joy and harmony. And yet, could the memory of these weeks spur French politicians to work together and build a grand coalition under the helm of President Macron? Could it spur all French citizens to stop resenting each other? A big ask.

Some observers have recently noticed that the only ones not celebrating in France are the far right and the far left, who have remained stubbornly silent. If only we could sideline those haters once and for all. Perhaps we can ask our champions to wave their magic wands again?

lain Martin is away

#### etters to the Editor



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



#### Education matters

Sir, With regard to both the continuing discussion about VAT for independent schools and the criticism of the appointment of Becky Francis to lead the review of the curriculum (letters, Aug 6 & 7), why is it that attempting to create greater equity is consistently cited as social engineering but sending a child to an independent school is not? Surely the very existence of independent schools facilitates the most overt form of social engineering in our country? Sir Alasdair Macdonald Former head teacher of Morpeth School, London E2

Sir, I wonder if Bridget Phillipson, the education secretary, is familiar with the excellent Times Education Commission report published in 2022. If she had read this she might find the appointment of Becky Francis to be surplus to requirements. The research has been done. The government needs to support educators to act upon it Catherine Woodward

Former local education authority assistant director of education; Chipping Campden, Glos

Sir, The government's focus should be on tackling the significant level of educational underachievement. One in six pupils leave school without good GCSEs, resulting in nine million adults having poor basic skills, one of the highest levels in the developed world. Successive governments have ignored that the quality of children's home environment is by far the most significant influence on how well they do at school. A third of four-year-olds are ill-prepared to start school because of poor speech, language and social skills — the product of their family experiences. Changes do need to be made to what is an overly laden curriculum that, along with constant pass/fail testing, contributes to these children becoming disaffected from learning and leaving school without marketable qualifications and skills. Unless there is long-term support for those families where children's life chances are poor, we will continue to have educational underperformance. **Chris Pratt** 

Co-author, Building a Learning Nation;

Letters to The Times must be exclusive.

#### Corrections and clarifications

 An article by Michael Johnson on Olympic athletics was wrongly credited in some editions to Michael Jordan (Sport, Aug 7). We apologise for the mistake.



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content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

#### 'Two-tier' policing and responses to the riots | Foxhunt 'farce'

Sir, It is unsurprising that the likes of Elon Musk have become fixated with the false narrative of "two-tier" policing and a justice system which, to their mind, works against those on the right of the political spectrum (News, Aug 7). However, most people are perfectly capable of seeing that there is no equivalence between lawful protest and criminal rioting And if anyone argues that the supporters of more left-wing causes are somehow "let off" by the law, perhaps they should use, as a benchmark, the four and five-year jail terms handed out to Just Stop Oil activists for offences which fall a long way short of setting fire to hotels full of asylum seekers. Mark Birchenhough

Sir, In their letter to The Times (Aug 7) Sir Ephraim Mirvis, the Chief Rabbi, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, and other faith leaders point out that an appropriate response to the outbreak of hatred, violence and vandalism is to work on building "a cohesive and harmonious society for all". The Islamic Human

Beckenham, Kent

Rights Commission has adopted a different approach. Its letter dated August 6 to the home secretary and police chiefs asserts (with, of course, no factual foundation) that "far-right elements" have been "enabled by their Zionist financiers abroad". Such primitive, dangerous and disgraceful antisemitism needs to be called out and condemned.

Lord Pannick KC; Baroness Deech KC; Baroness Finn; Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee; Lord Howard of Lympne KC; Lord Mendelsohn Plus the names of 40 further peers at thetimes.co.uk/letters

Sir, As Matthew Syed argued on Times Radio at the weekend, there has long been a campaign of lies and obfuscation by politicians of all parties over the subject of immigration. Manifesto promises have been wilfully cast aside and the outcome has placed an intolerable pressure on the nation's infrastructure, services and finances.

It is entirely correct to raise these issues. Doing so is perfectly consistent with appreciating and welcoming the hugely positive impact of controlled legal immigration. The violence we have seen on the streets is appalling and indefensible, but politicians need

to grasp that it may be an angrier and nastier manifestation of what many millions of people feel. Robert Mason

East Grinstead, W Sussex

Sir, Having advocated tighter immigration controls for more than 20 years, I was glad to see your fierce editorial about Britain's immigration system (Aug 6). You rightly condemned the street violence which has often targeted asylum seekers but the issues run much more widely. Immigration is nowadays ten or twelve times higher than asylum.

The Conservatives' legacy was net migration of about 700,000 a year for their last two calendar years. If anything on such a scale is allowed to continue the nature of our society will be changed irreversibly. This is what underlies the public's concern, with some 60 per cent taking the view that immigration should be reduced. This matter must not be allowed to drift a moment longer. The government needs to get a grip, set a clear annual maximum for net migration of 100,000 a year, and take the necessary

steps to achieve it.

Lord Green of Deddington President, Migration Watch UK

Sir, The hunting lobby would have you believe that trail hunting is working as it should and illegal hunting doesn't exist purely because conviction rates are low (letter, Aug 3). However, trail hunting is working exactly how the hunts intend it to: as a smokescreen for old-fashioned illegal hunting.
I refer to the words of the police

lead on foxhunting crime in England and Wales, Chief Superintendent Matthew Longman, who said in an interview that the past 20 years since the law was introduced were "possibly one of the most farcical eras in criminal justice history because hunts are still offending, we are seeing it regularly, so the Hunting Act cannot be working; trail hunting cannot be working". It would be a simple piece of legislation to tighten the laws around hunting. We urge the government to act now and make this hunting season, which begins with cub hunting in August, the last one. Chris Luffingham

Acting chief executive, League Against Cruel Sports

#### Making the cut

Sir, His Honour Barrington Black has appeared on The Times's letters page so many times (and extremely erudite and witty those letters invariably are) that his book of letters not chosen for publication appears to run to only one volume, *The Ones* They Didn't Print (TMS, Aug 6). Sadly, in my case, several volumes could doubtless be filled, including all those acknowledgment letters from the editor, in those far-off pre-email days, politely informing me that he had read my letter with interest but. regrettably, he had been unable to publish it. Adrian Brodkin

London N2

#### Soaring care costs

Sir, I read Stephen Burke's letter about social care costs (Aug 7) with a heavy heart. My mother, with advanced dementia, has now burnt through her entire life savings, and I, having just sold what was my only property in southwest London to fund her care, am now starting to burn through mine. Gone is my own pension pot. My mother and I are seemingly paying for consecutive governments' failure to grapple the inevitable tsunami of an ageing

David Jeffries Chillington, Devon

Sir, I write to add to Stephen Burke's excellent letter. We need to be careful what we wish for as far as a care can is concerned. The intention was that people would need to reach a threshold of paying for their care before the state started to provide funds. Care would have been very specifically itemised: helping someone to dress or wash would be "care", whereas time accompanying a client watching TV would not. The cost of accommodation and certain

household tasks would not have been included as care needs — these actions would have been referred to as "hospitality" — hence it would have taken a long time to reach the "cap". Christina Sell

Managing director, Arbour Companions and Care, Surrey

#### **Water firms fined**

Sir, The futility of fining regulated companies was illustrated more than 20 years ago when the financial services regulator imposed a fine on a life assurance company. The company paid the fine from its life fund and money set aside to provide benefits for its policy-holders was taken from them, with shareholders paying nothing. Ultimately the fines now imposed by Ofwat on water companies for pollution (News, Aug 7) similarly will be paid by customers through increased charges, if they are paid at all: in the case of Thames Water its fine simply may accelerate

administration.
What is much more likely than fines to change companies' behaviour and, in the case of sewerage companies to lead to investment to

improve water quality, is to alter the balance of incentives in directors remuneration packages away from returns to shareholders and towards the achievement, step by step, of long-term water quality targets, independently measured at points of discharge. This could be achieved by amending licence conditions under the present regulatory framework. Amendments would need to be carefully thought through to minimise the risk of perverse incentives, firmly policed and backed by enforcement orders, intelligently drafted so that directors face additional personal financial consequences for serious failure. This would require no parliamentary time and with determination and resources could be introduced within a year. William Sprigge

Former head of legal at Ofgas/Offer, 1996-2001, and Postcomm, 2001-09

Sir, Would it not be better to use the fines that are being levied against the water companies to repair their broken systems, rather than allowing the money to disappear into the black hole of the public purse? **David Baldwin** 

Glastonbury, Somerset

#### Squashing a scam

Sir, A ploy I use when I receive an unwanted phone call about an alleged car accident (letter, Aug 7) is to ask politely: "Which car accident do you mean? I have had four in the pas two years." It's amazing how quickly the caller hangs up.

Sarah Allan

Sir, I find that asking "Does your mother know what you do for a living?" does the trick. Peter Savage London EC2

#### Young aesthetes

Sir, Sir Solly Zuckerman (letter, Aug 5) used to chair an academic group at Bedford College, which was situated in Regent's Park before it merged with Royal Holloway College and had to leave its beautiful location. When he was conducting his last meeting there, unhappy students displayed a mock coffin outside the windows of the hall. **Enid Light** 

Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

#### Dress like a pro

Sir, The best advice I was given as a head teacher about appropriate dress ("Appropriate office wear looks more M&S than S&M", Libby Purves, Aug 6) was from a brilliant safeguarding consultant: "I do not want to see up it, down it or through it." That seems to cover all eventualities! Sarah Helm London El

#### 'DAS RHEINGOLD' AT MUNICH

FROM THE TIMES AUGUST 8, 1924

The first Ring cycle began vesterday evening with an excellent performance of Das Rheingold. One is tempted to expatiate at once on the production and stage setting of Herr Max Hofmuller and Herr Richard Fischer, but discussion of that had better be deferred until the whole story can be told. It may be said, however, that for once it was possible to sit through a Ring performance without having one's intelligence insulted every few minutes — and this without any disregard of the demands made by Wagner upon the stage manager.

Indeed except for the apocryphal business with the sword, every one of the composer's directions seems to have been carried out.

It was particularly good to see in the first scene a lump of gold that looked like gold, and not like, what it usually is, an electric light bulb even though it did involve illuminating the ropes which supported the Rhine-maidens. These ladies were more perilously suspended than usual, and one could forgive them some uncertainties in their singing, but they ought to have done better in the last scene when they can stand on their feet and have their music before them. The Alberich was Herr Hermann

Wiedemann, a visitor from Vienna. He sang well, but did not show that powerful personality which the part requires. His brother, Mime, on the other hand, promises to be the best one has seen. One could not recognize in this deformed and

miserable specimen of Nibelunghood Herr Karl Leydel, the charming David of the previous evening. The Wotan of Herr Wilhelm Rode also promises well. He has a fine presence and a good round tone, which it is a treat to hear. Herr Karl Erb was nearly a good Loge. He sang beautifully in the quieter passages, but his movements lacked real vitality, and he was made up to resemble disconcertingly for an Englishman - the most celebrated of our music-hall comedians. All the other parts were well done, and we had a handsome Fricka and a Freia who

looked like Botticelli's Primavera. The orchestra under Herr Knappertsbusch played well without generating that intense excitement which ought to mark the climacteric

THETIMES.COM/ARCHIVE

#### **Leading articles**

#### **Daily Universal Register**

UK: Northern Ireland Assembly to be recalled after riots; police funding figures for England and Wales since 2015 to be released.

#### Nature notes



When you realise that we have lost a third of insects in this country, the implications for our health, wealth and future are very

sombre. But there are also many wonderful encounters that we will lose should insect numbers continue to tumble. Take the black and yellow longhorn beetle. Growing up to 2cm long and rather slow moving, a meeting with this character on a warm summer's afternoon can be unforgettable. Brightly coloured to mimic a wasp, these insects can be seen clambering up grasses, long antennae probing the air in search of a mate, or dead wood in which to lay eggs. Often, when you are observing them, they will lift and fly away like a heavy, rather unsteady, mini helicopter. JONATHAN TULLOCH

#### **Birthdays today**



Roger Federer, pictured, eight-time Wimbledon singles champion, 43; General Lloyd Austin, US secretary of defence, 71; Donald P Bellisario, TV producer and

screenwriter, creator of Quantum Leap (1989-93), 89; Dame Amanda Blanc, chief executive, Aviva, The Sunday Blanc, chief executive, Aviva, The Sunday Times business person of the year (2023), 57; Lord (Martin) Callanan, business minister (2023-July 2024), 63; Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West (1983-2000), chairman of the Yes Scotland advisory board (2012-14), 82; Alex Chalk KC, Tory MP for Cheltenham (2015-2024), lord chancellor and justice secretary (2023-2024), 48; Giuseppe Conte. prime minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte, prime minister of Italy (2018-21), 60; Sarah Dunant, novelist, Fatlands (1993), 74; Chris Eubank, former world champion boxer, 58; Toby Flood, rugby union player, England (2006-14), 39; Angus Fraser, cricketer, England (1989-98), 59; Richard Harwood, cellist, 45; Helen Hayes, Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, shadow minister for children and early years (2021-July 2024), 50; Dustin Hoffman, actor, *The Graduate* (1967), Kramer vs. Kramer (1979), 87; Ron Klain, White House chief of staff (2012-23), 63; Nigel Mansell, racing driver, Formula 1 world drivers' champion (1992), IndyCar champion (1993), 71; Philip Marshall, director, The London Library, 52; Hannah Miley, swimmer, world short-course champion (2012), 35; Prof Sir Roger Penrose OM, mathematician, Nobel prizewinner in physics (2020) and author, *The Road to* Reality (2004), 93; Lord (Robert) Smith of Kelvin, chairman, IMI (engineering), British Business Bank, SSE (2005-15, energy company), 80; Connie Stevens, actress, Hawaiian Eye (1959-63), and singer, Sixteen Reasons (1960), 86; Louis van Gaal, footballer, manager, Manchester United (2014-16), Holland (2000-01, 2012-14, 2021-22), 73; Simon Weston, Falklands veteran and fundraiser, 63; Kane Williamson cricketer, former captain of New Zealand, 34; Princess Beatrice of York, 36.

#### On this day

In 1919 the UK and Afghanistan signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi, agreeing that British India would not go beyond the Khyber Pass.

#### The last word

"Never do anything against conscience even if the state demands it." Albert Einstein, quoted by Virgil Henshaw in Albert Einstein: Philosopher-Scientist (1949)



### **Failing Marks in Scotland**

Academic standards in schools have been steadily falling north of the border. Wrongful attitudes and incompetence by the Scottish National Party are to blame

Scotland's education system was once the envy of these islands. Historically, its pupils were once much likelier to complete secondary school and attend university than their peers elsewhere in Britain. In the 17th century, Daniel Defoe called England a country "full of ignorance", while in Scotland, "the poorest people have their children taught and instructed". How times change. Exam results published this week have exposed the depths of the damage done to schools north of the border by nearly two decades of nationalist misrule — and should discourage Labour's new ministers from making the same mistakes.

When it comes to attainment, Scottish schools are going backwards. Marks for exams taken by students this year have fallen to lower levels than 2019 and there is a gap of nearly 30 per cent in the pass rate between the richest and poorest pupils in National 5 courses, which are equivalent to the GCSEs taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The pass rate has fallen to 77.2 per cent. Statistics such as these paint a picture that is about as far from Defoe's depiction of a land of Enlightenment and ancient universities open to all as it is possible to imagine. What is all the more depressing is that this decline was not inevitable.

Jenny Gilruth, the SNP education secretary,

blames the long shadow of Covid for this year's dire results. But falling standards under nationalist government were no accident. Scotland has been slipping down international league tables for numeracy and literacy for years, so much so that by 2023 pupils in England were effectively a year ahead of their peers north of the border. This was crisis by design. Consider the alarming fall in the number of pupils studying chemistry, biology, physics and even mathematics for their Higher exams — equivalent to A-Level — as well as modern languages. Business leaders rightly condemn this erosion of core skills as a disaster that will hurt Scotland's already anaemic economic growth in the long run.

The fundamental problem is neglect: of all that once made Scottish schools so successful, and of pupils themselves. Reliance on coursework rather than exams persists. The curriculum is based on competencies, skills and wellbeing, not the acquisition of knowledge. When Michael Gove prioritised the latter in England as education secretary after 2010, he was roundly criticised but defied what he called "the soft bigotry of low ex pectations" for poorer children. Nationalists in his home country did not. Their regime has narrowed the range of subjects studied — once broader than

in England — while lowering standards. Despite a higher level of spending per pupil, made possible by the generous fiscal transfers on which devolution is built, the unforgivable result has been a generation condemned to mediocrity. This is anything but the "child-centred" learning heralded by the so-called progressives at Holyrood.

Left-wingers have always been suspicious of traditional methods of pedagogy. But the evidence from Scotland's failed experiment is overwhelming. There was a reason that educational standards in England barely featured in Labour's election campaign: they are one of the few straightforward success stories from 14 years of Conservative rule. As the self-made child of a single mother on Wearside, the education secretary Bridget Phillipson knows the difference a rigorous education can make to poorer children. As the liberal academic Professor Becky Francis undertakes a review of the national curriculum. she should heed the warning from Scotland's dis astrous reforms — and, indeed, falling standards in Wales. Where British schools have focused on knowledge, they have succeeded. Where they have succumbed to faddish radicalism and ideology, they have failed, and children have paid the price. Labour must do better.

#### **Punching Down**

#### The inclusion of male athletes in the women's boxing is a blemish on the Olympics

Elite sports are segregated by sex for a reason. In tests of strength and speed, the male physiological advantage is absolute. To those whose judgment has not been rendered defective by the dubious dictates of gender ideology, the sight of a male athlete easily overpowering a female competitor should excite a sense of natural unfairness. In contact sports, it also raises justified concerns about the safety of the women involved.

The reductio ad absurdum of the view that athletes should be allowed to "self-identify" into whichever sex category they like is that it legitimises a situation in which a man can beat up a woman in a boxing ring for the entertainment of a spectating crowd. Yet that is exactly what has happened at this year's Olympics. Imane Khelif, a welterweight boxer, is poised to leave the Games with a medal in the women's event; featherweight Lin Yu-ting is guaranteed silver at least.

This is despite the fact that there is good evidence that both athletes suffer from disorders of sexual development (DSDs), conditions which confer on them most of the physiological advantages of having gone through male puberty. In this,

both individuals deserve a measure of sympathy; DSDs, which are sometimes not diagnosed until adolescence when the individuals affected are already socialised as women, can be traumatic. Their discovery severely complicates the life of a professional athlete. However, simply to persist in unfair competition against biological women is wrong. Khelif's opening fight, which concluded after just 46 seconds, left an opponent insisting she had never been hit harder and had had to abandon

the fight "to preserve" her life.

That both Khelif and Lin enjoy a competitive advantage is not news. Both were disqualified from last year's World Boxing Championships after failing gender eligibility tests which revealed they possessed the XY chromosomes typical of males. Neither appealed against this decision in the end. That they have been allowed to enter the women's event at the Paris Games is entirely the fault of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose feeble eligibility rules do nothing to stop men from competing as women.

In this respect boxing is an unfortunate outlier. Eligibility rules, which are usually sensibly

controlled by the governing bodies for each sport, have devolved to the IOC following its decision to strip the International Boxing Association of its status last year. That decision was based on justified concerns about internal corruption and Russian influence within the organisation.

But the consequences for female boxers have been a disaster. The IOC's attitude to the significance of sex differences in sport is simply unserious. Their expressed view is that "athletes should be allowed to compete in the category that best aligns with their self-determined gender identity". Accordingly, boxers have been subject to no sex or testosterone tests at the Paris Olympics. If their passports say they are female, boxers can compete with women: in effect, the IOC has implemented a brazenly ill-conceived policy of self-ID.

Clearly, a reformed boxing governing body, one properly sensitive to the interests of women, must be instituted before the LA Olympic Games in 2028. Routine, non-invasive sex testing, welcomed by most female athletes, must also return. The unacceptable alternative is the absurd spectacle of a man walking away with a woman's medal.

#### **Dinosaur Regulations**

#### Newts can thwart multimillion-pound housing and development plans

They are black, shy, and look like miniature dinosaurs. Sporting spotted flanks, an orange belly and a long wavy crest along the body, they breed in ponds, are fond of old logs, live up to 15 years and are responsible for holding up millions of pounds worth of new buildings.

Deemed an endangered species, the great crest-ed newt has probably done more to thwart housing developments, deter investors and delight bureaucrats than any other critter in this green and pleasant land. Boris Johnson was unable to build a swimming pool at his Oxfordshire home until inspectors made sure no newts were eager to breed in his ponds, and that those in the vicinity would be pampered with special facilities and places to frolic. The government has page after page of regulations, insisting that any developer has a wildlife licence and undertakes not to injure or capture GCNs, not to take their eggs, not to transport them (alive or dead) and not to obstruct their shelters in logs, rubble and scrub. Even if there aren't any of the little monsters in sight, ecologists must certify that none are eager to set up home in local ponds, and if these are drained, new ponds must be built

Stephen Schwarzman, a Wall Street tycoon with an £80 million country estate in Wiltshire, knows all about the tyranny of GCNs. He wants to dig a new lake, build a new wing and renovate the stables, but must first assure local planners that construction crews will check the site daily for amphibians and undertake to capture them with a gloved hand before bringing in the diggers.

He unloaded his grouses on Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, at a dinner in New York on Tuesday, as well as warning her he might be deterred from funding a planned massive new data centre in Blyth, Northumberland. She was all ears. Almost every local council has GCN regulations. Nature is fine. But what about getting things built in Britain?

## World

# Harris 'wanted a pale and male VP to counter Trump'

#### **United States**

Josie Ensor New York

It was Friday afternoon and a small team of Kamala Harris's aides was "murderboarding" her potential running-mates.

boarding" her potential running-mates. Cedric Richmond, a former adviser to the Biden administration, the former labour secretary Marty Walsh and Tony West, Harris's brother-in-law, were grilling six finalists for the 2024 Democratic presidential ticket, presenting them with doomsday scenarios to test their readiness for the highest political office in America.

They were quizzed on any dirty laundry — college antics, previous relationships and past political opinions.

The gruelling process of picking a vice-presidential nominee is usually a months-long affair, involving extensive interviews, background checks and some fairly rigorous research. Harriss team had just weeks to whittle down a list after President Biden stepped aside.

list after President Biden stepped aside. While the candidates had little time to prepare, three clearly stood out. Any could win the race, they told her, leaving the vice-president with the freedom to choose her favourite. She took the weekend to mull it over, before making her decision on Monday.

The countdown began a week earlier when her aides approached the New York law firm Covington & Burling to draft a shortlist, one almost exclusively male and pale by design

draft a shortlist, one almost exclusively male and pale by design.

As Harris is the first female vice-president, and the first of African and Asian descent, her team did not think voters would go for two women

voters would go for two women. "There's a lot of sexist, racist white dudes out there in America who don't like Trump but just need a little extra validation," someone familiar with the Harris campaign told NBC News. They needed "someone who gives moderate Republican voters a place to go".

Behind the scenes, senior Democrats were bidding for different candidates.

Biden, a son of Pennsylvania, liked the state's governor, Josh Shapiro, who had become close with former president Barack Obama. Shapiro, 51, enjoyed considerable bipartisan support at home and could deliver the most important swing state on the map.

most important swing state on the map. Nancy Pelosi, the party doyenne and former House Speaker, pushed the team in the direction of Tim Walz, the unassuming governor of reliably blue Minnesota. She was even overheard telling caucus members not to "sleep on" him. Bernie Sanders, the liberal senator for Vermont, also fancied Walz for his strong relationship with the unions and his track record on fighting

for blue-collar jobs.
Walz had one of the lowest public profiles of any hopeful; videos of him meeting voters at a state fair while chewing a pork chop on a stick had caught the Harris team's eye. There was a sense that he looked and sounded like

#### Behind the story

he long relationship that Tim Walz has with China has led to attacks both from the United States and Beijing (Richard Spencer writes).

(Richard Spencer writes).
Walz taught for a year in China from 1989 to 1990, has continued to visit regularly since and has argued for the need to engage with the country.

with the country.

JD Vance, Walz's Republican
counterpart, who has made
attacks on US relations with
Beijing a keystone of his
campaign, accused him of
wanting to "ship more
manufacturing jobs to China".

Others in Donald Trump's orbit spoke more aggressively. "Communist China is very happy with Governor Tim Walz as Kamala's VP pick," Richard Grenell, who was Trump's ambassador to Germany, wrote on Twitter/X. "No one is more pro-China than Marxist Walz." That was not the view of some

That was not the view of some in China, where Walz's long record of speaking up for dissidents has been noted. He broke a taboo for Beijing by meeting the Dalai Lama in 2016, and has also criticised China's relationship with Russia in light of the war in Ukraine.

The Chinese government refused to comment on Walz personally. That in itself could in most cases be regarded as a snub, given that a previous interest in China is normally at least noted if not actively welcomed.

a regular Joe and could speak to rural and working-class voters who might not otherwise be open to Harris.

A former attorney-general from California, Harris is criticised by Republicans as being part of a "west coast elite"; Walz, meanwhile, is the affable Midwestern former football coach, soldier, high school teacher and Democratic congressman from a red district.

In an interview now seen as a public audition for the role, Walz appeared on MSNBC's Morning Joe and made a seemingly off-hand comment about Donald Trump and JD Vance, Trump's pick for vice-president. "These guys are just weird," Walz said.

Something about the message and its delivery set the internet alight. Suddenly Walzwas a viral meme, on the lips of voters everywhere. It got under Trump's skin, too. To the Harris team, it showed Walz's ability to take on Trump with a lighter touch, while thundering on about existential threats was turning off undecided voters. According to

insiders, it pushed Walz to the top of the pile, alongside Shapiro, a centrist whose star was rising in the Democratic Party, and the Arizona senator Mark Kelly, a former astronaut and Navy pilot.

While Walz's political stock was growing, Shapiro, who is Jewish, was attracting critical media coverage for comments he made in a resurfaced college newspaper essay about the Israeli-Palestinian neace process

Palestinian peace process.

Shapiro quickly became a lightning rod for progressive Democrat anger. A group of leftwingers under the label VPUnity warned in a letter to Harris that choosing an avowedly pro-Israel candidate at such a critical juncture in the Middle East would "ruin Democratic unity" and be a "catastrophic gift to Donald Trump". And while Harris aides felt that Kelly had a stellar CV, there was concern that he was an uninspiring public speaker. Harris allies also felt that he had been insufficiently loyal to Biden in the weeks after the president's noor debate performance.

to Biden in the weeks after the president's poor debate performance.

Late last week, her team began to look at the candidates' legal, financial, political, personal, family and employment backgrounds. Walz had a drinkdriving arrest in 1995, which did not overly trouble them.

overly trouble them.

Harris then met the top three, Walz, Shapiro and Kelly, at her official residence in the Naval Observatory for several hours on Sunday.

In the end, it came down to chemistry. "You also have to ask yourself at some point, is this someone you would want to have lunch with every week for four years?" a White House official involved in the process told NBC.

Shapiro reportedly relayed concerns to the vice-president's team that he was struggling with the prospect of leaving his job as governor if he was chosen. According to sources, Harris's team

According to sources, Harris's team also thought Shapiro, who has become known for his powerful oratory style, came off as a bit of a "showboater", someone who would take the spotlight off the vice-president.

He was clearly highly ambitious and Harris, a relatively young nominee at the age of 59, feared Shapiro would not be content remaining at the bottom of the ticket in 2028.

In contrast, Walz showed a deference to Harris and was not driven by ego. He had a "Midwestern dad" folksy charm that reminded the vice-president of Biden. "He's just so open, I really like him," Harris reportedly said of Walz after their 90-minute meeting.

The Minnesota governor made a pitch to Harris in that meeting that would ultimately seal the deal. "I'm at the end of my career," he told his prospective boss. "This is not about me."

Walz missed Harris's 10am phone call delivering the news on Tuesday as he does not like to answer the phone when there is no caller ID. "Let's do this," he replied, once she finally got through.



All things bright and beautiful The Pope with members of Cultural Diffusion

## Israel intensifies hunt for attack mastermind Sinwar

Israe

Samer Al-Atrush Middle East Correspondent

The head of the Israeli army has vowed to redouble efforts to eliminate his top target in the Gaza Strip, Yahya Sinwar, who was named as the new political leader of Hamas after the killing of his

predecessor in Tehran last week. "We will strive to find him, attack him and replace the head of the political bureau again," Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi told soldiers in a statement.

Israel has long hunted Sinwar, formerly the group's leader in Gaza and considered an architect of the October 7 attacks. Despite being referred to by his enemies as a "dead man walking". the militant leader has remained in Gaza and apparently eluded death or capture. Hamas announced the convicted murderer, 6l, had become its overall leader after Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an explosion in Iran. The decision cements Sinwar's leadership of the militant group, which has ruled Gaza since 2007 but a pow in discrete.

tant group, which has ruled Gaza since 2007 but is now in disarray.
Haniyeh, who was based in Qatar, was formally the leader of Hamas, but the more hardline Sinwar was seen as the one calling the shots and had the final say on ceasefire talks with Israel.

Sinwar "has been and remains the primary decider", Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, said, adding it would be up to the new leader to help to achieve a ceasefire deal with Israel.

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Back from the grave? War dead listed as PoWs

South Africa wrestles with the legacy of Cecil Rhodes







Tonatiuh, named after the Aztec sun god, as the troupe from Monterrey joined his weekly general audience at the Vatican

## Suspect held in big Bluey coin heist

Bernard Lagan Sydney

The children's television programme Bluey has covered subjects as broad as screen addiction, jealousy, regret and sibling rivalry, often through the eyes of

its protagonist, a six-year-old puppy. It has never handled a heist of valuable coins — until now.

In June, the Royal Australian Mint announced it would celebrate the enduring appeal of the series, which is broadcast around the world, with a set of commemorative coins. Fans could apply to buy them through a public ballot. "Find a penny, pick it up — all day long you'll have good luck," the makers of the programme said.

There was, however, a twist. As the "dellarbut," coins were being represented.

"dollarbuck" coins were being prepared for dispatch last month at a warehouse

in Sydney, a half-tonne pallet containing 63,000 coins vanished. The A\$1 pieces were later found fetching up to A\$10 (£5.16) on the black market.

Police formed an operation, Strike Force Bandit, to investigate, in a nod to the name of Bluey's father.

They have since arrested a 47-year-old man, who is suspected of theft from the back of a lorry after 189 of the unreleased coins were found at his home in Sydney.

Detective Superintendent Joseph Doueihi said: "We will allege that this particular male was an employee of the secure storage facility at the time of the theft'

Bluey follows a loveable family of blue heelers — an Australian working dog named for its distinctive colour.

The show is made in Brisbane and was first screened domestically in 2018. It was picked up a year later by Walt Disney and became a hit in the UK on **CBeebies** 

Most of the stolen coins re still missing and police believe they are in general circulation.

They were always meant for general use in Australia's cash currency system — although not until their planned release in September.

The canine cartoon series is a hit around the world

## Chinese tighten belts by tucking into junk food

Deals and local dishes mean chains like KFC and McDonald's are on the up in the downturn. **Richard Spencer** writes

Get your hot dry noodles from KFC, or your Korean fried chicken at Pizza Hut Wow, a café offshoot of the international Texas-based chain.

national Texas-based chain.

Chinese versions of international fast-food restaurants have long made a virtue, and big profits, out of being markedly different from their western counterparts.

Now, though, they are locked in a price war on both their conventional burgers and nuggets and their more locally flavoured dishes, as they try to keep the spirit of dining out alive in an economic downturn.

KFC has been copying the British burger market's "99p burger meal" offer with a 9.90 yuan chicken sandwich.

That is also an attempt to match China's ubiquitous noodle joints and a new phenomenon — the leftover lucky dip, where "blind boxes" containing leftovers are sold for less than ten yuan (about £1.10).

The competition has begun to change the habits of China's new young and urban middle class, the first to grow up with what was once a western mindset of working in coffee shops and eating out regularly with friends

"Spending has really gone down," wrote one blogger on Xiao HongShu, or Little Red Book, a Chinese version of Instagram. "People who used to order a cup of coffee and sit in Starbucks with their laptops all day have moved to

The blogger witnessed a young man working all day in a McDonald's on his laptop before finishing, closing up, and then going and spending seven yuan (75p) on a packet of French fries.

While other western companies found it difficult to break into the Chinese market, the fast-food chains moved in soon after the "opening up and reform" policies of the Deng Xiaoping era began.

Famously, McDonald's opened its first restaurant in Beijing on the corner of Tiananmen Square in 1992, three years after the protests that ended in tragedy there, while Starbucks won the concession to run the café at the heart of the Forbidden City, a decision that was criticised by Chinese nationalists.

For a while western chains were seen as an exotic, upmarket option, with the middle classes dating at McDonald's and hiring Pizza Hut for birthday parties. Then fancier dining options, both western and Chinese, proliferated and the fast-food chains became youthful gathering spots or after-work snack options as elsewhere.

Nevertheless, they spread across the country. KFC alone has more than 10,000 branches, ten times more than in the UK and double even the number in the US.

McDonald's has largely stuck to its core products. Others, though, have adapted strongly. Among the more celebrated dishes is Pizza Hut's snake-

The coronavirus pandemic and the particularly harsh lockdowns in China have been followed by a consumer crisis, not helped by a collapse in the property market, in which the Chinese had invested even more of their wealth than Britons.

Now even middle-class Chinese people are tightening their belts. "In the current state of unemployment, we need to be more frugal," another Little Red Book user said.

We have also downgraded the quality of our coffee. What is a speciality coffee after all? Even just sitting at Starbucks feels like a waste."



Yum, the owner of KFC, is expanding as the Chinese pay less per meal

Starbucks has kept western pricing for its coffee, making a Beijing latte far more expensive than the average Chinese office worker's lunch.

"After digging around for a bit, I found that for 8.80 yuan (95p), one can buy a cup of coffee at KFC," the writer went on. "In an instant, it felt like the Americano I had two weeks ago no longer smelt good. The environment at is decent, with power outlets available. It's perfect for middle-aged unemployed individuals to chill for a

Yum, the US conglomerate that owns KFC, has now opened KCoffee, a cheap KFC café, and Pizza Hut Wow to capitalise on the trend. KCoffee sells a hotdog and coffee for the magic price of 9.9 yuan, the same price as Burger King now sells a basic burger.

Their local competitors, however, can more than match them. Hefu Noodle, a local chain, offers a noodle meal with a drink for the same price with the bowl of noodles refillable for

The share price of its Chinese subsidiary has nevertheless actually risen as profits have gone up — even as the amount people pay per meal fell by 7 to 9 per cent, according to its latest figures this week.

"Consumers are indeed more rational in their spending in what is now the new normal," Andy Yeung, the company's chief financial officer, said.

#### World



Space oddity Borderlands cast members Jamie Lee Curtis, Cate Blanchett and Jack Black attend a fan event in Hollywood for the intergalactic adventure comedy

## Nobel winner returns to lead Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Penelope MacRae

Muhammad Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government, said he wanted to get the country "out of trouble" as he headed home to Dhaka. "I'm looking forward to going back

"I'm looking forward to going back home, see what's happening and how we can organise ourselves to get out of the trouble we are in," the Nobel peace prizewinner said before boarding a flight at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris.

As Yunus, 84, flew home, a court overturned his conviction for violating the country's labour laws. A court had imposed the verdict in January and sentenced him to six months in jail. He said the case was politically motivated by the previous government, which collapsed this week after violent protests against Sheikh Hasina, the nation's leader since 2009. Yunus was on bail.

Hasina, 76, fled in a helicopter on Monday and was reported to be sheltering in a safe house in India, although there were rumours she might seek asylum in the UK where she has family, including her niece Tulip Siddiq, the Labour MP for Hampstead & Highgate in north London who is the economic secretary to the Treasury.

General Waker-uz-Zaman, the army chief of Bangladesh who was reported to have given Hasina 45 minutes to leave, said he was hopeful that the new administration led by Yunus, an economist, could be sworn in by tonight. More than 300 people have been killed since the unrest began last month.

## Hundreds of Kyiv troops launch cross-border raids

Russia

Tom Ball Kharkiv

President Putin has accused Kyiv of launching a "major provocation", claiming that hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers, supported by tanks and armoured vehicles, have staged a cross-border attack into the Kursk region.

Speaking before a meeting of his security council in Moscow yesterday, the Russian president accused Ukrainian forces of "firing indiscriminately" at civilian buildings and residences during what could be one of the largest incursions onto Russian soil in more than two years of war.

Valery Gerasimov, Russia's chief of

Valery Gerasimov, Russias chief of general staff, told the meeting that a force of some 1,000 Ukrainian troops launched a surprise attack across the border on Tuesday morning. One hundred had been killed and 215 injured, he said.

Heavy fighting continued into yesterday, with Kyiv's forces taking control of a number of villages. There were reports that Ukraine had shot down a helicopter and destroyed several armoured vehicles.

Russia's ministry of defence had initially claimed on Tuesday that Ukrainian forces were pushed back to the border by airstrikes and artillery fire, but revised that yesterday as Putin convened his security chiefs.

convened his security chiefs.

In the town of Sudzha, six miles inside the Russian border, Ukrainian troops took hold of a gas transit station on one of the few remaining pipelines supplying Russian gas to Europe. Images posted by military bloggers



showed the town lying in ruins. A local Orthodox priest said Ukrainian shelling had set ablaze the cathedral and surrounding buildings, although no one was hurt.

The raid presents the first major test for Andrei Belousov, who replaced Sergei Shoigu as defence minister in May, with Russian military bloggers quick to air their criticism.

quick to air their criticism.

"The enemy has been accumulating forces for two months," said the influential Rybar channel, which has links to the Russian army. "For two months the full information was sent to the useless headquarters. There was enough time to make an appropriate decision."

Ukraine has hit targets deep inside Russia with long-range attack drones but infantry raids are a rarity.

Since last summer, armed groups of Russian exiled fighters, who operate in close co-ordination with Ukraine's military, have staged several incursions into the Kursk and Belgorod regions.

This week's attack, however, appears to have been of a much larger scale and

involved the Ukrainian army proper. Russia said it was led by Kyiv's 22nd

mechanised brigade.

The purpose of the raids is unclear though it may be a tactic designed to draw Russian resources away from other parts of the front as Ukraine struggles to contain enemy advances around the city of Pokrovsk, in the Donetsk region.

Alexei Smirnov, the acting governor of Kursk, said five people were killed, including two members of an ambulance crew, and at least 20 were wounded. He posted a video telling residents: "I ask you to remain calm and not to be subject to the enemy's information provocations. The situation is controllable."

Images posted by military bloggers appeared to show extensive damage caused by the raid, including a downed Russian helicopter and a destroyed convoy of trailers loaded with tanks. Other footage purported to show about half a dozen captured Russian soldiers being escorted down a road by Ukrainian forces.

Air-defence systems destroyed four drones overnight, Russian officials said, adding that reserves had been deployed from other regions to boost defences.

Ukraine made no official comment. However, Andriy Kovalenko, an official on the national security and defence council, appeared to obliquely acknowledge the attack and respond to Russia's claims that it had a handle on the situation. "Russian soldiers are lying about the controllability of the situation in the Kursk region," he said on Telegram. "Russia does not control the border."

### 'Dead' Russian fighters are alive in PoW camps

Marc Bennetts

For pupils who excel in their studies at school No 6 in Sergiyev Posad, a town near Moscow, a special honour awaits.

They earn the right to sit at a "hero's desk" at the front of the class dedicated to a man hailed as a shining example of self-sacrifice. The alumnus, Senior Lieutenant Roman Kupriyanov, was killed while fighting for Russia in Ukraine in February 2022. Or was he? Tens of thousands of widows, mothers and communities across Russia have watched the zinc-lined

Tens of thousands of widows, mothers and communities across Russia have watched the zinc-lined coffins of loved ones descend into the earth since the invasion of Ukraine more than two years ago. Now, for some, the deaths of their family members have been thrown into doubt.

bers have been thrown into doubt.
Dozens of Russian soldiers who were officially listed as killed in action by Moscow have been identified as prisoners of war by Ukraine, including some whose families had held funerals, according to a report

cording to a report.

A list of more than 2,000 PoWs published by I Want to Live, a Ukrainian organisation that facilitates the surrender of Russian troops, has the names of 64 soldiers who were thought to have died on the battlefield, according to iStories, an exiled Russian opposition website. Some of their families received zinc coffins that Russian officials said contained the remains of their sons, husbands or fathers. They were advised not to open the coffins. No DNA tests

were conducted, relatives said.
One of the men who was officially listed as killed in action was Senior Lieutenant Oleg Farniev, a helicopter navigator who the Russian defence ministry said died in eastern Ukraine shortly after the start of the war. His

father said that Farniev's body had been incinerated when his helicopter was shot down and that only his head survived intact "thanks to his helmet".

A coffin that purportedly contained Farniev's remains was buried with military honours in his home region of North Ossetia. His name was the l66th on a list of PoWs released by Ukraine. His family have not commented.

A crosscheck by The Times of the Ukrainian list with public obituaries in Russia has revealed the names of numerous soldiers who are said to have



Oleg Farniev is on the list of names despite the burial of what were said to be his remains

been buried by their families. Private Vitaly Drozdov, who is reported to have been killed in April 2022, was honoured with a plaque at a school in Russia's Stavropol region. In the Penza region, a funeral was held for Sergey Anokhin, a low-ranking Russian seaman. Alongside Kupriyanov, all three are believed to be in captivity in Ukraine.

Another six soldiers referenced in the report have been spotted in videos or photos dating from after their reported deaths. The wife of a man who fought with the Wagner group of mercenaries was told he had died in May last year in the battle for Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine. After the funeral, she spoke to Wagner fighters who said they had seen her husband alive the following July. About 120,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine, according to opposition journalists.

## March of the turtles: French close off beaches to protect eggs

#### David Chazan Paris

French police have set up metal barricades on a number of Mediterranean beaches to protect eggs laid by turtles as warmer water encourages the animals to venture further north.

In the past, loggerhead sea turtles favoured the shores of Greece, Cyprus and north Africa. Climate change is thought to be behind their increasingly regular appearances on the French coast in recent years.

They have laid eggs on the shore over

the past few days in at least four sites, including Hyères-les-Palmiers, between Marseilles and Saint-Tropez; Cap d'Agde, near Montpellier; and Saint-Cyprien, in the Pyrénées-Orientales near the Spanish border.

The nesting sites are about 50m from the water's edge and will remain sealed off for the next 45 to 70 days until the eggs hatch. "When they start hatching, we will create a channel in the sand for the baby turtles to reach the water safely," the council of Hyères-les-Palmiers said in a statement.

Scientists have set up cameras to



Loggerhead sea turtles only recently started to appear on the French coast

track the development of the eggs. They are also monitoring temperatures at the sites, which should remain between 24C and 34C under the sand. "We first observed adult turtles off

the French coast ten years ago," Sidonie Catteau of the Marineland conserva-tion group said. "They laid eggs for the first time in France near Saint-Tropez in 2008, then in Fréjus in 2016, but 2023 was a record with eggs laid at 14 sites."

She praised a beach cleaner at Cap d'Agde for spotting eggs this year and alerting the authorities. "He could hardly believe his eyes when he saw a

turtle crossing the beach at night, lit up in his headlights."

At least 27 baby turtles reached the sea from French beaches last year, according to officials of the Port-Cros

national park.

Loggerheads, a protected species, follow warm sea currents. Adults typically weigh about 130kg and are about a metre long. They have a life expectancy of 47 to 67 years, but are fragile and lay

eggs only once every two years.

Last year holidaymakers endangered eggs at one nesting site by going too

close to them.

## Mamma Meloni says China trip with daughter sets good example

#### Philip Willan Rome

Giorgia Meloni has used an interview with a gossip magazine to defend her role as a working mother and her decision to take her seven-year-old daughter with her on a recent visit to China.

The prime minister demonstrated

her skill in reaching out to a wider political audience by opening up to Chi, a celebrity-focused magazine whose title means Who?

The interview came after images of her arrival in China, leaving an aircraft

hand in hand with her daughter Ginevra, stoked debate in Italy. "I don't understand why, frankly," Meloni said. "Between travel and work commitments I was away for almost a week. According to those who criticise, I should have left my daughter at home — perhaps at a friend's home?

"It makes me smile that certain people consider themselves so morally superior to be able to teach a mother how to bring up her own child. I think that every mother knows what's best for their offspring and should be free to

Meloni, 47, said that if Italy's leader could demonstrate that her job was compatible with motherhood, then there could be no excuse for people to use maternity as a way of halting the professional advancement of women.

Doing an important job while showing that children can be raised "shouldn't be a revolution", she said. But she added that it probably was in today's society, which used children as an obstacle to female careers.

Meloni also defended her estranged artner, Andrea Giambruno, partner. whom she described as "the best father I could desire for my daughter". The couple split last after Giambruno, 43, a television journalist, was caught making inappropriate sexual comments to female colleagues.

She said she and her daugh ter spent time with Giambruno on holiday with friends and their children. The two were still friends and loved each other, she added. Meloni said they saw how happy their daughter was "when she doesn't have to divide her time between one or the other". She added: "Even our separation is definitive, we will always spend happy time together, as many other families with separated parents do."

Ginevra was verv attached to both her



Giorgia Meloni said her daughter Ginevra "was crying" after her separation from Andrea Giambruno

parents, Meloni said. "For a long time she pretended as though nothing had hapthough pened but I know she was crying when we didn't see her. It shrunk my heart to the size of a nut."

Meloni said the only thing that helped her bear the knowledge she was missing out on important moments in her child's life was the knowledge she had an important mission of public service to the nation.

'Children rightly want you to be there when something happens that is emotional for them," she said. "The problem is that you can't know what and when something will move them. I have missed and will miss the greater

part of Ginevra's emotional moments." Meloni has been criticised by the European Commission and news organisations, which claim she is trying to suppress media pluralism in Italy. She evaded journalistic grillings by rarely facing press conferences or stepping before television cameras on trips abroad. The tactic appears to be working, with polls giving her a 41 per cent approval rating, well ahead of her rivals.

Meloni denied trying to turn the state broadcaster RAI into an institution of the government. She insisted that she had outdone left-wing feminists by becoming Italy's first female prime minister. And she said she had stopped reading newspapers because they were full of lies about her.

"It has become a joke," she added. "What they don't understand is that people of good sense, even on the left can see it?

#### **Lesbian LSE** graduate is left's pick for **Macron PM**

Adam Sage Paris

A left-wing graduate of the London School of Economics is urging Presi-dent Macron to name her as prime minister, claiming she is the victim of "extreme-right" homophobia.

Lucie Castets, 37, is trying to raise her profile after the New Popular Front (NPF), a left-wing coalition, named her as its candidate to head the next government. In an attempt to dispel her image as a technocrat she told a magazine she was married to a woman and the mother of a 30-month-old child.

The NPF won the most seats in the snap elections but fell well short of an absolute majority, leaving the National Assembly in deadlock. The country is facing a political crisis that has been put on hold during the Olympics.

The alliance of left-wing parties cobbled together on the eve of the elections fought the campaign without saying who would be its prime minister.

Lucie Castets, 37, is the New Popular Front's candidate



After weeks of arguments, Castets, a local government officer in Paris who also studied at the École Nationale d'Administration, the elite civil service training college, was thrust forward.

She is now trying to show that she would make a credible prime minister. She said in an interview with Paris Match magazine: "I feel entirely capable of overseeing the government."

She also lifted the lid on her private life. "I want to find a balance between protecting my family, my wife and our child and saying who I am," she added. That seems important to me today."

Castets tried to show that she was more than a civil service technocrat. In an apparent attempt to capitalise on the Olympic fervour that has gripped France, she added that she practised tennis, handball and taekwondo. "I like physical effort," she said.

Under the constitution, Macron can name whomever he wants as prime minister. He has already said Castets would be unable to command a majority in the National Assembly.

But Castets replied: "Institutional logic would have it that the president designates a prime minister from the political camp that has won the most votes ... and that is clearly the NPF."

She hopes to win enough public support to force Macron's hand.

#### World

#### **Miss South Africa** contest rocked by identity theft claim

xenophobia in the "Rainbow Nation" has intensified with a government investigation into the background and citizenship of a young woman competing to be crowned Miss South Africa (Kate Bartlett writes).

Chidimma Adetshina, 23, has been the target of abuse on social media amid online rumours that she is Nigerian rather than South African. Detractors say she should not be allowed to compete in the pageant's finale on Saturday.

After launching an investigation on Tuesday, South Africa's Department of Home Affairs announced last night that Adetshina's

mother might have committed identity theft and assumed the name of an "innocent South African mother"

It concluded, however, that Adetshina could not have participated in the alleged fraud by her mother in 2001 as she was a baby at the time.

The law student has a Nigerian father and name, but was born and raised in Johannesburg. She says her mother is a South African of Mozambican descent and that she was born in a hospital in the city's Soweto township.

The home affairs ministry was asked by the pageant organisers to confirm she was indeed a South African citizen.

"From the information we have uncovered thus far ... prima facie reasons exist to believe that fraud and identity theft may have been committed," the

ministry's statement said. It added the inquiry was ongoing but it was "obtaining legal advice on the implications of the alleged fraudulent activity on Adetshina's citizenship status".

"An innocent South African mother, whose identity may have been stolen as part of the alleged fraud committed by Adetshina's mother, suffered as a result because she could not register her child," the department added. There was no

immediate comment from Adetshina or her family. The beauty contestant had earlier told local media she was disappointed to suffer "black-on-black hate".

Gayton McKenzie, the culture minister, last night called for further action on Twitter/X: "Let's blow open this whole racket and [an] arrest should surely follow," he said.



#### Maduro rounds up opponents

Venezuela

Stephen Gibbs Caracas

Human rights groups have de-nounced arrests on a scale "never seen before" in Venezuela after the country's disputed election result.

Yesterday, amid an escalating climate of fear, an opposition leader broadcast live on Instagram as state security agents broke into her home in Portuguesa state, western Venezuela, and took her away. María Oropeza, a lawyer, was

heard saying "I'm simply another citizen that wants the country to change' before the screen went blank.

The mother of another detainee, Edni López, a women's rights activist. made a tearful appeal for her release after López was taken away after checking in for a flight at Caracas international airport. "Give me back my daughter. It's not fair that a Venezuelan mother has to go through this," Ninoska Barrios said.

At least 23 people have died in protests across the country since the election on July 28, after which Maduro was declared the winner. The opposition said it had proof, confirmed by almost 25,000 election machine printouts, that Edmundo González, its own candidate, had won by a landslide, with 67 per cent of the vote.

The government-controlled elec-

toral council has declined to publish a detailed breakdown of the result, something it is required to do by law, blaming a cyberattack for the delay.

President Maduro is unapologetic

for the crackdown, describing his op-ponents as "fascists" who are trying to destabilise the country. He said there had been more than 2,200 arrests.

The government said two national guard soldiers had also been killed in

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## Rhodes must fall here too, university heads told

South Africa

Kate Bartlett Johannesburg

Rhodes University in South Africa should not be named in honour of the country's "most brutal coloniser" and should instead take the name of the anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, a far-left political leader has said.

In an address at the 120-year-old institution, Julius Malema, the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters the fourth-largest party at the recent general election, told cheering students that Cecil Rhodes, the British mining magnate, was a racist who would not have wanted black

students at the university.

Rhodes was "an imperialist who will not have wanted you who are seated here to be here today because he hated everything else that looked like us and treated us like slaves and animals", Malema said. "We are surprised that, 30 years after democracy, we still have institutions named after this one ... Why can't this university change its name?'

Rhodes, the son of a vicar, played a key role in expanding the British Empire in southern Africa in the late 19th century, annexing large areas of land. He was linked to the slave trade, was the architect of the Boer War and is seen by some as having set the stage

for apartheid. Zimbabwe was formerly called Rhodesia after the businessman and region still bear his name. The former Rhodesian president Ian Smith studied at the university in Makhanda, in the Eastern Cape. The town has recently changed its name; until 2018 it was known as Grahamstown.

Malema's calls follow previous demands for the university to change its name. In 2015 violent Rhodes Must Fall protests broke out at the University of Cape Town, with students calling for the removal of a bronze statue of Rhodes on campus, which they said was a symbol of white supremacy. The press dubbed the activists "the poo-protesters" because some of them threw buckets of faeces at the statue, which the

university ultimately took down. In 2017 the council of Rhodes University, whose alumni include the novelist Wilbur Smith the Les Misérables lyricist Herbert Kretzmer and Mandla Mandela, a grandson of Nelson, voted in favour of keeping the name, saying it would cost too much to change it.

It cannot be disputed that Cecil John Rhodes was an arch-imperialist and white supremacist who treated people of this region as subhuman, the council said at the time. "It is worth noting, however, that there is consensus about what Rhodes University has come to represent in terms of academic excellence and the

brand it has developed."

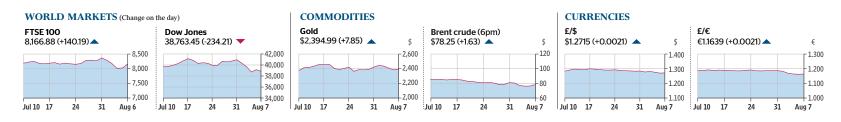
In the UK, the Rhodes Must Fall protests were taken up at the University of Oxford, where students called for the removal of a Rhodes. statue at Oriel College. Oriel refused to take it down, but in 2021 an explanatory plaque was installed at the site "contextualising" his legacy.

In additional remarks on Monday night, Malema called for the university to be renamed after Biko, the founder of South Africa's Black Consciousness Movement, who was arrested and beaten to death by white security officers in 1977.

Biko led a walkout of a National Union of South African Students conference in 1968 after black delegates were told they were not allowed to stay on campus overnight.

THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

## **Business**



## Slower UK salary growth paves way for more interest rate cuts

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

Wage growth eased last month and demand for workers steadied, potentially clearing a path for further interest rate cuts by the Bank of England.

According to research by KPMG and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, the pace of salary growth for both permanent and parttime staff receded in July.

The permanent staff salary index fell

to 56.5 last month from 57.1 in June, still above the 50-point threshold that separates growth from contraction. The temporary salary index dropped to 50.9 from 53.7 in June.

from 53.7 in June.

The figures, which are closely watched by the Bank of England due to accuracy issues with official labour market estimates, demonstrate that pay growth is descending from record highs, partly because tight monetary policy is squeezing demand in the

economy. Strong salary growth over the past two years has partially offset the impact of the cost of living crisis on workers' real incomes.

Hiring contracted in July, with the KPMG and REC permanent placement index at 47.7. Although the reading signals that businesses hired fewer full-time staff in the month, the pace of the recruitment slowdown was less severe than the previous month. The vacancy index showed a similar trend,

with the reading up to 49.1 from 48.6. The temporary hiring index dropped to 49.8 from 50.3.

Kate Shoesmith, deputy chief executive of the REC, said: "The weaker growth in both salaries and temp pay suggests employers are keeping pay in line with inflation as the Bank of England wants and the interest rate cut is welcome. Employers will need more of the same to maintain confidence."

The Bank of England elected to cut

the base rate by 0.25 percentage points to 5 per cent this month. Its monetary policy committee said it was looking at the totality of economic data rather than specific information points. Financial markets expect two more quarter-point cuts this year.

The central bank has lamented the difficulty in judging trends in the labour market caused by a deterioration in the quality of data produced by the Office Continued on page 32

GISELA SCHORER/GETTY IMAGES

# TP Icap deals another blow to the City

#### **Broker mulls US float for Parameta Solutions**

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The London Stock Exchange faces a further setback after the City's top inter-dealer broker revealed it was considering listing its data business in the United States, rather than Britain.

A float in New York of Parameta Solutions, owned by the FTSE 250 group TP Icap, could put a valuation of more than \$1 billion on the data group.

than \$1 billion on the data group. It would also deal a blow to the London stock market, which has suffered a sharp fall in initial public offerings since the start of 2022, fuelling fears that it is struggling to compete for new listings with the US. Moves by a string of companies — including Tui, the tour operator, CRH, the building materials supplier, and Flutter Entertainment, the gambling group behind Betfair — to drop London as their primary listing venue have added to worries about the anneal of the LIK market

ries about the appeal of the UK market. The decision by TP Icap to consider the US for Parameta is particularly striking as the British company is a big name in the City. Created through a merger eight years ago of fierce rivals Tullett Prebon and the phone-based broking business of Icap, it is the world's biggest inter-dealer broker, acting as a middleman in financial markets.

Its Parameta unit is a high-margin business that sells data on over-the-counter markets such as in energy, credit and derivatives, as well as administering benchmarks and indices. TP leap had said in March that it was considering the future of the unit, and disclosed in its first-half results on Wednesday that "one option" under consideration was a US listing.

Parameta's peers are quoted in the

US and 95 per cent of its revenues are dollar-denominated, TP Icap said.

"The US is the deepest and most liquid market globally and has a large financial data sector, with an ecosystem of specialist investors and analysts who have a deep understanding of the industry and drivers of valuation," the company added.

It would retain a majority stake in Parameta and the hope is that listing the unit would unlock value for the broker's shareholders.

Nicolas Breteau, TP Icap's chief executive, said: "There is, of course, no certainty about either a public offering or its location. We will update on progress as and when appropriate."

Parameta has long been considered a hidden gem within TP Icap, with investors telling The Times two years ago that the broker should consider options for the unit.

TP Icap's interim figures showed that revenues at the data business rose 7 per cent year-on-year to £97 million, accounting for 8 per cent of the £1.1 billion generated by the wider group in the six months to June. Pre-tax profits at the broker climbed by 32 per cent to £120 million. The results, along with excitement about a possible listing of Parameta and the announcement of a £30 million share buyback, sent TP Icap shares up 16½p, or 78 per cent, to close at 227½p, valuing it at over £1.7 billion.

Worries about the London stock market have spurred a series of reforms to make Britain a more attractive place for companies to go public. They include a revamp of the listing rules that came into force last month.

The stock exchange did not comment on TP Icap's plans.



Liquidity trap H2O Asset Management is to pay €250 million to investors stuck in funds linked to Lars Windhorst Page 31

### Tidjane Thiam loses 'blackmail' case

David Crossland Berlin

The former chief executive of Prudential and Credit Suisse has lost a criminal case against the housekeeper he accused of blackmail for threatening to make public allegedly abusive working conditions in his luxury villa on Lake Zurich in Switzerland.

The unnamed 43-year-old Romanian woman had demanded SwFr587,000 (E535,000) in compensation from Tidjane Thiam for the way she claimed she was treated. In an email in 2021, she had said she did not wish to "harm him", but that if the dispute were not resolved, she would contact trade unions and mention her case to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), of which Thiam is a member. Thiam's lawyers

took her to court, arguing that the email amounted to a criminal attempt at blackmail

Yesterday, however, a Zurich judge found in favour of the housekeeper. She ruled that blackmail presupposed someone could be made compliant, and that it was highly questionable whether such an email would have made Thiam so compliant that he would have paid her over half a million francs.

Moreover, it was unlikely that a letter from a domestic employee would have been taken so seriously by the IOC that Thiam would have been damaged by it, the judge said.

The woman's lawyer, Stephan Reinhardt, told the court that his client had not been able to take holiday or time off while she worked for Thiam. He said

she had suffered a nervous breakdown and been admitted to hospital in December 2018 after a row over a broken boiler. She suffered a "deep depression" and post-traumatic stress disorder, the lawyer told the court.

After her time in hospital, when the housekeeper asked Thiam to comply with contractual working conditions, she was dismissed, the court was told.

Reinhardt said the housekeeper took her case to a civil court and won. Thian was ordered to pay several "hundred thousand francs" in a ruling that came into force in December 2023, but had yet to pay it. Thiam, who ran Prudential in Britain before joining Credit Suisse, is at the Olympics in Paris and did not attend the court. He is reported to be planning to appeal against the verdict.

#### Business

#### Need to know

The London Stock Exchange faces a further setback after the City's top inter-dealer broker revealed it was considering listing its data business in the US. A float in New York of Parameta Solutions, owned by TP Icap, could value the data group at more than \$1 billion. Page 29

Wage growth eased last month and demand for workers steadied, clearing a path for interest rate cuts by the Bank of England. According to research by KPMG and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, the pace of salary growth for permanent and parttime staff receded in July. Page 29

Tidjane Thiam, the former chief executive of Prudential and Credit Suisse, has lost a criminal case against a housekeeper he accused of blackmail for threatening to make public allegedly abusive working conditions in his luxury villa in Switzerland. Page 29

Glencore has abandoned a proposal to spin off its coal division after almost two thirds of shareholders supported retaining ownership. The mining group said 63 per cent of investors backed keeping the fossil fuels assets to fund expansion.

The water regulator is to appoint an independent monitor to supervise Thames Water's turnaround and its efforts to raise new funds. The troubled water supplier's credit rating was downgraded by Moody's and S&P last month, putting it in breach of its operating licence.

House prices in Britain grew at the fastest pace since January last month after three months of stagnation, and are expected to continue climbing. The average price of a house in the UK increased by 0.8 per cent in July to £291,268 compared with £289,042 in June, according to the latest data from Halifax. Page 32

Competition and strained supply chains led Novo Nordisk to trim its full-year forecast for the first time since its weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic became a global phenomenon. The shares fell after 25 per cent growth in year-on-year sales in the quarter to \$7.8 billion fell short of expectations. Page 34

Record takings for Inside Out 2 boosted Walt Disney's third-quarter earnings, but the company warned slowing demand at its US theme parks could continue into next year. The sequel to the 2015 smash hit made \$1.6 billion in ticket sales. Page 34

The boss of Britain's biggest fund manager said there was a growing desire to invest in the UK. António Simões, chief executive of Legal & General said recent talks he held with investors suggested there was "pent-up demand" to back Britain. Page 36

Hiscox, one of the biggest insurers in the Lloyd's of London market is bracing for a \$28 million hit from the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, killing six people and causing chaos at one of the busiest US ports. Page 36

#### Puma falls short of the mark in a sporting summer

combination of currency fluctuations, higher freight costs and muted consumer sentiment has forced Puma to lower its annual profit forecast (Jessica Newman writes).

The German sportswear company said operating profit this year was expected to be between €620 million and €670 million, down from a range of €620 million and €700 million previously forecast. Shares in the company dropped €4.48, or 10.8 per cent, at €36.96 in Frankfurt last night, a

near-seven year low.
In 2023 the company delivered operating profits of €621 million. Its shares have fallen more than two fifths since this time last

Puma, which this year launched its first global brand campaign in a decade in an effort to capitalise on the big sporting events of the summer, has been grappling with weaker consumer demand and excess stocks at the retailers through which it

makes most of its sales.
Arne Freundt, who took
over as chief executive
from Bjorn Gulden, after
he left to take the lead at
Adidas, said the tough
trading environment was
characterised by
"increased currency
headwinds, stressed supply
chains and

macroeconomic and geopolitical challenges that were weighing on consumer sentiment". Puma, whose global ambassadors include the

pop star Rihanna, revised its profit guidance as it reported second quarter sales of €2.1 billion, marking a rise of 2.1 per cent and in line with what analysts had expected, as operating profits rose to €117.2 million.

Geographically, sales in the Americas, its largest market, rose 9 per cent, in Asia they edged up 1.9 per cent, and in Europe they fell short of consensus estimates, down 4.3 per cent.

Puma is not the first sporting retail giant to predict a gloomier outlook this year. In June, Nike rattled investors when it cut its full-year guidance



Puma, which has Rihanna, top right, as an ambassador, had hopes for the Olympics, featuring Yaroslava

# Glencore keeps coalmines after consulting investors

#### Helen Cahill

Glencore has abandoned a proposal to spin off its coal division after almost two thirds of its shareholders supported retaining ownership of the lucrative but heavily polluting business. The FTSE 100 mining group said that

63 per cent of its investors backed keeping the fossil fuels assets — rather than listing the division on the New York Stock Exchange — and deploying the cash generated to fund expansion into metals crucial for the green transition and to "accelerate and optimise the return of excess cash flows".

Gary Nagle, Glencore's chief executive, argued that the decision would be better for the planet than divesting the coal assets, because the London-listed miner could be trusted to minimise the impact of the operations on the environment.

Nagle said that "sense is starting to prevail" in the debate over environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues for mining companies, and that "some of the most left-leaning" nongovernmental organisations supported listed groups holding on to coal.

He added: "The general and over-

He added: "The general and overwhelming feedback was that spinning out the coal business was in fact ESGnegative and that keeping it in Glencore's hands, with its responsible operation practices and responsible rundown strategy for the thermal coal business, is far better than spinning it out. Who knows what the unintended

#### Burnt by declines in fossil fuel prices

Glencore's commitment to coal aided its shares on Wednesday despite the company missing its earnings estimates on the back of a sharp decline in prices for the fossil fuel.

The mining group's adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation came in lower than expected as they fell 33 per cent to \$6.3 billion in the six months to June 30.

The company was held back by a decline in thermal coal prices and it was unable to meet analysts' expectations for earnings before deductions of between \$6.8 billion and \$6.9 billion.

The prices on the Newcastle and AP14 thermal coal benchmarks were down by 36 per cent and 22 per cent respectively over the six-month period, compared with the same half year in 2023. Copper prices were up on average by 4 per cent, and zinc prices fell by 7 per cent.

The company delivered a 9 per cent increase in revenues, from \$107 billion to \$117 billion, and its decision to stick with coal helped its shares rise by 11p, or 2.8 per cent, to close at 404½p Analysts at RBC

Capital Markets said Glencore's shares were likely to rise this year as it is the only miner not exposed to iron ore at a time when prices for the metal are expected to lag other commodities such as copper and coal.

They said the company's share price would be driven by its "attractive valuation, commodity exposure and the potential for special distributions".

special distributions".
Jefferies said any
pressure on Glencore's
share price from its
exposure to coal could
be addressed by
moving its primary
listing to the US, where
coalminers command
higher valuations.

cash-generating capacity to fund opportunities in our transition metals portfolio, such as our copper growth project pipeline, as well as accelerate and optimise the return of excess cash

flows to shareholders".

Analysts at Jefferies said cash from Glencore's coal could also help fund acquisitions of additional assets, such as Anglo American's steelmaking coal business. Anglo is seeking to sell the division to help lift its shares after BHP's bid for the company earlier this year.

However, the analysts added: "A risk is that increased coal exposure could put further downward pressure on Glencore's equity valuation."

Glencore's equity valuation."
The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) has calculated that Glencore's acquisition of Elk Valley Resources (EVR) will increase its inventory of coal by over 30 per cent until its mines ston operating.

variety Resources (EVR) will increase its inventory of coal by over 30 per cent until its mines stop operating.

Naomi Hogan, company strategy lead at the ACCR, said: "With the EVR acquisition complete and the coal business to stay, Glencore's climate plan is now outdated.

"Glencore needs to move swiftly and give investors much-needed visibility on how it plans to manage its increased exposure to climate transition risk.

"With the announcement that the demerger is not going ahead, we expect Glencore to commit to an updated climate plan as a matter of priority. Investors need to understand the impact this coal acquisition has on Glencore's emissions reductions targets."

consequences of that spin-out decision are and what would happen if it is in new hands?"

Glencore has expanded its coal exposure over the past year by purchasing Elk Valley Resources, a steelmaking coal business, from the Canadian miner

Teck Resources for \$6.9 billion.
The FTSE 100 company had planned

to split off its coal division post-acquisition to focus on transition metals such as copper, which is used to manufacture electric vehicles, wind turbines and for other infrastructure projects required for a global shift to renewable energy.

Nagle said the new decision was taken "primarily on the basis that retention should enhance Glencore's



arter reporting weaker-thananticipated sales in the fourth quarter. Nike, the world's largest sportswear company, saw store traffic in

Greater China drop by "double digits" in the period as well as "uneven" trends in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Puma is based in the small town of Herzogenaurach, just north of Nuremberg where Adolf "Adi" Dassler and his brother Rudolf began making shoes in the 1920s. The pair fell out during the Second

World War and separated their business interests, going into direct competition. Adi, as his name suggests, founded Adidas. Rudoph founded Puma in 1948.

Nike's and Puma's troubles contrast with the performance of Adidas, which said last month that it expected to generate operating profits of around €1 billion as sales in its footwear division jumped 17 per cent in the second quarter. There was robust demand for its Samba trainers, a hit with the former prime minister Rishi Sunak.

## H2O pays €250m to trapped investors

#### Simon Freeman

An asset manager has agreed to pay out €250 million to investors who have been trapped since 2020 in illiquid funds linked to Lars Windhorst, the German financier.

The Financial Conduct Authority

The Financial Conduct Authority said H2O Asset Management, owned until 2022 by the French bank Natixis, had failed to carry out due diligence on investments connected to Windhorst's Tennor Group companies.

It found that H2O did not have

It found that H2O did not have adequate policies to manage potential conflicts of interest: employees at the fund received hospitality, including use of a superyacht and private jet, on more than 50 occasions between April 2015 and November 2019.

H2O also provided misleading documents to the regulator, including

fabricated records and minutes of meetings.

The regulator said it had agreed that H2O will make €250 million available to repay investors whose funds had been trapped in lieu of imposing what would have been a substantial fine for serious breaches. It said H2O had waived its rights to fees and investments totalling €320 million and would apply to cancel its UK authorisation by the end of the year.

Steve Smart, of the FCA's enforce-

Steve Smart, of the FCA's enforcement and market oversight division, said: "H2O's job was to manage its funds properly and protect investors. It failed to do this and, to make matters worse, it repeatedly provided misleading information to the FCA."

ing information to the FCA."
H2O, which was founded in 2010
with offices in Mayfair, once oversaw
assets of more than €30 billion, but suf-

fered an investor exodus in 2019 after the extent of its exposure to illiquid securities tied to Windhorst was revealed.

Windhorst, now 47, shot to prominence as a teenage entrepreneur in Germany, making millions importing computer parts from Asia. The dotcom crash of the early 2000s and the 2007-08 financial crisis felled two of his businesses, he filed for bankruptcy and in 2010 he was sentenced to a year on probation after admitting breach of trust.

He moved to London and set up an office in Savile Row, becoming one of the founding patrons of the Serpentine Galleries and taking ownership of La Perla, the lingerie and swimwear brand.

Loic Guilloux, chief executive of H2O, said: "Over the last few years, we have strengthened our risk management and compliance teams, governance and internal procedures."

#### Thames Water gets watchdog monitor

#### Martin Strydom

The water regulator is to appoint an independent monitor to supervise Thames Water's turnaround and its efforts to raise new funds.

The troubled water supplier's credit rating was downgraded by Moody's and S&P last month, putting it in breach of its operating licence.

David Black, Ofwat chief executive, said: "We are clear that 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"

credit rating."
A financial crisis has been mounting at Thames Water for two years as it struggles with debts of more than

£15 billion, made more difficult to bear by higher interest rates. Last month Chris Weston, the company's chief executive, said it only had enough money to continue trading until next May.

He is looking to secure a cash injection to keep the company afloat and has held talks with existing shareholders and outside investors.

The company's owners, led by the Canadian pension fund Omers and the UK Universities Superannuation Scheme, had pledged to inject up to £3.5 billion of new equity.

In March, however, the sharehold-

In March, however, the shareholders declared the company "uninvestable", saying that Ofwat was not prepared to approve the level of price increases the company needed over the next five years. They have since written down the value of their shareholdings to zero.

Besides agreeing to a monitor, Ofwat wants Thames to develop a "suitable" business plan, agree to "taking the steps required to deliver an equity raise" and appoint new non-executive directors to its board. Ofwat said: "We will continue to monitor progress very closely and will not hesitate to take any further action if necessary."

action if necessary."

Thames Water said: "We note that Ofwat is minded to accept the undertakings we have proposed, but understand the need for them to consult before doing so. We remain focused on working with Ofwat to secure an investable 2024 price review determination, which is key to attracting equity into the business."

## Musk is advertising his own failings

**BUSINESS COMMENTARY** Alistair Osborne

oday's puzzler for all struggling media executives. Does your business suffer from a lack of advertising? If so, could this be because: a) the proprietor is a loudmouth billionaire, with the emotional bandwidth of a petulant child? b) the product is going down the Swanee at a rate of knots, riddled with nefarious content and fake news? or c) your organisation is the victim of a global conspiracy?

Do take a period of self-reflection before responding — unless, of course, you're Elon Musk, in which case c) is the obvious answer and the only thing for it is to rush off to a Texan court with a 44-page lawsuit.

The Tesla boss is once again in "you couldn't make it up" territory — this time with his \$44 billion social media blow-up X, formerly known as Twitter. Or the vehicle he's been using this week to goad the PM, with Musk glibly posting "Civil war is inevitable" under a video of riots in Liverpool, linked to another post blaming them on "mass migration and open borders". Funnily enough, Musk has found

Funnily enough, Musk has found that advertisers don't seem keen on the site since he took charge in April 2022, an issue he reckons has cost him "billions of dollars". So the "free speech absolutist" wants a court to award him an "amount" in "damages" for them not spending money with him. How's that for a take on free speech? Anyway, he's suing the World Federation of Advertisers, plus some of its members: Mars, Unilever, CVS Health and windfarm group Orsted.

As he put it: "We tried peace for 2 years, now it is war" — itself an interesting line. His peace efforts included last year's appearance at the DealBook Summit in New York, where he told advertisers to: "Go. F\*\*\* Yourself". Or at least the ones who'd pulled their ads from X after he liked an antisemitic post, for which he later apologised. He also accused Disney, Apple and IBM of trying to "blackmail" him.

After those sorts of peace overtures, he's now gone legal. And the World Federation of Advertisers looks as good a target as any. Not only does it represent "90 per cent of global marketing communications spend" — roughly \$900 billion a year — but in 2019 it set up the "Global Alliance for Responsible Media" (Garm). Its purpose? To push for safeguards to ensure sites such as X remove harmful content, such as child sexual abuse or material promoting terrorism, so it cannot be placed next to its members' adverts.

In Musk's hands, this laudable goal has ludicrously — and shamelessly — morphed into something else: a giant conspiracy, with his claim that companies represented by Garm ganged up "to collectively withhold billions of dollars in advertising revenue" from his site. In short, he's alleging a breach of competition law.

For this, Musk is leaning on a recent inquiry into Garm by the judiciary committee of the Republican-controlled US House of Representatives, where Unilever's US president Herrish Patel told the lawmakers: "Unilever, and Unilever alone, controls our advertising spending." Still. Musk's case tells you

all you need to know: that instead of cleaning up X, he'd sooner promote conspiracy theories via a Texan court. Hence, too, maybe, why the X chief executive Linda Yaccarino is now spouting gibberish: "People are hurt when the marketplace of ideas is constricted. No small group of people should be able to monopolise what gets monetised." What baloney is that? Does she think people on X get their ideas from the adverts?

The real story is that Musk has blown his money on X, where Fidelity has written down its stake by 71.5 per cent, mainly due to his unhinged stewardship scaring off advertisers: the site's \$5 billion sales of 2021 are thought to have more than halved. You doubt his latest try-on will see them rushing back.

#### King coal's courtier

ake your mind up, Glencore
— and its shareholders. One
day coal is a filthy
commodity, polluting any Londonlisted company's ESG credentials,
and must be spun off assap in less
squeamish New York. The next? A
delightful mineral, with vast "cash
generating capacity", that can be
managed down responsibly over
time and is key to funding nice
green "opportunities" in the miner's
"transition metals noutfolio"

"transition metals portfolio".
Predictably, Glencore has opted to hang on to its coal assets, bulked up last year via the \$7 billion deal to buy most of the Elk Valley wing of Canada's Teck Resources. And chairman Kalidas Madhavpeddi and chief executive Gary Nagle do have a case for their reverse-ferret, with investors backing it and the shares rising 3 per cent to 404½p.

Elk's coal was the more investorfriendly coking sort, used in steelmaking. And even if spinning off coal and getting a higher stock market rating for what's left looked good on a spreadsheet, the only guarantee was at least \$1 billion of demerger costs. Nagle could not know that a portfolio focused on the likes of copper, nickel and zinc really would attract a higher valuation. Since November, Nagle's spotted a

Since November, Nagles spotted a change of mood among investors, with the recognition that the energy transition is a longer game than ESG box-ticking: similar thinking behind them supporting Shell's pivot back to oil and gas. Even so, there may be another reason for Glencore keeping coal: in a consolidating mining sector it's still a useful poison pill against takeover.

#### Buy back better

t last, an investment from Masayoshi Son that actually sent SoftBank's shares up 5 per cent. The investment outfit's boss, whose past exploits include WeWork, THG and Greensill Capital, is putting \$3.4 billion into a new venture known as a Share Buyback. Given the stock, down a third in a month, has a market cap \$100 billion less than Softbank's pro-forma \$170 billion net asset value, it may prove his best bet yet.

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

#### Business

# House prices on the up as rate cut momentum builds

#### Tom Howard

House prices in Britain grew at the fastest pace since January last month after three months of stagnation, and are expected to continue climbing now that the Bank of England has started to cut interest rates.

The average price of a house in the UK increased by 0.8 per cent in July to £291,268 compared with £289,042 in June, according to the latest data from Halifax, the high street lender. Economists had expected prices to rise by only 0.3 per cent last month.

Compared with this time last year, house prices are 2.3 per cent higher. That is the highest rate of annual inflation that Halifax has recorded since the start of 2024.

Optimism about the housing market has been bolstered by an improvement in the outlook for the economy and the Bank of England's first interest cut in four years to 5 per cent from a 16-year high of 5.25 per cent. Adding to positive sentiment has been Labour's commitment to building 1.5 million new homes over the next year and its pledge to reform Britain's planning system.

Halifax's measure of house prices is generally more sensitive to changes in interest rates than Nationwide's, which suggested that prices increased by 0.3 per cent in July.

0.3 per cent in July.
House prices are still rising fastest in Northern Ireland, where property values are, on average, 5.8 per cent higher than they were a year ago. In the northwest of England, prices have risen 4.1 per cent over the past year, while in Wales the annual rate of inflation is at 3.4 per cent

3.4 per cent.

Halifax's data shows that the only region in the UK where house prices are lower now than they were last summer is eastern England, which includes popular commuter counties such as Essex and Hertfordshire. In that region, house prices have slipped 0.4 per cent over the past year.

0.4 per cent over the past year.
London remains the most expensive part of the country to own a home, with the average house price in the capital at £536,052, a year-on-year increase of 1.2 per cent.

The market went into a downturn until the end of last year, when it started to recover as lenders cut mortgage rates in anticipation of base rate cuts by the Bank. That recovery slowed over the spring as lenders increased mortgage



costs when expectations about when rates would be cut were pushed back.

Amanda Bryden, head of mortgages at Halifax, acknowledged that "affordability constraints" remain, especially for first-time buyers, but added: "Last week's Bank of England's base rate cut, which follows recent reductions in mortgage rates, is encouraging for those looking to remortgage, purchase a first home or move along the housing ladder."

Last week, Nationwide predicted

that house prices would barely move between now and the end of this year, but Bryden and her team expect "house prices to continue a modest upward trend" over the coming months.

Ashley Webb, UK economist at Capital Economics, had thought prices would rise 1 per cent across 2024 but conceded that there was now "upside risk" to his forecast given that fears of a US recession have led to swap rates — which mortgage prices are based on — falling in recent weeks. "If sustained,

the recent sharp fall in the two-year interest swap rate suggests that those lenders that haven't yet reduced their mortgage rates will be able to cut them too," Webb said.

"While we think the Bank of England

"While we think the Bank of England will hold off until November before cutting interest rates again, the risks are now skewed to the next rate cut happening a bit sooner than we anticipate. That may mean house price growth accelerates quicker than we expect over the rest of this year."

#### Estate agents' mood lifted by Labour housing plan

#### Tom Howard

Estate agents are more optimistic about the housing market than at any time since before the pandemic.

The majority of agents expect to sell more houses over the next three months than they are currently, according to the latest poll from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

In total, a net 30 per cent of those polled expected sales to rise over the summer and into autumn. That was up from a net 22 per cent in July and marks the most optimistic reading for neartern sales that the RICS has recorded since January 2020.

"The new government's focus on bettien by with a tradeprent slear."

"The new government's focus on boosting housing development, alongside the recent quarter point base rate cut, does appear to have shifted the mood music in the sales market, with projections for both near and medium-term activity picking up," Simon Rubinsohn, chief economist at the RICS, said.

Mortgage rates have started to retreat again in recent weeks and with the Bank of England having made its first cut to interest rates and more anticipated, the cost of home loans is expected to ease further.

Most estate agents reported another fall in house prices last month, with only those in Scotland and Northern Ireland, once again, saying otherwise. However, a net 9 per cent expected prices to rise over the coming three months, the most since April 2022.

By this time next year, the yast major-

By this time next year, the vast majority — a net 46 per cent of respondents thought prices would be higher than they are now. Agents in Northern Ireland, the East Midlands and London were particularly bullish.

Economists expect that prices will be propped up by the enduring shortage of homes on the market and estate agents are still not seeing many homes being put up for sale.

For the first time in four months,

For the first time in four months, more estate agents than not reported an increase in new buyer inquiries, but the RICS said the slim majority was "still only signalling a broadly stable trend in demand at present, rather than a genuine upturn".

Sales remained muted last month, with a net 2 per cent of those polled selling fewer homes in July than they did in June, although that was a smaller proportion than in the previous couple of months.

## Traffic lights for pensions to aid savers

#### Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Regulators are pushing ahead with reforms which they say will help millions of savers to get better value from their pension schemes, including a new scoring system to identify the best and worst performing plans.

It would shift the emphasis from low-

It would shift the emphasis from lowest cost to highest value for money, potentially enabling schemes to invest in higher-returning illiquid assets such as private equity and infrastructure. A consultation plan was announced

A consultation plan was announced yesterday by the Financial Conduct Authority as a report from right-leaning think tank Policy Exchange claimed a more adventurous, less fee-focused approach could boost the average £100,000 pension pot by £12,000.

The FCA proposals would apply to defined contribution workplace pen-

sion schemes run by employers or by outside insurance companies similar to plans for so-called master trusts under the auspices of the Pensions Regulator.

Under the traffic light system, each scheme's independent oversight committee would score it green, amber or red, with the aim of pressing badly run schemes into better performance or encouraging members to transfer out.

Value-for-money scores would take into account performance and service levels including the quality of administration and communications. In theory, pension savers would seeing how their scheme ranked in league tables.

The measures of performance would be standardised to ensure comparability. "Employers and their advisers will be able to compare value, not just cost, and switch if better value for savers is available elsewhere." the FCA said. Emma Reynolds, the pensions minister, said: "Last year, over £130 billion was saved into workplace pension schemes, money which we want to see working hard for future pensioners to give them better retirement incomes."

Tom McPhail, a pensions expert at the Lang Cat consultancy, welcomed the proposals but warned: "The adoption of the traffic light system may be seen as overly simplistic for what are a complex array of scheme metrics."

Policy Exchange said Australian-style pension schemes, with more emphasis put on outcomes than minimising costs, had produced annual returns 0.7 per cent higher than UK ones.

However, there are concerns that the strong returns produced by private equity and infrastructure in the past, thanks to unprecedentedly low interest rates, cannot be expected to continue.

## Slower salary growth may send rate signal to Bank

#### Continued from page 29

for National Statistics. Low response rates to the ONS's labour force survey have sparked concerns over its validity.

Analysts expect the economy to pick up momentum as the year progresses, which could prompt firms to increase recruitment to meet higher demand. The Bank of England this month raised its GDP growth forecast for 2024 to 1.25 per cent from 0.5 per cent.

In annual revisions to legacy GDP data, the ONS upgraded its estimates for how quickly the UK economy recovered from the Covid-19 crisis.

The statistics body said that the economy expanded by 4.8 per cent in 2022 from an initial estimate of 4.3 per cent. It also said that the GDP contraction in

2020, the year most affected by the pandemic, was shallower than first feared at a revised 10.3 per cent.

By the final three months of 2022, the economy was 2.1 per cent larger compared with its pre-Covid size, up from the ONS's first calculation of 1.9 per cent. For some time, the UK was thought to have had the slowest rebound from the pandemic in the G7, but previous upgrades to the ONS's data showed that the recovery was around the average in the group.

around the average in the group.

Jon Holt, chief executive of KPMG in the UK, said: "With forecasts for economic growth improving and potential further interest rate cuts over the coming months, there are green shoots of economic recovery."

#### **Business**

## **Patrick Hosking**

Forget the US jobs data — Tokyo's rate rise began the global sell-off

have stopped falling from the ceiling, for now at least. Relative calm seems to have been restored after a turbulent few days for global markets. Talk of routs, crashes and turmoil

already starts to look a bit overdone. But is the narrative about what triggered this sell-off correct? Most of the commentary has focused on the US and the jobs figures released in Washington on Friday. These, it has been widely claimed, sparked fears of a US recession, which then spooked markets around the world.

It's an interpretation that the world's securities traders and investment bankers would rather like to be true. The more pressure they can put on the US Federal Reserve to loosen policy as far and as quickly as

possible, the happier they will be. Not enough focus has been on what happened in Tokyo two days earlier. This was when the Bank of Japan lifted its base interest rate from a range of 0-0.1 per cent to 0.25 per cent. This merited little more than a small story in the financial pages at the time. Japan may still be the fourth biggest economy in the world but it does not get the attention it once did. It's increasingly regarded as a sleepy curiosity and a policy outlier, a nation whose weird demographics and deflationary pressures set it apart from the rest of the world.

But that rate rise was remarkable. First, it was only the second tightening of policy in 17 years. Second, it was a surprise: just a third of analysts had predicted it. Third, it was accompanied by eye-catching remarks from the central bank's governor, Kazuo Ueda, that he wanted to push up rates still further in future. The yen soared, of course. It had already been on a tear in the previous few days and Ueda's comments gave it fresh wings. In the space of three weeks to Monday it ended up strengthening from 161 yen to the dollar to 145 yen.

That had two big effects. It suddenly made prospects for Japan's big exporters less promising, but more immediately it triggered a crisis for hedge funds and other investors who for years have been able to borrow yen super-cheaply to invest in higher-yielding assets both domestically and in the rest of the world — a gambit known as the carry trade.



Japan is still the world's No 4 economy but does not get the attention it once did

Higher borrowing costs and that resurgent yen seem to have sparked a scramble to unwind those trades, with investors forced both to unload assets whatever the price and then convert the proceeds back to yen, again whatever the price. Margin calls on what were in effect leveraged bets then amplified the stampede.

"You can't unwind the biggest carry trade the world has ever seen without breaking a few heads," was the verdict of Kit Juckes, chief currency strategist at Société Générale.

This, therefore, was a Japan-centred sell-off, not a US-focused one, though the US data may certainly have exacerbated things. Over the space of two trading days, on Friday and Monday, the Nikkei 225 index was down by a thumping 17.5 per cent. The more broadly based Topix slumped by 17.8 per cent.

Those were far bigger dives than in the US, where the S&P 500 dropped by a relatively modest 4.8 per cent

over the same two trading days. Or the UK, where the FTSE 100 was

down by a mere 3.3 per cent.

Those US employment numbers were downbeat, with only a net 114,000 new jobs created. That was lower than the typical run rate of 180,000 a month for the past ten years, but it was still net employment creation and it was only one month's numbers. US growth has if anything been picking up, from an annualised 1.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2024 to 2.8 per cent in the second quarter.

The warnings expressed about a possible recession therefore seem very exaggerated, though a modest slowdown is likely. Expansionary fiscal policy in the US should keep the economy moving, even if it may slow from a canter to a trot.

Some of the more excitable investors, however, have seized on the figure to insist that the Fed must move quickly to cut rates, some talking about a larger than expected

half-point cut next month or even an emergency reduction outside the normal meeting timetable.

It's a new version of the so-called tapering tantrums of ten years ago, the name given to the tendency for Wall Street to have a fit of vapours whenever the Fed suggested it might start to reduce or "taper" the size of the gigantic monetary injections into the system.

Perhaps this version is more of a sulk than a tantrum. Traders and economists have been predicting a loosening of US monetary policy for months, but the Fed has not budged. That's not unreasonable, given that US inflation is still above target while unemployment remains low.

The Bank of Japan has already moved to placate the Japanese markets. Its deputy governor Shinichi Uchida declared yesterday that it would not raise its policy rate any more while markets remained unstable. The Nikkei has recovered by 11.6 per cent from its Monday nadir.

It is not the job of central bankers to protect share traders from nasty losses. The Fed must not let itself be "bullied" by the markets, Mohamed El-Erian, the former Pimco boss, has rightly said.

It is their job, however, to investigate and mitigate sources of financial instability. The yen carry trade seems to have been just that though no one has much idea how widespread it has been or how much has already been unwound in the past few days. The Bank of England in its lew days. The bank of England in Its latest financial stability report didn't mention it at all, though it did warn vaguely about "further signs of hedge fund leverage". It's the inevitable curse of policymakers to be wrongfooted by the risks they don't

spot rather than those they do. One other point: Japan is still the world's second biggest share market after the US, accounting for 5.9 per cent of the MSCI World Index. The UK weighting is 3.8 per cent. For anyone with a low-cost passively managed pension pot (which is most of us), what happens to Japanese shares may well be more

important than what happens to

Patrick Hosking is Financial Editor of The Times

#### EY fined for breaching fee cap on **Evraz** audit

EY has become the first of the Big Four accounting firms to be fined for breaching the cap on fees it can earn from providing consulting services to an audit client.

The Financial Reporting Council found that EY carried out twice as much consulting work than it was allowed to for Evraz, the Russian steel-maker backed by Roman Abramovich.

The watchdog imposed a fine of £320,000 and ordered EY to pay £45,000 in costs, although the firm will only pay £251,305 in total after owning up to the error. It is the first time that a firm has been punished for breaching the fee cap since the FRC toughened its ethical standards almost a decade ago.

"In this instance, EY's systems and controls failed to ensure compliance with the ethical standard, which led to the fee cap being breached," Claudia Mortimore, the FRC's deputy executive counsel, said.

In addition to the fine, EY has been formally reprimanded and must report to the FRC how the breach was allowed to happen and what it is doing to prevent any recurrence.

Under rules introduced in 2016, a company's auditor can only provide non-audit services — tax advice, legal help or mergers and acquisitions work, for example — worth up to 70 per cent of the average audit fee over the past three years.

Evraz had paid EY, on average, \$400,462 for signing off its accounts between 2019 and 2021, meaning that, at most, EY should have only provided non-audit services worth \$280,323 to Evraz in 2021. However, during that year EY booked \$535,000 of fees from

Evraz for non-audit work.

Most of those fees related to Evraz's proposed disposal of its coal assets,

which it brought in EY to advise on.
The firm only realised it had exceeded the fee cap when Evraz asked for help with another project, prompting the audit team to reassess how close the

firm was to the cap.
It asked the FRC for a waiver, but that was declined.

"We identified a breach of the nonaudit services fee cap in relation to our 2021 audit of Evraz plc, which we self-reported to the FRC, and have fully cooperated throughout the investi-gation," an EY spokesman said. "We are committed to learning from this matter and have since enhanced our internal guidance, training and procedures.

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#### Business



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## Novo Nordisk falls short of target for weight-loss drug

#### Jessica Sharkey

Growing competition and strained supply chains have led Novo Nordisk to trim its full-year forecast for the first time since its weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic became a global phenomenon.

Shares in the Danish company fell by as much as 8 per cent on Wednesday, as 25 per cent growth in year-on-year sales in the second quarter to \$7.8 billion fell short of market expectations.

The results ended a prolonged streak of positive earnings news from Novo, whose position as the first mover in the fast-growing obesity market has seen its value surge to more than \$500 billion, making it Europe's most valuable listed company.

Endorsements from celebrities including Oprah Winfrey, Rebel Wilson and Elon Musk have enhanced the profile of semaglutide, the active ingredient in the drug, which acts by mimicking a hormone, GLP-1, to surpress appetite.

The soft second-quarter results are "in sharp contrast to the massive sales and earnings beats we have seen last said Markus Manns, a portfolio manager at Union Investment, a Novo shareholder based in Germany.

Increased com-petition from rivals such as Eli Lilly, now the world's biggest healthcare company by value, has also caused investors to question the longevity of Novo's dominance in the market. Lilly launched Zepbound, a weight-loss medi-cine, in the US last December.

Fruergaard



Novo's chief executive, played down the concerns over com-petition, saying: "I don't see the competitive dynamics, at least for the foreseeable future, really having a big impact on how we drive sales.

He conceded, however, that continued supply constraints have had an impact. Novo is restricting supply of the starter dose of Wegovy in the US to ensure that patients who begin

treatment can continue. Operating profit in the quarter rose 8 per cent to \$3.79 billion, below the \$4 billion forecast by analysts. Novo now expects operating profit growth this year to be between 20 per cent

Oprah Winfrey is among the celebrities to have endorsed semaglutide

and 28 per cent, down from a previous

ease trial in June, which resulted in an impairment loss of \$800 million, fur-

Despite the miss on quarterly sales, Novo raised its sales growth outlook for the full year to between 22 per cent and 28 per cent in local currencies, from the previous forecast of 19 per cent to 27 per cent. Jorgensen said that the upgrade showed Novo was comfortable in its ability to further ramp up supply, with-

Guilter Cheviot, said the company had a "messy quarter" compared with some of its main competitors. "Expectations for Novo Nordisk are high," she said. "The obesity story has dominated the narrative in healthcare since the end of the Covid boom and Novo Nordisk and

"Novo also trades at such a significant premium to peers that it can't afford messy quarters. But the growth outlook remains impressive, and some

numbers today. Its diabetes treatment Mounjaro was approved for use treating obesity in England at the beginning of this month. In May Roche, the Swiss drugmaker, released positive results

Novo Nordisk shares pared some of their losses in yesterday's session to close down 6.24 per cent at DKr830.3.

target range of 22 per cent to 30 per cent. Sales of Wegovy, Novo's first-to-mar-ket weight-loss drug, rose 53 per cent to

\$1.7 billion in the April-to-June quarter, compared with \$2 billion expected by analysts. Ozempic, which is available on the NHS for people with type 2 diabetes, also missed expectations. Novo ended an advanced kidney dis-

ther weighing on operating profit.

out giving details. Sheena Berry, a healthcare analyst at

Eli Lilly have been the big winners.

of the supply constraints will continue to subside."

Eli Lilly is due to release its quarterly after early-stage trials of its once-daily obesity pill CT-388.



#### Rollercoaster for Disney as parks blight film success

ecord takings for *Inside* Out 2 boosted Walt Disney's third-quarter earnings, but the company warned slowing consumer demand at its

## Portraits at the Palace

This week, a special episode from an iconic royal landmark, Buckingham Palace. Roya and Kate are given their own private tour of the King's Gallery, home to more than 150 Royal photographic portraits. Our hosts look back at works spanning six decades by photographers including Cecil Beaton and Annie Leibovitz.

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T AUDIO

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#### **Business**



US theme parks could continue into next year (Louisa Clarence-Smith writes).

The animated sequel to the 2015 smash hit made \$1.6 billion in global ticket sales helping drive a resurgence in the movie studio. The entertainment company also reported its first ever profit in its streaming division, which includes Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+. However, the results were overshadowed by Disney's prediction of a "moderation of demand" at its theme parks.

of demand" at its theme parks. In the US, Disney's theme parks missed Wall Street sales and profit estimates. The Olympics have affected sales at Disneyland Paris, while there has been some "cyclical softening" in China, the company said.

Disney's shares were \$1.97, or 2.2 per cent, lower at \$87.97 at midday in New York.
"We expect to see a flattish

"We expect to see a flattish revenue number in the fourth quarter coming out of the parks," Hugh Johnston, chief financial officer, said. "It's really just a few quarters. I don't think I would refer to it as protracted."

The comments come after Airbnb, the accommodation rental service, warned on Tuesday of slowing demand from American guests, as consumers come under pressure from rising costs. "Coupled with other travel companies recognising poor growth, it is clear people are scaling back their spend when it comes to tourism and recreation," Ben Barringer, technology and media analyst at Quilter Cheviot, said.

Revenue for the reported quarter rose 3.7 per cent to \$23.2 billion. Disney reported net income of \$2.8 billion, compared with a \$153 million loss in the same period last year.

Bob Iger, Disney's chief executive, who returned to lead the company in 2022, told investors the streaming business was bolstered by the

Inside Out 2 earned Disney \$1.6 billion but the company's theme parks are suffering as consumer demand slows

creative success of its entertainment division. Disney's television group collected 183 Emmy nominations. The box office success of films such as *Inside Out* 2 also drove a surge in viewing of the first film on Disney+.

"We're seeing growth in consumption, on top of the popularity of our offering," Iger said. "Which gives us the pricing leverage that we believe we have. So every time we've taken a price increase, we've got a modest turn from that."

#### Sony raises guidance as year gets off to a flyer

#### Jessica Newman

The Japanese owner of Playstation 5 raised its earnings guidance yesterday after reporting a forecast-beating set of first-quarter results.

first-quarter results. Sony, which has interests ranging from a film studio and music to a recent push into electric cars, generated a better than expected 279.1 billion yen (£1.5 billion) in operating income for the three months to the end of June, up 10.3 per cent on the same quarter a year earlier. Revenues came in at just over 3 trillion yen.

The impact from foreign exchange and higher sales helped lift operating profits at its image sensor business, one of its main divisions and a big supplier for smartphone makers, which nearly tripled to 36.6 billion yen.

Its gaming business earned revenues of 864.9 billion yen in the quarter, a 12 per cent rise year-on-year, as higher software sales offset weaker demand for its Playstation 5 consoles. Sony sold 2.4 million of its popular games consoles in the quarter, some way off the 3 million analysts had expected.

Profits at its music division grew 17 per cent to 85.9 billion yen during the period, offsetting a near 30 per cent drop in profits to 11.3 billion yen at its pictures business. Despite a weakness in the latter, Sony believes its overall full-year sales will now hit 12.6 trillion yen, while operating profit is anticipated to reach 1.3 trillion yen.

Financial markets have been rattled

Financial markets have been rattled in recent days after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates for only the second time in 17 years and weak US labour data stellar receiption feats.

raised interest rates for only the second time in 17 years and weak US labour data stoked recession fears.

Hiroki Totoki, president of Sony, said: "We are extremely concerned about the sudden fluctuations in exchange rates and possibility of economic downturn, particularly in the United States."

The rise in the yen has left investors reassessing the outlook for Japanese multinationals as the weak currency has provided a cushion for many heavyweight exporters

heavyweight exporters.
Shares in Sony were broadly flat in Tokyo, closing at 12,305 yen.

### SoftBank announces \$3.4bn buyback

Louisa Clarence-Smith US Business Editor

SoftBank has announced a \$3.4 billion share buyback after the stock fell sharply amid a sell-off in Japanese and technology stocks.

The Japanese technology investor's shares have fallen by almost a third in the past month as fears mount over the high valuations attributed to companies investing in artificial intelligence.

The slump left Softbank with a market capitalisation of \$73.1 billion, far lower than the company's estimated \$170 billion net asset value. The discrepancy meant the company's shares were trading at a discount of around 60 per cent to the value of its holdings. The company vesterday unveiled a

The company yesterday unveiled a plan to buy back up to 6.8 per cent of shares over the next 12 months. The announcement came after calls for a buyback from Elliott Management, the aggressive activist investor, which is reported to have rebuilt a position in SoftBank worth more than \$2 billion.

Yoshimitsu Goto, Softbank's chief

financial officer, said: "It's certainly possible that we may decide on another share buyback programme at some point in the future.

"Shareholder return is always a main theme of discussion among the board of directors."

He insisted that external pressure did not play a part in the buyback, adding: "SoftBank is not the kind of company to make decisions based on the influence of an individual party."

SoftBank is rebuilding its finances after investments in loss-making companies, including a huge bet on WeWork that turned sour when the office landlord filed for bankruptcy.

It is now betting on the transformative role of artificial intelligence technology, with major stakes in businesses including Arm Holdings, the Cambridge-headquartered chip designer. News of the buyback accompanied

News of the buyback accompanied results that saw SoftBank report a surprise net loss for the three months to the end of June.

The first-quarter loss of 174.3 billion yen (\$1.18 billion) was roughly a third of

the loss logged in the same period a year earlier, but was far worse than consensus estimates for a profit of 104.7 billion yen. The figures are based on reported net income attributable to shareholders and reflected a hit from higher taxes.

On a separate measure, net income, it swung to a modest profit of 10.5 billion yen for the period.

Its Vision Fund investment unit booked an investment gain of 1.9 billion yen after an investment loss of 58 billion yen in the previous quarter. Goto said SoftBank is investing with

Goto said SoftBank is investing with the advent of what it called an age of artificial superintelligence in mind.

Recent acquisitions include Graphcore, a British artificial intelligence chipmaker, for an undisclosed sum. "The evaluation of new technology undergoes cycles of hype and correction, ultimately being assessed based on its actual performance," the company said.

SoftBank's shares climbed \$2.45, or 9.9 per cent, to \$27.16 yesterday morning in New York.

## WPP blames pressure in China for lower forecast

#### Jessica Newman

Weak trading in China, and an uncertain macroeconomic environment, has forced the world's largest advertising company to lower its sales forecasts.

WPP reported a 0.5 per cent fall in like-for-like revenues less pass-through costs — an industry metric that strips out some client charges — to £2.9 billion for the three months to June. That, on top of a disappointing performance in the previous quarter, resulted in revenues slipping 1 per cent to £5.6 billion in the first half of its financial year. Pre-tax profits for the period rose to £338 million, against £204 million a year earlier, due to lower costs.

Mark Read, chief executive, pointed to a "sequential improvement in net sales" in the second quarter, and a return to growth in North America during the period. But he flagged "pressure in China and in our project-related businesses, which, along with an uncer-

tain macro environment, has led us to moderate full-year expectations".

Despite a stronger second quarter, overall revenues in North America, WPP's largest market, dipped 1.6 per cent in the first half, reflecting lower sales to technology clients and in the retail and healthcare sectors.

retail and healthcare sectors.
Sales in China slipped 20 per cent in the first half, driven by client assignment losses, while its UK business was also under pressure with sales dropping 2.6 per cent, against a strong comparative and delays in project-based spending at some of its agencies.

Because of the challenging first half, WPP now expects revenue growth to be between 1 per cent lower and flat, rather than its previous forecast of up to 1 per cent growth. Its shares fell 19p, or 2.7 per cent, to close at 697%p.

WPP also confirmed it is selling a controlling stake in financial communications agency FGS to KKR, the US private equity house, for \$775 million.

## L&G boss says riots won't put overseas investors off the UK

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The boss of Britain's biggest fund manager said there was a growing desire to invest in the UK that would not diminish amid the unrest across the country.

António Simões, chief executive of Legal & General, which has £1.1 trillion of assets under management, said that talks he had held with investors in recent weeks suggested there was

'pent-up demand" to back Britain. He has hosted more than 85 of these meetings in the UK, US and Asia since setting out his strategy for L&G on June 12.

"I think investors are quite keen to invest in the UK," Simões said, adding that they were attracted by the "funda-mentals of the UK economy", including low unemployment and inflation now back at the 2 per cent target rate.

Asked whether the riots that have

over the past week could deter overseas investors, he said: "Most investors invest on the basis of the fundamentals of the economy, so I don't see a correlation there."

The disorder has created a difficult backdrop for Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, who is visiting New York and Toronto this week to hold talks with big investors, including Canada's giant

pension funds, to encourage investment in Britain

Reeves and the Labour government have made kickstarting economic growth central to their plans for Britain and are pursuing measures to bolster gross domestic product, including an overhaul of planning regulations and boosting domestic investment by UK pension funds.

The government's mission should benefit L&G, according to Simões, who was speaking as the group reported first-half results. He said that "everything we've seen" from the new government was encouraging and was "very aligned with our own strategy".

L&G is a financial services giant with businesses ranging from life insurance and pensions to housebuilding, as well as an asset management division that is the biggest in the UK and one of the largest in Europe. But its share price has moved sideways in recent years and Simões, a former banker who replaced Sir Nigel Wilson, L&G's previous longserving boss, at the start of the year, is under pressure to turbocharge the group's performance.

He outlined his strategy two months

ago when he set out plans to simplify the sprawling group, offload non-core assets such as Cala, the housebuilder, and return £200 million to sharehold-

ers through a share buyback. L&G further boosted cash returns to investors on Wednesday by increasing its interim dividend by 5 per cent to 6p a share. A 1 per cent rise in core operating profits to £849 million in the six months to the end of June also beat analyst expectations for £834 million, and Simões said the business was working

"We've shown good momentum in a short period," he said. Analysts at JP Morgan, the investment bank, said the insurer's results were "strong". Shares in the group closed up 2¾p, or 1.3 per

cent, at 219½p yesterday.

Part of Simões's overhaul includes merging Legal & General Investment Management, its underperforming asset management arm, with L&G Capital, which focuses on infrastructure and private assets. Assets under management at the newly created division slipped by 3 per cent to £11 trillion



**Hiscox faces \$28m hit** from bridge collapse

THE TIMES

#### **Business** briefing

Stock markets remain jittery amid a global share sell-off that wiped trillions of the value of share prices around the world and fears that the US is on the edge of a recession.

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THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

# **Business**



ne of the biggest insurers in the Lloyd's of London market is bracing for a \$28 million hit from the collapse of a bridge in Baltimore earlier this year.

Hiscox is one of a string of insurers that are expected to pay out on claims for the disaster, which occurred in March when a cargo ship collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge, killing six people and causing chaos at one of the busiest ports in the United States.

United States.
Aki Hussain, Hiscox chief executive, said the estimated impact on the FTSE 250 company was based on a forecast for a

\$2 billion loss to the wider industry. This would rank as the biggest marine insurance loss, surpassing the \$1.5 billion paid out when the Costa Concordia cruise ship was wrecked off the Italian coast in 2012.

The bulk of the Baltimore loss has been recognised at Hiscox's London market business, which operates at

Lloyd's, the world's biggest insurance market, while the remainder has been booked at the company's reinsurance arm, the company said in its first-half results yesterday.

While based in Bermuda, Hiscox is one of the biggest names in the UK's insurance industry. It has one of the oldest businesses in the A cargo ship collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in March, killing six people. The fallout is expected to cost the insurance industry \$2 billion

Lloyd's market, covering big-ticket risks such as cyberattacks and natural disasters, as well as its reinsurance and insurancelinked securities division and its retail operations, which provide policies including motor, home and travel cover.

The Baltimore disaster is one of a series of big claim events faced by insurers this year, with the industry also counting the cost of the fallout from Hurricane Beryl and the global IT failure that caused widespread disruption to businesses last month.

businesses last month.
However, Hussain said
that the impact of the IT
meltdown was "immaterial
to Hiscox". This is partly
because the group's core
retail cyber policies do not
cover non-malicious IT
failures and, although it
does cover these types of
occurrences at its London
market business, the
thresholds at which these
policies start to kick in are
high. The worst of the
disruption also occurred in
the Asia Pacific region,
where Hiscox has minimal
exposure.

exposure.
Hiscox's combined ratio fell from 83.2 per cent a year earlier to 86.9 per cent, which analysts at Citigroup attributed to non-natural catastrophe losses such as Baltimore. The ratio is a measure of underwriting performance, with a figure below 100 per cent indicating a profit.

Pre-tax profits at the group fell short of City forecasts, despite rising by 7.1 per cent to \$283.5 million.

Shares in the company fell by 2lp, or 3.38 per cent, to £11.48 yesterday. The stock surged last month amid market speculation that Hiscox had attracted takeover interest. Hussain declined to comment on the rumours yesterday.

# Quilter on the up as net inflows hit £1.7bn

# Helen Cahill

Quilter has reported a record half-year profit after the wealth manager attracted net inflows of £1.7 billion.

Total assets under management were up 7 per cent to £113.8 billion from £106.7 billion over the six-month period to the end of June, and core net inflows jumped 164 per cent to £1.7 billion.

Adjusted profit before tax was up 28 per cent to £97 million, with operating margins widening year-on-year from 24 per cent to 29 per cent. Its shares rose 6p, or 4.6 per cent, to close at 133½p.

Quilter is a FTSE 250 provider of financial advice and investment and wealth management services for high net worth individuals. The group is reviewing what it charges customers after it was revealed to be among a number of firms written to by the Financial Conduct Authority on the issue.

The former Old Mutual said net and gross flow on its platform "increased meaningfully" over the period. It attributed the rise in core net inflows to strong performance in its services for high net worth individuals, and "significantly increased" interest from independent financial advisers (IFAs). Revenues from high net worth individuals rose 4 per cent to £112 million.

Consumers have gained access to a higher level of disposable income as inflation has eased, and Quilter note that this had led to "early signs of incremental discretionary saving".

Steven Levin, chief executive of Quilter, said: "We expect lower second half investment income reflecting a gradual decline in interest rates and planned capital investment to grow our business. Our work to transform Quilter is delivering tangible results, but we have more to do to reach the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves."

Levin said the group had already succeeded in increasing the proportion of women in senior leadership roles by 40 per cent by 2025. The company has been increasing the number of executive committee roles held by women and the number of women reporting into the executive committee. The group now has women working in 45 per cent of its senior leadership roles.

# British Business Bank back in the red

# James Hurley

The state-owned British Business Bank sank to a loss for the second year in a row as a dip in valuations of private companies continued to be felt in its accounts.

The government's economic development agency recorded a loss of £122 million for the year to the end of March, after a loss of £135 million in the previous 12 months, amid a broader downturn in private equity markets.

Louis Taylor, the chief executive of the bank, said that the unrealised losses reflected "short-term falls in the book valuation of long-term investments, rather than actual cash losses".

The bank recorded a profit of £453 million in 2022, in part thanks to a rise in the value of its portfolio after technology stocks boomed during the pandemic.

Taylor said the dip in valuations that has hit the venture capital industry now appeared to be "tailing off". He added: "If you'd offered us these numbers last year, we would have taken them."

David Hourican, chief financial officer, said the bank was "not in the harvesting period" for the majority of the investments, and Taylor noted that, ultimately, the bank hopes to more than "double our money".

"double our money".

The British Business Bank underpins debt and equity investments in small and medium-sized companies and is hoping to have its role enlarged under the Labour government. It made funding commitments of £2.3 billion last year.

Taylor said the bank, which is marking its tenth year in operation, had a very positive story" to tell. It published an impact report alongside its accounts that said its work in 2023 was expected to create close to 40,000 jobs and add £8.4 billion to the economy.

It is exploring the creation of a new investment vehicle in which pension funds would invest alongside it to support fast-growing private companies. Taylor said the "on-paper" losses would not "dampen enthusiasm" among investors for the plans.

In the British Business Bank's annual report, its chairman, Stephen Welton, said the vehicle was intended to tackle a lack of institutional investment in the UK. "We have been asked to actively explore how the bank could do more to crowd in private investment. I am confident of the benefits that this work may potentially bring to the economy and growth companies across the country."

growth companies across the country."
Welton added: "This is an especially exciting time in the bank's development, with more being asked of us at a time when driving longer-term investment to support the growth economy is so critical."

Taylor added that the bank is in talks with ministers about reforms such as giving it more independence by allowing it to reinvest the returns that it generates

The loss calculation does not factor in the bank's contentious management of multibillion-pound pandemic finance programmes on behalf of the government, as these are not recorded on its balance sheet

# GB News monitors Musk lawsuit after ad 'boycott'

The broadcaster GB News is "closely monitoring" Elon Musk's legal action against a coalition of global advertisers that have suspended advertising on his social media platform Twitter/X.

On Tuesday, the boss of Tesla, who

On Tuesday, the boss of Tesla, who bought Twitter for \$44 billion in 2022, said the platform had launched a lawsuit against the World Federation of Advertisers — as well as Unilever, Mars, CVS Health and Orsted, the Danish renewable group — accusing them of unlawfully conspiring to boycott the site and causing it to lose revenue. Musk tweeted: "We tried being nice for 2 years and got nothing but empty words. Now, it is war."

but empty words. Now, it is war."

The World Federation of Advertisers, Unilever, Mars and CVS Health did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Orsted declined to comment yesterday.

Rumble, the video-sharing firm, also filed a separate antitrust lawsuit

against the World Federation of Advertisers.

The broadcaster, in which Sir Paul Marshall, the hedge fund boss, owns a stake, said on its website: "GB News notes the antitrust action commenced by media companies X and Rumble against the advertising industry. We will be closely monitoring its progress." Brands that have suspended advertising on GB News include Ikea and Nivea.

Commenting on the lawsuit, Linda Yaccarino, X's chief executive, said: "People are hurt when the marketplace of ideas is constricted. No small group of people should monopolise what gets monetised."

Ad revenue at X fell sharply after Musk bought the company. Some advertisers had been wary amid questions and fears that their brands would appear next to harmful content that might have been removed under previous management.

# **Business Markets**

William Kay Tempus

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



# Fabrics maker has trade sewn up

COATS

Net debt \$380.5m Market cap £1.5bn

he world's largest thread and sewing materials company is about to be run by a chief executive with little or no experience of that industry. But the newcomer at Coats, David Paja, was head of the GKN Aerospace arm of Melrose Industries — motto "design, deliver, improve", a touch more prosaic than Coats's guidelines, "innovation, sustainability and digital".

Melrose prides itself on "a relentless focus on profitable, sustainable and cash-generative growth" and, while Coats has not been badly managed, these are likely to be on Paja's immediate to-do list, rather than choosing this season's must-have shade of thread.

Although most people rarely think of it in these terms, Coats's products have for years been a staple of fashionable brands such as Nike, Adidas, Puma, H&M, Levi's and many others. Not only can they be used to make hard-wearing clothes, give the no-nonsense, casual feel that has long been the direction of travel for clothing and footwear.

In addition, a quarter of group revenue comes from so-called performance materials: fabric for protective clothing and footwear resistant to fire or molten metal. Where appropriate it supplies zips to hold its threads together, subject to the ever-present threat of



**ADVICE Buy** 

WHY New chief adds energy as recovery gets under way

Sep Nov Jan Mar May Jul

competition from Japan's YKK, the colossus of international fasteners.

Coats is the global market leader in 100 per cent recycled thread products, where revenue grew 141 per cent to \$159 million in the half-year to the end of June and could top \$300 million for the year, against \$172 million in 2023. This is more than mere fashion: the analyst Charles Hall at Peel Hunt says: Sustainable products have moved from being largely irrelevant in 2018

to a key driver of performance." That will appeal to Paja, as better housekeeping was a major contributor to the six-month margin improvement from 15.5 per cent to 17.9 per cent, taking adjusted earnings before interest and tax against gross revenue. That is a new high and better than expected.

Revenues rose 8 per cent to \$741 million, and operating profit was 26 per cent ahead at \$133 million. Earnings per share were up a similar amount to 4.5 cents, leaving room for a 15 per cent lift in the interim dividend to 0.93 cents

It is worth noting that the latest numbers were flattered by industry destocking problems in the same period last year, largely due to the

global cost-of-living crisis. Apparel and footwear have returned to normal, but performance materials continue to struggle. Revenue fell 3 per cent to \$167 million. The main culprit was composites, down 19 per cent, which the company blamed on destocking by US telecoms firms.

However, there were hopeful signs in the second quarter, led by orders from the US military and firefighters. From next year up to a net \$30 million a year could be saved by moving manufacturing from the US to Mexico, where wages are lower, but these benefits have been delayed by what the firm coyly calls

"operational set-up challenges" One of the most exciting developments in the next few years is likely to be Coats's gains from applying artificial intelligence. The company is building a mobile version of the ShopCoats digital system it launched three years ago. Since then the system has processed just under \$1.7 billion of customer orders, growing year-on-year.

This chimes with the enlarged role

of AI in fashion design where, as The Times reported last week, it could cut design times by 70 per cent. The board expects 2024's results to

be modestly above previous analysts consensus of \$261.1 million adjusted operating profit, with a range of \$256.3 million to \$266.5 million. Hall \$250.3 million to \$250.3 million. Hall at Peel Hunt sees adjusted pre-tax profit moving from \$205 million last year to \$300 million in 2026. At a 95p share price, that would bring the price-earnings ratio down to 10 and raise dividend yield to 3.2 per cent.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

# Vodafone buyback

Vodafone has said €500 million will be given back to shareholders in the coming months as part of a broader plan to boost investor returns. The telecoms group had already committed to returning €2 billion to investors in March, after selling its Spanish arm this year. Vodafone, which is awaiting regulatory approval for a £15 billion merger with Three, is midway through a turnaround that has included selling its Italian and Spanish businesses and cutting thousands of jobs. Its shares closed up 2¾p, or 3.9 per cent, at 73\(\frac{1}{2}\)p.

# Bensons bags carpets

Bensons for Beds has acquired 19 Carpetright shops after the collapse of the flooring retailer last month. The bed specialist said it hopes to create job opportunities for former Carpetright staff when it reopens the shops under the Bensons brand. Tapi, a rival flooring chain set up by members of Carpetright's founding family, has already bought the Carpetright brand, intellectual property, 54 shops and a pair of warehouses in a pre-pack administration.

# **Brookfield near trillion**

Brookfield said it was nearing \$1 trillion of assets under management as it shrugged off concerns about the US economy and volatility in global markets. The Toronto-based investment group raised \$68 billion in the last quarter, bringing the total capital raised over 12 months to \$140 billion, its highest in a single year. The chief executive, Bruce Flatt, and president, Connor Teskey, said they expected to see a rise in deal-making as central banks begin cutting rates.

# Paper makes bundle

The New York Times beat Wall Street expectations as it reported subscription revenue of \$439.3 million, compared with estimates of \$438.9 million, helped by robust demand for its bundled content. It has been expanding its content distribution by bundling podcasts and recipes to attract a wider audience. Total secondquarter revenue of \$625.1 million beat estimates of \$625.2 million. Advertising revenue rose 1.2 per cent to \$119.2 million, against forecasts of \$120 million.

# NORCROS

Market cap

orcros is one of those companies that seems to have been on the stock market for ever, not making transformational deals yet dodging predators despite the shares' modest rating and a clutch of potentially promiscuous institutional shareholders. It is a leader in upscale showers and bathroom and kitchen accessories selling mainly to other firms down the housebuilding and DIY chains.
The Cheshire group, looking to

drive growth through its commitment to net zero in an increasingly eco-conscious market, trades in the UK mainly under the brands Triton

Merlyn, Croydex and Abode. Norcros also has a South African business that contributed 28 per cent of turnover but only 11.1 per cent of operating profit in the year to March.

A declining home-improvement market and stagnant housebuilding have dragged back progress, taking underlying pre-tax profit from £41.8 million to £36.4 million, and diluted earnings per share from 37.4p to 32.1p. That still left plenty of room to maintain a 10.2p dividend

The South African-born chief

11843.18 (+332.72)

8166.88 (+140.19)

executive, Thomas Willcocks, said: "Our strategy is building from a position of strength and scale as we actively leverage the customer and operational synergies within the group." Since the year end, the firm has sold Johnson Tiles UK.

His medium-term targets are organic growth 2-3 per cent above the market, a 15 per cent underlying operating profit margin, cash conversion greater than 90 per cent and better than 20 per cent return on capital employed. If he achieves those, in what he admits are uncertain markets, shareholders should be satisfied

The shares have been reviving in

line with the UK economic recovery, so this may be the right point in the cycle to invest. This column recommended buying at 176p two years ago, and since April the shares have surged as high as 245p, pausing for breath in the past couple of weeks and ending the day yesterday up 4 per cent at 229p. Not demanding, on a 7.6 price-earning ratio and 4.1 per cent dividend yield.

**ADVICE Buy** WHY A good-value bet on economic recovery

# **PRICES**

# **Major indices**

New York	
Dow Jones	38,763.45 (-234.21)
Nasdaq Composite	16,195.81 (-171.05)
S&P 500	5,199.50 (-40.53)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	35089.62 (+414.16)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	16877.86 (+230.52)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	886.08 (+19.38)
Sydney	
AO .	7913.10 (+23.00)
Frankfurt	
DAX	17615.15 (+260.83)
Singapore	
Straits	3249.72 (+51.28)
Brussels	
BEL20	3994.30 (+106.31)
Paris	
CAC-40	7266.01 (+135.97)

1.16)	FTSE 250	20576.03 (+208.33)
	FTSE 350	4506.10 (+72.95)
).52)	FTSE Eurotop 100	3910.75 (+54.13)
	FTSE All-Shares	4462.58 (+71.81)
.38)	FTSE Non Financials	5296.93 n/a
150)	techMARK 100	6841.73 (+59.54)
	Bargains	n/a
3.00)	US\$	1.2709 (+0.0027)
	Euro	1.1631 (+0.0029)
.83)	:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
	Exchange Index	82.47 (-0.08)
L.28)	Bank of England offic	ial close (4pm)
	CPI	134.07 Jun (2015 = 100)
	RPI	387.30 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
31)	RPIX	381.90 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
	Morningstar Long Cor	mmodity 677.16 (+5.72)
.97)	Morningstar Long/Shor	t Commod 4703.45 (+27.75)

SMI Index

Londor

# **London Financial Futures**

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gi <b>l</b> t	SEP 24	99.810	99.870	99.320	99,490	232967	786274
	Dec 24	99.950	99.950	99.950	99,400	41	1043
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 24						
-	Dec 24						
	Mar 25						
	Jun 25						
	Sep 25						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 24	96.590	96.595	96.560	96.580	157712	491192
	Dec 24	97.020	97.040	96.980	97.010	176568	558393
	Mar 25	97.395	97.415	97.340	97.380	138966	450770
	Jun 25	97.620	97.640	97.555	97.595	122726	434529
	Sep 25	97.720	97.750	97.665	97.705	113758	361309
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 24						
	Dec 24						
	Mar 25						
	Jun 25						
FTSE100	Sep 24	8036.0	8171.0	8029.5	8158.5	102386	464157
	Dec 24	8140.0	8215.0	8106.0	8209.0	44	468
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 24				6251.5		
	Dec 24				6300.0		

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# **Commodities**

ICIS pricing (London 6,00pm)

Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)

Products (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Brent (6	.00pm)		
0ct	78,60-78,58	Jan	76,94-76,92
Nov	77.92-77.90	Feb	76.57-76.54
Dec	77.39 77.37	1 00	Volume: 2358605
LIFFE			
Cocoa			
Sep	6785-6770	Dec	4244-4154
Dec	5669-5655	Mar	4060-4012
Mar	4943-4926	May	4315-3975
May	4690-4676		
Jul	4533-4511		
Sep	4397-4380		Volume: 87130
Robusta	Coffee		
Sep	4484-4478	May	3860-3600
Nov	4286-4279	Jul	3800-3520
Jan	4132-4122		
Mar	3986-3978		Volume: 21910
White S	ugar (FOB)		
Reuters		May	504.30-503.70
		Aug	501.80-501.20
0ct	516.90-516.80	0ct	498.80-491.00
Dec	509.80-509.70	Dec	538.00-490.00
Mar	507.00-506.70		Volume: 73819



# Shopify's basket is a slam dunk

**¬** hopify beat Sanalysts' estimates for second-quarter results and forecast upbeat sales growth as artificial intelligence tools attracted more merchants to its

ecommerce services. Its US-listed shares rose sharply, up 17.8 per cent, or \$9.65, to close at \$63.87 in New York last night.

The Canadian company, founded in 2006, enables businesses to create online stores and helps retailers to track inventory, handle payments and arrange shipping.

Its technology is used in more than 175 countries by the likes of Mattel, Gymshark, Heinz and Netflix. Customers pay subscription and transaction fees. It reported a 21 per

cent rise in second-quarter revenue to \$2.05 billion, compared with analysts' average estimate of \$2.01 billion, according to LSEG data.

The company expects third-quarter revenue to grow at a low to mid-twenties percentage rate yearover-year, above

estimates for a growth

of 20.8 per cent.
Shopify has been
rolling out AI-powered features and increased the availability of such tools in June.

The results signalled optimism about consumer confidence. Brands including Toys "R" Us and Mas+ By Messi launched on the platform in the three months to June.

Charlie Miner, an analyst at the research firm Third Bridge, said the results were slam dunk amid an uncertain macro environment, helping to alleviate investors concerns about possible weakness in consumer health".

# The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
TP Icap Half-year profits beat analyst expectations	7.8%
Vodafone Begins latest stage of share buyback programme	3.9%
Barclays Recovers from recent losses	3.2%
Glencore Increase in revenues in first six months of the year	2.8%
Vistry Group Lifted by rise in house prices	1.5%
Coca-Cola HBC Decline in half-year profits	-1.5%
Intercontinental Hotels Group Slowdown in leisure and travel demand	-1.8%
WPP Downgrades annual guidance	-2.0%
4imprint Group Cautions on decline in customer demand	-2.3%
Abrdn Extends recent losses	-4.5%

# Banks on rebound from world's manic Monday

**Emma Taggart Market report** 

he FTSE 100 recorded its best day since March last year as the blue-chip index continued its recovery London's markets have stabilised since Monday's rout, which saw companies in the FTSE 100 shed just over £40 billion in one day.

Yesterday the FTSE 100 added 140.19 points, or 1.8 per cent, to end the day at 8,166.88.

Banking stocks, which suffered significant declines over the past week, helped to drive the rebound. **Barclays** gained 6½p, or 3.2 per cent, to close at 214¾p, while **Lloyds** was up 1¾p, or 3.3 per cent, to 57p and NatWest climbed 11½p, or 3.6 per cent,

**Vodafone** ticked up 2¾p, or 3.9 per cent, to 734p as the company began

# Wall Street report

Weak demand for a government bond sale dampened sentiment and reversed early gains. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 234.21 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 38,763.45 and the S&P 500 shed 40.53 points, or 0.8 per cent, to 5,199.50.

the next stage of a £430 million share buyback programme. The telecoms company announced in March that it would return £3.4 billion to shareholders in a wider capital allocation review. The Ladbrokes owner **Entain** added 19¾p, or 3.9 per cent, to end the day at 523½p as investors piled in before its interim

results today.

The packaging group **Mondi** gained 16½p, or 1.2 per cent, to close at £14.52 after analysts at Barclays upgraded their rating to "equal weight" from "underweight". The bank believes there is a low risk of the company missing future earnings and a stabilisation in wood costs in eastern Europe makes it more competitive.

On the flipside, first-half results from Coca-Cola HBC failed to impress investors as the drinks bottling group reported a 1.3 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to €521 million. The shares fell 42p, or

per cent, to close at £26.98. Weakening consumer spending on

SUPPORT SERVICES

# Demand slowing at 4imprint

4imprint were left a little downbeat after the promotional goods company cautioned that demand had slowed despite strong sales. The shares fell 130p,

or 2.3 per cent, to £54.90 after 4imprint said revenue during the second half of the year was set to "reflect a similar growth rate to the first half". The group had forecast that it would report higher growth during the period. 4imprint, valued at

almost £1.6 billion, gained 145,000 new customers in the first



Customers have warmed to 4imprint's promotional products

six months of 2024. down 8.2 per cent from the 158,000 added in the same period last year. Yet the company,

which sells promotional products including pens and mugs to help

their brands, reported pre-tax profits of \$73 million during the first half of 2024, up II per cent from the first six months of 2023. Revenues for the company also rose 5 per cent to \$667.5 million during the period.

The group also increased operating profit margins from 10 per cent to 10.5 per cent as a result of flexibility with its

marketing spending.
Due to 4imprint's strong financial position, the board increased its dividend to 80 cents per share, up from 65 cents.

leisure and travel weighed on InterContinental Hotels Group Shares in the Holiday Inn operator declined 136p, or 1.8 per cent, to £72.74 following a warning from Airbnb of slowing travel demand.

London's mid-cap index continued its recovery from Monday's sell-off as the FTSE 250 added 208.33 points, or 1 per cent, to end the day at 20,576.03. The market welcomed news that

Bridgepoint Group, the private equity firm, had sold its majority stake in Vitamin Well, a Swedish food and drink company, to Cinven. Shares in Bridgepoint added 5½p, or 2.1 per cent, to 276¾p.

The warehouse landlord **Tritax Big Box** advanced 2½p, or 1.6 per cent, to 162p as investors were cheered by news that the company had raised its dividend and expects stronger leasing activity during the second half of the year. Operating profit for the six months to June 30 increased to £123.8 million, up 29.6 per cent from the same period last year.

The brickmaker Ibstock reported a 60 per cent decline in pre-tax profits for the first six months of the year as the FTSE 250 company faced a slowdown in the construction sector. Yet investors are hopeful that the housebuilding industry is set for a recovery and shares in Ibstock climbed 7½p, or 4.3 per cent, to 179½p.

**Quilter**, the FTSE 250 company, added 6p, or 4.6 per cent, to close at 133½p after the investment manager reported profits ahead of market

expectations for the first half of 2024. Shareholders were left disappointed by interim results from **Hiscox**. Shares in the insurer fell 21p, or 1.8 per cent, to £11.48 as the company reported a 7.1 per cent increase in pretax profits but warned of a "more active loss environment".

The bathroom fittings maker Samuel Heath & Sons added 35p, or 12.1 per cent, to 325p after it reported revenues of £15.2 million for the year to March 31, an increase from £14.7 million last year.

London Grain Fu	tures	
LIFFE Wheat (cl	ose £/t)	
Nov 192,20 May 202,55	Jan ung Jul ung	Mar ung Volume: 846
London Metal E	cchange	
(Official)		
Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A (\$	/tonne)	
8684.0-8685.0	8809.5-8810.0	9115.0-9125.0
Lead (\$/tonne)		
1917.0-1918.0	1961.0-1962.0	2068.0-2073.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gdo	(\$/tonne)	
2515.0-2516.0	2571.0-2571.5	2627.0-2632.0
Alum Hi Gde (\$/	'tonne)	
2202.0-2202.5	2262.0-2263.0	2418.0-2423.0
Nickel (\$/tonne	)	
16070.0-16075.0	16280.0-16290.0	17180.0-17230.0
Tin (\$/tonne)		15mth
29790.0-29800.0	29850.0-29900.0	29580.0-29630.0

# **Gold/Precious** metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Tuesday. Bullion: Open \$2384.05

Close \$2394.84-2395.14 High \$2406.02 Low \$2379.59 AM \$2414.15 PM \$2396.55  $\underline{\mathsf{Platinum}} \ \$ \ (\underline{\ell})$ Silver \$26.94 (£21.20) Palladium  $\$(\ell)$ 

# **European money** deposits %

acpoore			
Currency			
1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Do <b>ll</b> ar			
0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling			
4.20	5.30	4.74	0.81
Euro			
0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

# **Money rates %**

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.00 ECB Refi 4.25 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

# Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6619-8.7008	8.6793-8.6843	126ds	406ds
Euro	1.1660-1.1610	1.1635-1.1631	9pr	31pr
Montreal	1.7449-1.7515	1.7451-1.7453	9ds	33ds
New York	1.2681-1.2735	1.2709-1.2711	5pr	8pr
Os <b>l</b> o	13.671-13.861	13.692-13.698	62ds	160ds
Stockho <b>l</b> m	13.242-13.385	13.290-13.300	219ds	647ds
Tokyo	183.41-187.98	187.32-187.34	79ds	240ds
Zurich	1.0814-1.1017	1.0990-1.0991	37ds	115ds
-			Premium = pr	Discount = ds

# **Dollar rates**

Australia	1.5272-1.5274
Canada	1.3730-1.3731
Denmark	6.8299-6.8309
Euro	0.9153-0.9153
Hong Kong	7.7985-7.7988
Japan	147.37-147.39
Malaysia	4.4940-4.4990
Norway	10.773-10.779
Singapore	1.3276-1.3277
Sweden	10.456-10.469
Switzerland	0.8646-0.8648

# Other Steeling

Other Stern	ng
Argentina peso	1189.8-1189.8
Australia dollar	1.9413-1.9415
Bahrain dinar	0.4755-0.4825
Brazil real	7.1240-7.1278
Euro	1.1631-1.1637
Hong Kong dollar	9,9122-9,9132
India rupee	106.70-106.71
Indonesia rupiah	20360-20372
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3877-0.3900
Malaysia ringgit	5.7111-5.7174
New Zealand dollar	2.1147-2.1152
Singapore dollar	1.6875-1.6878
S Africa rand	23,361-23,373
U A E dirham	4.6723-4.6731

# **Exchange rates**

	Bid	Change
ıstralia \$	1.940	-0.01
ınada \$	1.746	-0.01
enmark Kr	8.683	+0.01
iro	1.164	
ong Kong \$	9.922	+0.01
ıngary	463.188	+0.75
donesia	20398.947	-144.47
rael Shk	4.820	-0.05
pan Yen	187.458	+3.87
ew Zealand \$	2.114	-0.03
orway Kr	13.678	-0.19
land	5.027	+0.02
ıssia	108.992	+0.14
Africa Rd	23.365	-0.14
veden Kr	13,291	-0.09
vitzerland Fr	1,101	+0.02
ırkey Lira	42,617	-0.10
- 4 4	1 272	

Rates supplied by Morningstar



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# TIMESRADIO







# **Business**

# The Times unit trust information service

	Sell	Buv	+/-	Yld %
-				
ALLIANZ GLOBAL Inv Serv: 020 7065			00 317 5	73
Gilt Yield A #@	206.01		+0.27	
Strategic Bond Fund #(	137.21		-0.59	2.54
UK Corp Bond C #@	104.79		-0.78	
UK Eqty C :(@	6317.26		-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	327,55		+2.54	4,80
UK Gwth A 3@	8341,62		+83,12	3,08
UK Index A Inc †@	1423,81		-5.83	
UK Mid Cap A #@	4654.61		-11.35	

# ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD 0800 092 2051 Authorised Inv Funds

Global Income R Acc #@	195.56	 +4.53	3.04
Global Income R Inc #@	116,02	 +2,69	3,02
Global Select R Acc †@	167,58	 +2,50	
High Income R Inc #@	65,55	 +0.17	5,81
Income R Acc #@	585,53	 +6.16	3,38
Income R Inc #@	241.77	 +2.55	3,48
Monthly Dist R Inc #@	69.71	 +0.73	4,52
SmartGARP European Equity R Ac	(‡@483.15	 +6.99	2.01
SmartGARP Global Equity R Acc	10388.50	 +5.11	
SmartGARP UK Equity R Acc :		 +29.98	2.57
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡		 -0.31	0.87
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡	@105.21	 -0.21	4.07
Strategic Bond R M Inc 8	@51.87	 -0.10	4.18
Strategic Bond R Q Acc *	@105.03	 -0.21	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc #	@ 51.78	 -0.10	4.16
UK Select R Acc #@		 +12.14	1.55
UK Smaller Cos R Acc #@	2171,00	 +16.19	1.46
UK Special Sits R Acc *@	800,52	 +9.48	1,41

# AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

Equity Inc #@	572.40		-2.70	
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc #@	3354.00	***	+54.00	
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc #@	138.30	***		
Monthly Inc Inc #@	212.30	***	+1.60	4.28
UK Growth Inc #@	217.90	***	+2.40	0.99
UK Select Opps Inc #@	1918.00	***	+18.00	1.42
UK Sml Cos Inc #@	292,30		+2,80	0,35

# AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD Admin & Eng 0117 989 0808 AXA Trusts

Gen Acc #@	2101.00	 +6.00	2.64
Gen Inc #@	1079.00	 -2.00	2.70

# UK/Global Investment Companies

Euro Acc A 3@	234.70	 	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	 +0.24	
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	 +4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A :@	162.30	 +2.20	
Pac Gwth Arc A 3@	479.80	 -17.60	2,30

# CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 08457 46 46 46

European Gwth #@	224,30	 +3,20	1.7
Sus Leaders #@	850,40	 +10,50	1,4
UK Growth #@	670.40	 +8.10	2.0
UK Income #10	217,70	 +1.60	4.5

0870 606 6402					
Beacon Inv #	84.88		+0.35		
-					

Dealing: 020 74	26 6232		
Winchester 3	4180.60	 +104.13	1.1

# COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS Engs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083 Share Class 1 - Retail

Corporate Bd #@	49.99		0.31	
Emerging Mkts #@	116,50		-0.50	
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 #@	1361.00		+21,00	0,25
Extra Inc Bond #@	45.07			1.83
FTSE All-Shr Track #@	454.50		+5.20	1.49
Global Gwth SC1 #@	358.80		+5.30	
High Inc Trst @	11.57	12.14		
Max Inc Bond #@	44.28			4.40
Multi Man Caut :@	70.41			
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44			3.37
North Amer #@	1062.00		+8.00	
Pacific Gwth #@	477.40			0.04
Strategic Bd #@	208,20		-0.10	1.67
UK Equity #@	3446.00		+2.00	
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 *6	658.50			
UK Gwth & Inc Dist #@	234.70			
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1122,00			1,43

# EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD

	-0.26	4.37
	+5.10	2.42
	+4.00	1.19
***	+1.00	4.46
***	+2.50	1.95
***	+1.40	1.53
		+5.10 +4.00 +1.00 +2.50

# FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL Private Cints 0800 414161 Broker Digs 0800 414181

Amer Spec Sits #@	2576.00		+40.00	
American ‡@	6337.00		+66.00	
Euro Opps ‡@	610.10		+5.70	
European ‡@	3802.00		+40.00	
Extra Income 3@	22.79		-0.08	6.09
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	6210.00		+92.00	
Global Focus #@	3132.00		+43.00	
International *@	149.50		+0.20	0.08
Japan #@	596.30		+16.70	0.45
Moneybldr Bal #@	43.13		-0.08	4.40
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth #@	76.12	***	-0.95	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Moneybldr UK Ind 10	142.29		+0.69	3.10
Special Sits 3@	5161.00		+56.00	
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

# HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD

01296 386 386				
Authorised Inv Funds				

Share Class `C			
Corporate Bond #@	35.01	 -0.08	3,67
Ethical #@	133,70	 +1.50	0.19
European †@	126,00	 +1.80	1,83
Far Eastern #	123,10	 +2,30	1.97
Fund of Inv Tst 3@	151.70	 -0.10	
Intl Gwth 3	148.30	 +1.10	0.68
Japanese ‡	80.36	 +3.58	1.11
North Amer 3	185.90	 +1.40	0.07
Smaller Cos ‡@	116.40	 -0.60	1.48
Special Sits #@	50.34	 -0.17	1.03
UK Equity Inc #@	101.90	 +1.10	3.79
UK FTSE 100 IT *@	77.92	 +0.87	2.29
UK FTSE All-S IT 1@	87.70	 +1,00	2.29
UK Growth #@	93.32	 +1.03	

# HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6 HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (UEIC)						
Amer Ind Acc #@	1170.97		+22.34	1,05		
Amer Ind Inc #@	918.06		+17.51	1,06		
Euro Ind Acc #@	1336.05		+20.87			
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	812.96		+12.70			
FTSE 100 Ind Acc #@	309.56		+2.10	3.09		
FTSE 100 Ind Inc #@	133.83		+0.91	3.13		
FTSE 250 Ind Acc #@	321.11		+1.85	2.79		
FTSE 250 Ind Inc #@	185.79		+1.07	2,88		
FTSE All-S Acc #@	789.11		+9.38	3.09		
FTSE All-S Inc #@	379.20		+4.50	3.17		
Jap Ind Acc #@	158.72		+5.04	1.56		
Jap Ind Inc #@	119.37		+3.80	1.58		
Pac Ind Acc #@	548.88		+14.09	2.79		
Pac Ind Inc #@	323.99		+8.32	2.86		

HSBC Investment	t Funds (OEI	C) - Retail	Share	Class
Palanced Acc + G	270.20		+1 On	1.20

Balanced Inc #@	151.95	***	-0.14	
Corp Bd Acc #@	291.20		-0.85	3.96
Corp Bd Inc #@	106.35		-0.31	4.06
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78		+1.62	
Gilt & Fd Int Inc #@	74.17		+0.24	
Income Acc ‡@	796.07		+7.98	3.91
Income Inc ‡@	305.90	***	+3.07	4.03
Monthly Inc Acc :@	313.41	***	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	133.76	***	+0.93	
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc			+1.90	3.61
UK Grth & Inc Ret B In	c ‡@67.33		+0.79	3.72
UK Gth & Inc Acc #@	162.19		+1.90	3.61
UK 6th & Inc Inc ±@	67.33		+0.79	3.72

# HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC

American Index Retail Ac	c ‡@1170.97	 +22.34	1.05
American Index Retail In	nc ‡@918.06	 +17.51	1.06
Asian Gth Acc †@	147.77	 -0.07	
Asian Gth Inc #@	130.99	 -0.06	
Chinese Eq Acc 3@	513.81	 +0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc 3@	434.76	 +0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc 3@	973.97	 +4.05	0.41
Euro 6th Inc 3@	817.05	 +3,39	0.44

# IGNIS ASSET MGMT

DIG. 0141 222 0202				
American 6th Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond #@	99.69		-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83,98	88,64	-0,29	
Higher Yield Acc @	275,04	290,28	-0.92	
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	0.94
Managed @	130,89	138,15	-0.06	
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498,71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

# INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD Client Servs: 0207 163 4000

Insight Investment	: Multi-Ma	anager Fu	ınds	
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05		-0.32	
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93,79		-0.36	

# INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677

rkr Serv: 0800 02 VESCO Funds	8 2121		
K Str Inc N/TrI ‡@	323,57	 -0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPET	UAL Funds		
Childrens Acc #	533.15	 +7.09	
Corp Bond Acc :	218.51	 -0.67	3.41
High Income Inc 4@	334.20	 +4.59	1.98
Income & Grth Inc #	440.45	 +4.79	
Income Inc #@	1326.36	 +16.57	3.20
Money Acc #@	99.06	 +0.01	4.70
Monthly Inc Plus Inc #	94.89	 -0.14	5.80
UK Aggressive Inc #@	154.28	 -0.24	3.15
UK Growth Acc #@	1021.49	 +12.41	
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc #	1427.20	 +7.10	1.25
HV Sml Coc Guth + A	02 E4	40.04	

# INVESTEC FUND MGRS Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900

OLIC Series I,II,III, & IV			
American A Acc #@ 788.67		+11.57	
Asia ex Japan A Acc 🕸 732.48		+18.10	
Capital Accumulator A Acc #@231.48		-3.81	
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@398.26		+0.37	2.50
Cautious Managed A Inc #@241.53		+0.22	2.55
Diversified Growth A Acc :@130.93		+0.63	
Diversified Growth A Inc 1@136.37		+0.69	
Diversified Income A Acc :@339.36	***	-0.67	3.39
Diversified Income A Inc #@67.32		-0.14	4,85
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ±@123.07		-0.07	4.18
Emerging Mkts Ellended Debt A Acc Gross :@125.82	***	+0.20	4.21

			Yld
Sell	Buy	+/-	%
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc : @158.35		+4.92	1.13
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc #@191.18		-0.22	4.54
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc 4,068.39		-0.08	6.43
Emry Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross   Acc +@220.49		-0.05	
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc 1@134.24		-1.25	
Global Bond A Acc ‡@ 139.30		+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc #@ 109.33		+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc #@1167.00		+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc 3@ 193.61		+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc #@ 170.97		-1.14	
Global Equity A Acc #@ 266.88		+4.17	
Global Franchise A Acc 4@342.29		+3.08	
Global Free Enterprise A Acc :@1476.68		+15.35	0.22
Global Gold A Acc ‡@ 210.76		+0.52	0,29
Global Special Situations A Acc :@385,56		+4.35	
Global Special Situations A Inc #@296.25		+3.34	
Managed Growth A Acc #@271.09		+1.82	1.15
Monthly High Income A Acc #@243.45		+0.43	
Monthly High Income A Inc : @63.17		+0.01	
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc #@173.92		+0.09	2.87
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@ 244.54		+0.19	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc 1@ 119.47		+0.09	3.32
Target Return A Acc :@ 102.03		+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc :@ 87.63		+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@ 2862.70		+21.10	1.25
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@ 770.11		+3.15	
UK Smaller Companies A Acc #@5056.49		+63.82	0.48
UK Smaller Companies A Inc +@4508.39		+56.91	0.48
UK Special Situations A Acc #@1807,30		+19.05	1.16
UK Special Situations A Inc #@637.94		+6.72	1.18

# For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

## JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@ 115.80		-0.30	3,81
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc #@74.42		+1.58	
Cautious Man Fd A Acc :@307.70		+0.90	3.72
Cautious Man Fd A Inc 3@143.00	***	+0.40	3.81
China Opp Fund A Acc #@ 904.80	***	+14.80	0.82
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc :@198.00		+3,60	0.08
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc #@ 329.10		+5.40	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	%
Merlin Bal (Acc) 🛊 @	244.10		+1.34	3,92
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	584.64		+3.26	
Merlin Inc (Acc) :@	358.88		+0.92	3.13
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	414.18		+4.33	0.25
UK Growth ‡@	270.26		+2.15	0.60
UK Special Sits (Inc) #@	218.46		+2.70	

Yld

Equity Acc @	2616,00	2639,00	-8.00	2,12
Equity Dist @	893,80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc †@	589.60		+8.90	
Euro Ind Inc #@	368.10		+5.60	
Fixed Int Acc #@	141.20		-0.30	3,27
Fixed Int Dist #@	63.15		-0.15	3,34
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc :@	120.70		+1.60	0.79
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	135.20		+3.00	0.03
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	
High Inc Acc #@	136.70		+0.40	6.08
Japan Ind Acc #@	77.09		+0.68	1.40
Pacific Ind Acc #@	217.50		+4.40	2.40
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	
UK Index Acc ‡@	385,30		+4.50	2,95
UK Index Dist #@	177,00		+2.00	3,02
US Ind Acc #@	1011.00		+18,50	0.67
Worldwide Acc + G	272 10		±4.10	

# M & G SECURITIES Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196

Authorised Inv	Funds		
Charifund Inc ‡	1493.68	 +14.31	5.51

sterling	Class	A Invest	ment Funds	1

Extra Income Inc #	688,54	 +4.81	
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	73,52	 -0.39	- 4
GI Hi Yd Bd Inc †	40.48	 +0.12	-(
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	112.68	 -0.84	(
Index Trckr Inc #	80.16	 +0.91	3
Short Dated Corn Rd In	r ± 25 34	-0.01	

# LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD

Eliquilles, 0070 02	0 0933 0	eamig. oc	370 030 0	1920
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2,12
Equity Dist @	893,80	902.00	-2.70	2,15
Euro Ind Acc 3@	589,60		+8.90	
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	368.10		+5.60	
Fixed Int Acc #@	141.20		-0.30	3,27
Fixed Int Dist #@	63.15		-0.15	3,34
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc :@	120.70		+1.60	0.79
Glob Tech Acc #@	135.20		+3.00	0.03
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	
High Inc Acc #@	136.70		+0.40	6.08
Japan Ind Acc #@	77.09		+0.68	1.40
Pacific Ind Acc #@	217.50		+4.40	2.40
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	
UK Index Acc ‡@	385,30		+4.50	2,95
UK Index Dist #@	177,00		+2.00	3,02
US Ind Acc #@	1011.00		+18,50	0.67
Worldwide Acc 3@	373.10	***	+4.10	

Authorisea inv runas					
Charifund Inc #	1493.68		+14.31	5.51	

Sterling Class A I	nvestment	Funds 1		
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29		-3.39	
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50		-3.00	0.

Extra Income Inc #	688,54	 +4.81	
Gift & Fxd Int Inc #	73.52	 -0.39	4,38
GI Hi Yd Bd Inc #	40.48	 +0.12	6.03
Index Linked Bd Inc :	112.68	 -0.84	0.46
Index Trckr Inc #	80.16	 +0.91	3,59
Short Dated Corn Rd In	c ÷ 25.34	-0.01	5.13

# **URGENT NOTICE**

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Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc #@2552.00		+41.00	
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc #@30.58		-0.08	4,38
Global Equity Fund Acc #@5031.00		+89.00	
Global Equity Income A Inc #@67.76	***	+0.69	3.15
Global Tech A Acc #@ 4194.00	***	+105.00	
Insti UK Idx Opps A Acc :@127.53		+1.55	2.77
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc :@173.40		+0.40	
M-Man Active Fd A Acc :@277.00		+1.40	
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc 1@ 149.50		-0.20	3.45
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc #@201.10		-0.30	3.38
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc #@217.40		-0.60	3.46
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc : @56.55		-0.16	3.53
Strategic Bond A Inc #@ 100.60		-0.60	3.52
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc :@ 184.60		+0.40	2,24
UK Alpha Fund A Acc #@ 157.50		+2,10	
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc #@742.50		-1.70	
UK Property A Acc @ 264.95	278.15	+0.01	2,63
UK Property A Inc @ 105.80	111.07		2,68

# JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT

OEIC			
UK Equity	Core E Net Acc :@497.70	 +5.70	

+18.00

# JUPITER UT MGRS LTD

Absolute Return 10	31.60	 	
Distribution and Growth	n #@100.43	 +0.53	2.6
Emg Euro Opps #@	145.34	 -31.23	
Euro Special Sits #@	473.36	 +7.34	
European #@	3089.94	 +50.77	
Financial Opps #@	812.25	 +17.58	0.7

UK Select A Inc # 2866,23

### Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3 Corp Bd A Inc ‡ Dividend Inc ‡ -0.11 4.64

Sterling Class A livestillent	ulius 4		
Episode Allocation A Inc :@144.26		+1.11	3.74

# MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0808 005 5555 High Income High Income Acc UK 100 Comp Acc @ UK 100 Cos @ UK Select Pflo @ 5.26 0.97

2.95

# MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD Enquires: 0800 0961 962 The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK) Class A Shares Equity

Dev Opp Fund F Acc #@ 851.70	 1.23	
Dev Opp Fund I Acc #@ 844.93	 1.23	
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc :@ 1019.26	 +9.41	
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@ 911.71	 +8.42	
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc #@ 1016.55	 +9.38	1.47
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc :@ 909.87	 +8.40	
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc +@1010.84	 +6.65	
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc :@ 965.20	 +6,36	

Glob Bal Sust F   Acc #@1008.42	 +6.64	1.59
Glob Bal Sust F   Inc #@ 964.85	 +6.35	
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc \$@1330.01	 +9.59	3.88
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc :@1943.43	 +14.00	3.86
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc #@1416.08	 +10.20	3.95
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) #@15258.94	 +105.93	0.56
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) #@1793.88	 +15.73	0.55
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) #@4135.78	 +28.71	0.56
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) #@1693.87	 +14.84	0.56
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@ 634.71	 +0.98	
Glob Ins Fund F Inc *@ 634.71	 +0.98	
Glob Ins Fund   Acc :@ 629.53	 +0.96	
Glob Ins Fund I Inc 3@ 629.55	 +0.96	
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) #@1412.81	 +15,54	0.44
Glob Sust Fund F Inc #@ 1472.48	 +13,89	0.45
Glob Sust Fund   Acc #@ 1502.11	 +14.16	0.31
Glob Sust Fund   Acc (PH) #@1407,30	 +15.48	0.31
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc #@1513.40	 +14.28	0.4
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc :@132.73	 -0.25	3.98
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc 1@ 98.46	 -0.19	4.07
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc :@2816.42	 -5.44	3.85
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc #@1386.02	 -2.67	3.96
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc :@1009.28	 -0.93	3.82
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc #@913.29	 -0.84	3.92
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc #@1001.94	 -0.94	3.64
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc +@912.93	 -0.85	3.73
US Adv F F Acc :@ 1660.63	 +10,52	
US Adv F F Acc (PH) 3@ 954.93	 +7.88	
US Adv F   Acc †@ 1759.05	 +11,13	
US Adv F I Acc (PH) †@ 996.03	 +8,22	

# SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS

08457 413002				
Bal Pfolio Inc #@	110.50		+0.40	
Bal Port Gwth Acc #@	250.20		+0.20	2.22
Equity Inc Inc #@	218.00	***	+2.40	4.25
N&P UK Gwth Inc #@	182.80		+0.10	
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	290,80	290,80	+2,70	3,27
UK Growth Acc #@	542.00		+2,70	
UK Growth Inc 3@	276,30		+1.40	

# SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD 0141 248 6100

European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.4
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	0.5
Mutual European	2762,93	2908,99	-21.63	
Mutual Far Eastern	917.99	968,85	+19,80	1,1
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092,88	+6.23	0.2
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2,5
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295,67	-7.28	

# SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS 0845 300 2244 Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)

OEIC A Class			
Managed Investm	nent Funds		
Bal Port A Acc #@	237.60	 +0.80	0.
Caut Port A Acc 80	207.10	 +0.30	

ent Funds			
237.60		+0.80	0.01
207.10		+0.30	
152.00		+0.30	
280.20		+1.30	
266.60		+1.10	
	237.60 207.10 152.00 280.20	237.60 207.10 152.00 280.20	237.60 +0.80 207.10 +0.30 152.00 +0.30 280.20 +1.30

# Overseas Growth Investment Funds

Eur Sel Gth A Acc :@	3879.00	 +14.00	2.7

# Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds UK Trkr A Acc ‡@ UK Trkr A Inc ‡@

# UK and Income Investment Funds

Corp Bond A Acc #@	306.40	 -0.50	2,37
Corp Bond A Inc #@	108,20	 -0.20	2,42
Envir Invtr A Acc #@	382.00	 +3.60	
Hi Inc Bond A Ac 3@	258.90	 -0.10	
Hi Inc Bond A Inc #@	69.85	 -0.01	5.53
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	420.60	 +0.40	3.87
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	123.30	 +0.10	3.98
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	 	
Strat Inc A Acc #@	209.40	 +1.10	3,34
Strat Inc A Inc #@	86.32	 +0.44	3,46
UK Gwth A Acc #@	221.20	 +0.40	
UK Sel Gwth A Acc 10	2370.00	 	2.67

# OEIC B Class Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

# UK and Income Investment Funds Corp Bond B Acc 10 Corp Bond B Inc 10

# OEIC C Class UK and Income Investment Funds

# +0.20 3.02 UK Gth C Inc ‡@ 138.60 UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@ 2598.00

1.94 1.96

# STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS 0845 279 3003 Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

AAA Income Acc ‡@	102,30	 -0.20	2,3
Amer Eq Gth Acc †@	211,90	 +1.20	
Corp Bond Acc #@	168,80	 -0.90	3,8
Corp Bond Inc #@	53.26	 -0.31	3.9
Euro Eq Gth Acc 3@	262.10	 +3.90	
Glb Advtg CAT Acc #@	160.20	 +1.20	1.7
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	211.50	 +1.70	1.7
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	197.40	 +2.20	0.0
Higher Inc Acc 4@	161.70	 +0.50	5.1
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	46.57	 +0.13	5.3
Japan Eq Gth Acc #@	127.40	 	
Managed Acc #@	393.30	 +5.60	1.8
Select Inc Acc 3@	91.51	 	2.2
Select Inc Inc #@	51.26	 -0.26	2.2
UK Eq Gth Acc #@	372.70	 +1.70	
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	 +1.00	
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	247,90	 +0.20	4,6

# SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS Enquiries:0141 222 1151

Balanced A Acc ‡@ Balanced A Inc ‡@

	Sell	Buy	+/-	* 11G
Cautious A Acc #@	118.31		+0.13	1.73
Cautious A Inc #@	98.85		+0.11	1.77
Dynamic A Acc #@	371.51		+4.66	
Dynamic A Inc :@	330.42		+4.15	
Growth A Acc 10	377.80		+3.91	
Income A Acc #@	266.94		+1.00	1.33
Sterling Bond Acc #@	242.37		-0.28	
Sterling Bond Inc #@	97.00		-0.11	

# THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS Client Serv: 0800 0683000 Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000 Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

# Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc 4(8132

vergii Silgies (class T)		
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc 1/038.56	 +0.08	4.8
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@85.28	 +0.73	3.68
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@55,28	 -0.12	3,4
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rt1 Inc ÷@55,18	 -0.12	3,14
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc :@43,09	 -0.23	3,94
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret #@42.49	 -0.03	3,90
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc #@105,72	 +1.17	3.67
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rt Inc #@100.84	 +1.06	2.87
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl 4@198.77	 +1.97	1.6
Threadneedle UK Mithly Inc Rtl Inc 1972.23	 +0.87	3.9
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc :@143.19	 +1.49	1.6

III GOLIEGUE UN STIGIEI COLIS KOLIK A	200005		*4.19	U.Z
For Resolution see Ig	nis			
TU FUND MANAGERS	LIMITE	ΕD		

Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); Ex dividend; #Middle price; . . . No significant data. # eriodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

# **British funds**

12 mc			Price			Grs r
High	Low	Stock	(£)	+/-	- %	y

99 11 \_ 02

# Index-linked

105.68   100.04   ft   110.72   103.69 - 105   132   0   100.18						
101.68   95.88   17 (101.58   100.01 - 100   0   0   0   0   0   0   0   0   0	105.68	100.04	Tr IL 11/1/1/127	103.69 - 06	1.32	0
\$25,15			Tr IL 05/5 28			- 0
352.15 29.28 Fr 1.40 1 30 245.62 - 66 1.37 0  100.14 94.31 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.36 - 27 1.00  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.36 - 27 1.00  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.36 - 27 1.00  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 Fr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 31 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.67 95.67 Pr 1.00 1 30 9-9.26 - 10  110.77 95.6	101.18	94,58	Tr IL 01/3 29	99.6409		0
111.72 102.81 71 10.73 21 107.85 - 35 1.16 1.15 107.75 107.71 10.73 21 107.85 - 35 1.16 1.15 107.77 107.73 21 107.85 10.75 10.75 21 10.75			Tr IL 45% 30 °	345.62 - 46	1.87	- 0
185.79   36.67   17   10   33   10   22   38   0   10   25   35   0   10   35   10   25   36   10   36   36   10   36   36   36   36   36   36   36   3	102.04	94.31	Tr IL 01/1/1 31	99.4927		0
255.16   222.88   Tr   27.35   249.55   287.088     797.5   286.49   Tr   27.35   249.55   287.088     797.5   286.49   Tr   10.95   269.55   247.088     797.5   286.49   Tr   10.95   27.085   27.35     797.5   286.49   Tr   10.95   27.085   27.35     797.5   286.49   Tr   10.95   27.085   27.35     799.12   249.77   Tr   10.95   27.085     799.12   249.77   10.95   27.085     799.12   249.77   10.95   27.085     799.12   249.77   10.95   27.085     799.13   74.48   10.95   27.085     799.13   74.48   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   74.085     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13     799.13   799.13		102,81			1.16	- 0
97.51 85.94 T 1 (97.85 92.6) - 47 0 (19.75 92.			Tr IL 03/3 34			0
10,59   97,89   71,11   13   71   10,74   -3   13   13   13   13   13   13   13		232,58	Tr IL 2% 35 *	249.53 - 87	0.98	- 0
93.44 \$2.06  \$1.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$2.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$2.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{ \$2.0 \text{ \$1.0 \text{	97.51	86.94		93.61 - 47	***	0
100.68 27.65 T 1 (97.40 95.26 - 60 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		97,89			1.13	- 0
100.83 (7.35 T I 0.05 40 95.26 - 60 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		82.06			***	0
95(2) 34(97) T1 (97.45 2) 92.14 - 70 (64) 92.75 (77.95 74) T1 (97.45 4) 313 - 36) 92.75 (77.95 74) 77.75 (77		87,85		95.26 - 60		- 0
87.50   73.97   71   10   74   41   81.24   - 88   - 88   - 1   10   74   - 72	91.62	78.66				0
55,79 71,18 171 (0.04 46 99,20 - 7.2 2 4 50,17 81,61 171 (0.04 47 9),44 - 83 (0.44 + 83 (0.44 + 83	99,02	84,97			0,67	1
95.17 81.61 Ft B 075 47 99.64 - 33 0.94 1 84.12 65.24 Ft B 075 47 99.64 - 33 0.94 1 84.12 65.24 Ft B 075 52 7 66.0 - 30 1 84.12 65.24 Ft B 075 52 7 66.0 - 91 11.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 83.24 61.24 1 13.18 1	87.90	73.97		81.8468		1
84.12 66.36 Fr.R. 0134 48 76.65 - 80 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	85,79			79.20 - 72		1
91.83 74.48 Trt. 10/13 59 83.01 - 89 18.27 67.7 Trt. 10/13 59 83.01 - 89 1111.88 89.61 Trt. 11/13 55 90.62 - 11/1 13.8 89.61 Trt. 11/13 55 90.62 - 11/1 13.8 89.61 Trt. 11/13 55 90.62 - 11/1 13.8 19.36 61.37 Trt. 10/13 59 70/14 - 10.0 19.37 61.00 19.37 70/14 60.17 Trt. 10/13 59 70/14 - 10.0 19.37 61.00 19.	98.17	81.61		90.6483	0.84	1
85,27 67,57 Frt, 0/13 52 76,04 - 91 111,88 89,61 Frt, 11/3 55 99,62 - 1,17 1,38 1 80,36 61,33 Frt, 0/13 55 70,47 - 1,01 78,26 60,17 Frt, 0/13 56 70,47 - 1,01 78,19 56,50 Frt, 0/13 62 74,65 - 1,16 78,19 56,50 Frt, 0/13 65 65,44 - 1,15 78,39 55,54 Frt, 0/13 66 64,42 - 1,23		68,36				1
111.88 89.61 Tr IL 14/8 55 99.62 -1.17 1.38 1 80.36 61.33 Tr IL 16/8 56 70.74 -1.01 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	91.83	74.48	Tr IL 05% 50	83.0189		1
80.36 61.33 Yr II. 053 56 70.24 -1.01 1 79.26 60.17 Yr II. 053 59 69.44 -1.03 1 86.07 65.01 Yr II. 053 62 74.65 -1.16 1 78.19 56.59 Yr II. 053 62 65.44 -1.15 1 78.39 55.84 Yr II. 053 68 642 -1.23 1	85,27			76.0491		1
79.26 60.17 Tr IL 0\\\\^3\\^5\\^8\ 69.44 -1.03 \dots 1 86.07 65.01 Tr IL 0\\\^8\\^6\\^6\\^2\ 74.65 -1.16 \dots 1 78.19 56.59 Tr IL 0\\\^8\\^6\\^6\ 65.44 -1.15 \dots 1 78.39 55.84 Tr IL 0\\\^8\\^6\\^6\ 64.42 -1.23 \dots 1				99.62 -1.17	1.38	1
86.07 65.01 Tr IL 03% 62 74.65 -1.16 1 78.19 56.59 Tr IL 03% 65 65.44 -1.15 1 78.39 55.84 Tr IL 03% 68 64.42 -1.23 1		61,33				1
78.19 56.59 Tr IL 0\(\)8 65 65.44 -1.15 1 78.39 55.84 Tr IL 0\(\)8 68 64.42 -1.23 1				69.44 -1.03		1
78.39 55.84 Tr IL 05% 68 64.42 1.23 1	86,07			74.65 -1.16		_1
				65.44 -1.15		1
83.94 57.30 Tr IL 0½% 73 66.78 -1.35 0		55,84		64.42 -1.23		_1
	83.94	57.30	Tr IL 01/1/8 73	66.78 -1.35		0

# Longs (Over 15 years)

54.44	43.31 Tr 1\% 51	49.89 - 53	42
95.61	79,70 Tr 31/5 52	88.14 - 76	4.
56.99	45.42 Tr 15% 53	52.01 - 55 53.22 - 57 95.80 - 85 4	4.
58 53	46.56 Tr 1%% 54	53.22 - 57	42
104.47	87.03 Tr 4½% 55	95.80 - 85 4	.44 4.
59,81	47,33 Tr 1% 57	53 96 - 63	4.
59.81 101.27	83.11 Tr 4% 60	91.52 - 95 31.00 - 54 64.11 - 79	42
35.11 71.88 92.27 53.52	25,35 Tr 05% 61	31.00 - 54	4.
71.88	57.02 Tr 25% 65	64.1179	42
92,27	74.17 Tr 35% 68	82.65 -1.00	4.
53,52	40.77 Tr 15% 71	46.82 - 70	4.
	31,56 Tr 11/5% 73	37.43 - 64	41
95.12	79.19 Tr 3½% 53 97.75 Tr 4½% 38	87.61 - 77	4.
95.12 110.65	97 75 Tr 4355 38	87.61 77 105.78 51 4 66.61 44	49 4
68,96	58.95 Tr 11/5/ 39	66.6144 99.7759 -4	42
104,41	91,74 Tr 4½% 39	99 77 - 59 4	26 4.
104.06	90.94 Tr 432% 40	99.05 - 61 62.86 - 47 84.66 - 57	4.
65,96 89,38 106,98 92,46	55,47 Tr 11/2% 41	62.86 47	4.
89.38	76,53 Tr 3½% 44	84.66 - 57	42
106,98	92,93 Tr 45% 42	101.36 - 62 4	.44 4.
92,46	92.93 Tr 4½% 42 78.97 Tr 3½% 45	101.36 - 62 4 87.29 - 61	42
	88.06 Tr 45% 46	96.6869 4	40 4
54.50	44.13 Tr 0%% 46	51.03 - 45	42
61,84	50.63 Tr 15% 47 52.73 Tr 15% 49	57.69 - 46 59.81 - 53 96.25 - 75 4	4] 4]
64.47	52.73 Tr 155 49	59.81 - 53	4.
103.39	87.41 Tr 455 49	96.25 - 75 4	.42 4.
45.18	35.01 Tr.08% 50	41.58 48	Λ.

# Mediums (5-15 years)

101.02	70./2	If 4 553 Z/	100.18 - 05	***	4,1
112.12	105,49	Tr 6% 28	109.1515	5.50	3.6
87,28 87,56	79,49	Tr 05% 29	86.83 - 17		3,7
87,56		Tr 05% 29	86.90 - 19		3.6
92.92	86.47	Tr 03% 26	92.7603		3.6 3.7 3.6 3.8
82,33		Tr 05% 30	81.81 - 21		3.6
108.84	100.59	Tr 43/5/ 30	81.81 - 21 105.47 - 27	4.50	3.7
79,41	70,99	Tr 01/2% 31	78.69 - 26		3.6 3.7 3.7 3.8 3.8
83,29		Tr 1% 32	81.88 - 29		3.8
106.47		Tr 412% 32	103.03 - 35	4.12	3,8
98.51	88.88	Tr 4 ½% 27	95.37 - 35		3.9
78.94	69,76	Tr 0%% 33	77.2033		3.9
108.46 71.97	97.71	Tr 45% 34	104.23 - 42	4.32	3.5
71.97	62,36	Tr 05% 35	70.14 - 35 101.69 - 47		4.0
106.09	94.63	Tr 41/5/ 36	101.69 - 47	4.18	4.0
78,76	68,31	Tr 1355 37	76.12 - 43		4.1
78.76 99.47	87.49	Tr 33/5/ 38	95.67 - 49		4.1
93.31		Tr 132% 27	93.07 - 06		4.1 3.7 3.7
103.26		Tr 41/2% 27	101.4709	4.19	3.7
88.92		Tr 01/// 28	88.62 - 10		3.6
92.76	85.87	Tr 15% 28	92.12 - 13		3.6
95,67	90,67	Tr 15% 26	95.54 - 02		3,8

# Shorts (under 5 years)

99.83		Tr 23/5 24	99.83	+			4.45
97,62	93,73	Tr 2% 25	97.57	+			4.32
99,21	95.98	Tr 31/% 25	98.92	+			4.43
95.06	88,93	Tr 01/5% 26	94,98		.01		3.65
97.04	92.17	Tr 05% 25	97.01	+			4.33
100,89	99,43	Tr 5% 25	100,28	+		4,99	4.54
98 15	03.07	Tr 01/5/25	02 1/1				/110

## maturities having an eight-month indexation lag. This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers

should contact their fund manager



# **Business** Equity prices

**Dividend yields** Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the left dovided entire above prices. by the last day's closing share price.

**12-month high and low** High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

12 m High		Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
Au	to	mobile	s & j	pa	rts	8
376	132	& Aston Martin Lag	134½	- 1	11/2	-3.6

# **Banking & finance**

221¼		Abrdn	/2	-	71/8	9.2	
7%		Acuity RM◆	2%		***		-2.1
2837	2058		2674	٠	47	2.7	
211/2	1.6	ADVFN◆	211/2	٠	3		-5.4
459	249	AJ Bell	4311/2	٠	10	2.7	21.9
26736	215611/3	Aon Corpn	25906%	+	485%		25.5
1105	8771/2	Arbuthnot Bkg◆	9571/2	+	40	4.9	4.3
71/2	4	Argo Group◆	6				-0.2
232%	165	Ashmore	165	+	1/4	10.2	11.3
1533%	12281/4	Aus New Z	1410	+	3		12.1
500%	369%	Aviva	478%	+	121/2	7.1	12.8
414	289	Banco Santander	3451/2	+	101/2	4.5	6.0
5420	3065	Bank of Georgia	3975	-	5	5.8	2.8
234	129%	Bardays	214%	+	61/2	3.8	8.2
1/1		Blue Star Capital♦					-0.1
5421/2	350	BP Marsh&Ptnrs◆	537½	٠	21/2	2.0	4.7
141/2	4	Braveheart Inv◆	434	-	1/2		-0.4
		Brewin Dolphin	515	+	1		28.1
293	166%	Bridgepoint	276%	+	51/2	3.2	30.7
37	261/2	Cenkos Secs◆	29				5.9
286	2441/2	Chesnara	255	+	11/2	9.4	20.7
		City of Lon Gp◆	10	+	1		-0.6
401	301	City Lon Inv Gp	360	-	31/2	9.0	12.4
8991/2	2991/8	Close Bros	471%	-	81/8	9.3	4.9
3391/2	891/8	CMC Markets#	304	+	13	2.8	82.1
1327%	7701/4	Commerzbk	10901/2	-	42		7.1
14051/2	8011/2	Deutsche Bk	1120%		171/8		4.6
225%	147	Direct Line Ins	177%	٠	31/2	2.3	11.2

12 mo High		Company	Pric (p)		+/- Y	ld%	P/E
671/2	39	EFG-Hermes Hldg	671/2	+	4%		7.7
187	145	EPE Special Opps♦	166½				
1160	9321/3	FBD‡	1117½				6.7
871/2	461/2	Fiske◆	75			0.3	15.0
601/2	421/2	Frenkel Topping+	48			2.1	36.9
1374	837	Georgia Capital	992	+	16		2.2
1120	1055	Gresham House◆	1100	-	20		30.5
490	335	H&T Group◆	405			4.2	8.3
51%	391/2	Hansard Global	46%	+	3/8	9.5	9.7
1153	690%	Hargreaves Lansdov	m1058½	+	18½	4.0	18.8
186	115	Helios Under◆	175			3.4	8,3
720岩	575%	HSBC	6401/2	+	121/2	7.7	6.9
9391/2	611	IG Group	915	+	341/2	5.1	12.4
566	364	Impax◆	364		31/2	7.6	11.7
2394	12551/2	Intermed Capita	1992	+	26	4.0	12.4
154	1001/2	IPF	1531/2	+	6	6.9	7.6
1391/3	115%	International Public P's	hip125%				85.8
6151/2	439	Investec	573	+	5	5.8	8.4
363	283	Investment Co	355				44.1
60%	361/3	IP Group	361/6	_	1/4	1.4	-2.1
152½	461/2	Jarvis Securities◆	581/2			9.4	6.5
111½	731/2	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	79	+	1/2	8.7	
120%	681/3	Just Group	1121/2	+	1%	1.8	10.0
689	540%	Lancashire Holdings	600	+	12	2.7	5.7
2561/4	205%	Legal & Gen	219%		23/4	9.3	30.1
		Liberty Group	502%	_	2%		16,2
855	5231/2	Liontrust#	606	+	3	11.9	7.5
38%	27	Livermore Invs+	381/2				6.1
61	39%	Lloyds Banking Gro	up#57	+	1%	5.2	8.1
24%		LMS Capital	17%				-3.8

12 mo High		Company	Pric (p)		+/- Y	'ld%	P/E
9688	8038	Lond Stk Ex Gp	9688	+	172	1.2	70.1
238%	183½	M&G	200	+	4%	10.0	16.1
277%	202	Man	217%	+	%	5.9	14.2
26	15	Manx Fin◆	171/4			2,6	4.9
21/3	1	Marechale Cap◆	1½				-3.7
798	490	Mattioli Woods♦	793		3	3.4	41.3
		Metal Tiger♦	9	+	34		-2.0
112%	28%	Metro Bank	59½	+	31/4		4.4
1968%	1406%	Nat Aust Bk	1790%	-	15%		15.7
371%	176%	NatWest	3341/2	+	11½	5.2	7.2
343	3321/2	Numis◆	343				
5271/2	280%	Onesavings Bank	487%	+	51/2	6.6	7.5
696	4531/2	PayPoint	689	+	31	2.9	16.1
		PCF Group◆	%	+	1/4		-0.4
5551/2	441½	Phoenix	535	+	151/2	10.1	
10381/2	643%	Prudentia <b>!</b>	643%	+	15	2.6	13.2
3	5/8	Quantum Blockchain	34				-2.4
133%	71%	Quilter	133%	+	5%	4.0	43.0
601/2		Randall & Quilter◆#					
1924	1458	Rathbone Grp	1844	+	20	3.1	36.3
%	1/8	RiverFort Global Opp	s <b>♦</b> # ½			1.6	-0.3
278	162½	Rockwood Strategic	257	+	41/2		24.2
2450	1800	S & U	1900			6.3	9.0
3/4	1/8	Sancus Lending Grp◆	3/8				-0.1
48	391/2	Schroder REIT	461/2		1		77.6
4431/2	343	Schroders	343	+	6	6.3	14.1
920	402	St James Place	6881/2	+	6	3.4	
785%	573%	Stand Chart	7061/8	+	191/2	3.1	7.9
12	41/2	Starvest◆	11%	+	1/4		-1.9
60	45	STM Group+	521/2			1,1	54,1

12 m		Company	Pric (p)		+/- YI	d%	P/E	12 mo	
592	290	Billington Hldgs♦	490	+	10	4.1	6.1	38	23
235	170	Boot (Henry)	222	+	6	3.3	11.5	72½	45
4311/2	304%	BREEDON	401	+	7	3.4	12.9	101%	78
4441/2	291%	Br Land	393	-	%	5.8		1681/2	117
160	90	Caledonian Tst◆	135					29	14
681/2	49%	Cap & Regnl	65	-	1/4	8.7	34.2	159%	104
2450	2300	Cardiff Prop	2300			0.9	20.2	160	110
1%	1%	Carecapital♦#	1%				-0.2	959½	692
1631/4	118%	Clarke T	159				11.5	170%	130
		Countryside Partner	229%	+	14		16.7	69	44
21%	11%	Craven House	19%	_	5%		-0.1	409½	236
2402	1779	Derwent London	2276		42	3.5	-5.3	1057	851
4%	4%	Dolphin Capital◆#	4%	+	3/4		-5.1	1384	682
21%		First Prop◆	181/2					645	458
47%	33	Fletcher King	471/2			1.5	21.7	730	625
71	3410	Foxtons Group	63%	+	- 35		37.5	120	OL)
314		Galliford Try	301	+	6		21.8	Co	ns
512		Genuit Group	4721/3		1%		30.6		
619	353	Gleeson (MJ)	575		18		19.7	11/4	
1080	751	Grafton	1024	+	231/4		11.8	34½	22
274%		Grainger	2371/2	+	31/2	2.9		766	610
369%		Great Portland	3441/2		9	3.5	-3.4	284	168
30%		Hammerson	271/4		, 16	5.5		2738	1929
175		Harworth Gp	163	Ť	2		14.1	156	81
					35	4.1	9.6	644	472
425		Heath (Samuel)◆	325					%	
261½	185	Helical PLC	219	+	4½		-1.4	33	20
880		Highcroft Invs	587½		12½		-2.5	2784	2267
196%		Ibstock	179½		7%		33.8	1269	785
225		James Halstead♦	188	+	7		17.5	2257 176%	692 130
1584	673	Keller	1584	+	46	2.9	13.1	1/0%	150

	nth		Pric	е			
High	Low	Company	(p)	1	+/- '	Yld%	P/E
38	235	≨ SIG	25	+	11;	í	-6.5
72½	45	SigmaRoc◆	661/2	+	2		35.0
101%	785	Sirius Real Estate	94%	+	13	5.6	12.8
1681/2	117	2 Smart (J)	1271/2			2,5	
29	14	Steppe Cement◆	151/2	+	1		9.4
159%	104	Taylor Wimpey	153%	+	17	6.3	15.5
160	110	Town Centre	139½			3,5	5.5
959½	692	& Travis Perkins	894	+	173	2.0	50.2
170%	130}	½ Tritax Big Box Reit	162	+	21/	ž	43.5
69	44	Tritax Eurobox	661/3	+	7		
409½	236	Tyman	398	-	1/2	3.4	20.4
1057	851	Unite	9441/2	+	141	3.8	38.3
1384	682	Vistry Group	1289	+	19		20.2
92	693	√ Warehouse REIT	86%	+	3,	í	10.7
645	458	Workspace Grp	606	+	16	4.7	-6.0
		Wynnstay Props◆					13.3

# **Consumer goods**

				-			_
11/4	5/8	Agriterra♦	%				-0.2
34½	22	Airea◆	26	-	3	2.1	13.0
766	610	Anglo-Eastern	622	+	18	3.9	6.1
284	168½	Anima care◆	275			1,8	
2738	1929½	AB Foods	2446	+	19	2.2	15.8
156		Bakkavor Group	1461/2	+	3	5.0	15.9
644	4721/2	Barr (AG)	619			2.4	18.0
%	1/8	Bidstack Group◆#	%				-0.3
33	201/2	Brand Architekts♦	291/2				-1.4
2784	2267	Brit Amer Tob	2784	+	70	8.5	4.3
1269	785½	Britvic		+	1		24.8
2257		Burberry	692	-	4		9.3
176½		C&C Grp‡	152%	-	1%	3.2	6.1
51/2		Capital Metals♦	1%				-9.5
149½	93%	Carr's Grp	1311/2			4.8	
340		Character Grp◆	283	-	7	6.5	10.0
1470		Churchill China♦	1150			3.1	16.3
2852	2065	Coca Cola HBC	2698	-	42	2,8	18.0
895	655	Colefax◆	865			0.6	10.0
765	3170	Cranswick*	4580			1.9	21.8
		Devro	329				17.8
3406½	2406	Diageo	2406	+	38	3.4	16.4
5/	3/8	Distil♦	%				-2.6
894	686	Evans (M.P.)◆	856	+	6	5.2	11.2
110	89	Finsbury Food♦	110	+	1/2		13.1
1660	9125	Games Workshop	10090	+	150	4.2	23.8
1619%	1181	Glanbia	1531%			1.9	15.1
181%	68%	Greencore	1751/3	+	3%		16.6
233	133	Headlam	148	+	21/2	6,8	15.4
942	637	Hilton Food	909	+	35	3.6	22.6
381/2	14½	Hornby◆	24				4.6
2161		Imperial Brands	2126	+		7.0	9.2
		J Lewis Hford♦	11/4	+	1/4		7.9
7770	6049	Kerry Gp	7296	-	42%	1.3	20.5
1421/2	32%	McBride	124	-	1		12.2
260	97½	Mulberry Group♦	115	+	10	0.9	37.2
1225	882	Nichols◆∜	1135	+	5	2.7	22.5
245	1351/2	Norcros	229	+	9	4.6	7.6
302%	232	Origin Ents♦	266%			5.4	8.4
		Pittards <b>◆</b> #	5%	+	1		2.5
305	204	Portmeirion•	2121/2			2.5	-3.4
%	3/8	Provexis◆	1/2				
1671/2	82%	PZ Cussons	101	+	1%	5.2	
97	49%	REA	80%				-3.1
1%	1	Real Gd Fd◆#	1%				-0.1
250	115	Tandem◆	160				-7.0
630	370	Treatt:	441	+	5	1.8	23.8

2730	172772	MD FOOUS	2440		1.7
156	81	Bakkavor Group	1461/2	+	3
644	4721/2	Barr (AG)	619		
7/3	1/8	Bidstack Group◆#	1/4		
33	201/2	Brand Architekts♦	291/2		
2784	2267	Brit Amer Tob	2784	+	70
1269	785½	Britvic	1264	+	1
2257	692	Burberry	692	-	4
1761/2	130	C&C Grp‡	152%	-	1%
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	1%		
149½	93%	Carr's Grp	131½		
340	238	Character Grp◆	283	-	7
1470	1000	Churchill China♦	1150		
2852	2065	Coca Cola HBC	2698	-	42
895	655	Colefax◆	865		
4765	3170	Cranswick!	4580		
		Devro	329		
34061/2	2406	Diageo	2406	+	38
5/	3/8	Distil♦	3/8		
894	686	Evans (M.P.)◆	856	+	6
110	89	Finsbury Food◆	110	+	1/2
11660	9125	Games Workshop	10090	+	150
1619%	1181	Glanbia	1531%		
181%	68%	Greencore	1751/3	+	3%
233	133	Headlam	148	+	2 %
942	637	Hilton Food	909	+	35
381/2	14½	Hornby◆	24		

# 694 151½ Victoria◆

		Ass Br Eng#	15				-6.2
1378	593	Avon Rubber	1254	+	6	1.8	
5651/2	3681/2	Babcock	521	+	13	0.3	82.7
1400	955%	BAE	1293	+	22	2.3	21.4
1475	900	Braime A N/V◆	1000			1.4	6.3
2400	1850	Braime Group♦	1950			0.7	12.3
580	450	Caffyns‡	460			2.1	9.7
1%		Cap XX Ld◆	1/4				-0.5
412	326	Castings#	354	+	2	5.2	9.2
_		and the same					

301/2	18½	Checkit◆	26				-6.1
856		Cohort	796	+	6	1.7	24.4
		Crestchic PIc◆	399				
1300	710	Dewhurst <b>♦</b> ‡	1150	+	50	1.4	18.1
237	144	Dialight	175	+	3		
942	621%	Electrolux 'B'	646%	+	16%		-4.0
140	58	Feedback◆	61%				-2.3
670	450	Gooch Hsego♦	487	+	31	2.8	95.4
8700	4595	Goodwin	7820	+	40	1.4	37.5
2721	1810½	Ha <b>l</b> ma‡	2513	+	54	0,8	40.0
2300	1534	Hill & Smith	2160	+	15	2.0	25.4
671/2	381/2	Holders Tech♦	501/2				-3.9
21/4		lmage Scan♦	1%				
1901	1445	IMI	1758	+	24	1.6	19.2
		Inspirit Energy♦					-1.8
12250	7400	Judges Scientific◆	10100	+	300	0.9	70.3
91	611/2	LPA◆	641/2	+	1/2	1.5	
677½	446%	Melrose	4931/2	+	11½	1.0	
3411/2	218½	Morgan Advanced	3121/2	+	3	3,8	19.1
530	187½	Mpac♦	440				33.5
1160	615	MS Int ◆∜	1045	-	25	1.8	25.0
2660	1712	Oxford Inst#	2285	-	10	0.9	26.4
22951/2	1458¼	Philips El nv	22901/4	+	601/3		
12%	1%	PipeHawk♦	11/4				-0.3
42	24	Pressure Tech◆	321/2				
4370	2950	Renishaw	3465	+	25	2.2	25.9
64%	27½	Renold◆	55%	+	1		7.5
4851/2	183%	Rolls-Royce	479%	+	11%		16.7
%	5%	Ross Gp#	%				-1.6
361%	281	Rotork	3241/2	-	31/2	2.1	24.5
125		SDI Group◆	65	+	21/2		41.9
180%	1541/8	Senior	155	+	3%	1.5	21.1
83%	50	Severfield	81	+	1%	4.3	15.7
61/8	23/8	Six Hundred◆#	2%				15.5
1746%	1239%	SKF B	1414%	+	191/2		14.0
310	190	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	-	10		13.5
1786	1526	Smiths	1721	+	21	2,4	25.8
1530	1025	Solid State◆	1400	+	30	1.5	21.2
378	257	Somero Enter◆	330	-	5	7.3	8.4
3807	2762	Spectris	2914	+	24	2.7	20.9
11050	8058	Spirax-Sarco	8535	+	130	1.9	34.2
35%	1	Surface Trsfms♦	1%				-0.2
4%	3	Tanfield◆	3%	+	%		
448	325	Thorpe FW◆	360	+	9	1.8	19.0
		TP Group◆	21/8				-3.3
1471/2	871/2	Transense Tech◆	140	+	2 %		13,1
		Ultra Electrncs	3500	+	6		37.4
504	394¾	Vesuvius	407	-	3	5.6	9.3
359	270	Volex+÷	341	+	4%	1.2	20.1
2200	16751/2	Weir	1907	+	39	2.0	21.6

# **Investment companies**

Ш	es	tment c	OII	Į	pa.	Ш	es				
12 mo		Company	Pric		+/-		Dis(-) or Pm		12 mo		Company
3180 360	1858½ 289	3I Group 3i Infrastructure	2985 3381/3		31	3.3	40.6 -7.9		174%		Invesco Bond Inc IPST Bal#
1690	1126	Aberforth Smlr	330½ 1580	i	6		12.8		294	222	IPST Gbl Eq
1264	980	Alliance	1186	÷	16		-3.4		104		IPST Managed#
426%	323	Asia Dragon Tr	393	į	3		-16.1		1901/4	160	IPST UK Eq#
210	160	Athelney Trust	185				-6.5		1032	748	JPM American
2501/2	186	AVI Global Trust	226	+	4	1.4	-10.2		384	3091/4	JPM Asia Gro &
238	175	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	1851/2		1%	0.8	-10.8		290	188%	JPM China
101%	75%	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	911/2	+	1%	2.3	-14.6		748	622%	JPM Claverhs
774	633	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	695	٠	21	1.1	-12.7		804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & N
138%		Baillie Gifford SN	1091/8	+	1%		-16.3		110%	96	JPM Em Mkts
1831/2	10	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	1721/2	*	11/2		-15.1		4881/2		JPM Euro disc
88	60	Bal Comm Prop	86%	+	1%		-27.7		1421/2		JPM GEMI
118%		Bankers Inv Trst	110%		1		-10.8		585	455½ 870	JPM GG&I
1064	715	BH Macro Biotech Growth	987		10%		13.5 5.2		1042 332	OLO	JPM Indian JPM Jap Sml Co
127	104	BlckRck Com Inc	113	Ť	- 10		10.8		562	435	JPM Japan
159%		BlckRck Fro Inv	141	ļ	11/2		-8.1		1430	995	JPM Mid Cap#
653		BlckRck Grt Euro	580	į	5	1.0			107		JPM Multi-asset
209%	170	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	195			3.5	-12.2		380	229	JPM Smllr Co
1622	1146	BlckRck Smlr	1504	+	4		-11.7		236	182	Keystone Positive Char
207	172%	BlckRck Sustain Ame	r 198	+	1%	3.5	-10.1		929	718	Law Debenture
682	503	BlckRck Throgmorton	633	+	4	2.2	-10.3		135	1031/4	Lowland
634	490	BlckRck Wld Min	527	٠	2	5.9	-6.3		254	179	Majedie
1425	1065	Brown Adv US sm	1345	+	21/2		-11.9		399	294%	M Currie Port
1420	964	Brunner	1340	٠	20	1.6			102%	76	Marwyn Val In
3700		Caledonia Inv	3545	-	55		-35.4		269		Mercantile IT
454		City of Lon IT	4291/2	*	71/2				605	476	Merchants
112%	60	Crystal Amber Fd◆	103		***		-31.2		802	665	Mid Wynd
516 96	406 72	CT Priv Eq Ord CT Property	470 73%		1%		-35.8 -14.5		1218	880 106	Monks Inv Tst Montanaro Eur S
3451/4		CT UK Cap&Inc	328	Ī	21/3		3.5		908		Murray Income 1
89	75	CT UK HIT B	88		672		-8.7		2631/2		Murray Int
99	71	CT UK HIT	91	_	4		-4.9		93%		Nb Global Floatin
590		Dunedin Entp	515		21/3		-22.3		390	338	Pacific Assets
786	629	Edinburgh IT	750	+	9		-9.5		336	270	Pantheon Int
165%		Edin Wwide	1521/8	+	11/2		-11.7		4368	2782	Pershing Sq
320	2731/3	EP Global Opp	300	-	1	1.3	-21.6		4921/2	457	Personal Assets
921/2	73	European Assets	843/	+	3/2	5.6	-11.7		3474%	2090	Polar Cap Tech
917%	748	European Opp Trust	855				-10.6		135	87	Prem Glb & Inf
1066%		F&C Invest Tr	1024	+	20		-10.8		117%		Renewables Inf
549%		Fidlty Asian Val	493	٠	8	2.6			2030	1696	RIT Cap Ptnr
246		Fidelity China Sp	187%	+	3/4		-10.9		1045		Riverstone
7401/4	569	FdltyEmrgMkt	6831/2	*	5%		-11.9		472	382	Schroder TotRt
4121/2		Fidelity European Tru		+	1%		-4.9		554	456	Schrd Asia Pac
186½ 335½	144 252	Fidlty Jap Tru Fidlty Spec Val	157½ 319	•	2	2.8	10.5 -9.5		304¼ 266	247 218	Schrod Inc Gwth Schrod Jap Gwth
896		Fins Gwth & Inc	826	Ĭ	13		7.4		686	482	Schrod UKMid
85		GCP Infrastructure	80%	Ĭ	15		35.8		15%		Schroder UK PP
381/4	1.6	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	331/4	į	1/2		-18.7		540	450	Scot American
152%		Greencoat UK Wind	1421/4		50		-16.9		946	634	Scot Mtge
230%	176	Hansa Investment	215	+	1		-43.2		227	207	Secs Tst Scot
221	175	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	213	+	4	0.8	-45,9		881/4	72%	Sequoia Eco
27721/2	2114%	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2485	-	10		-42.8		285	222	Temple Bar
1370	1102%	Hend Euro Foc	1235	+	3/8	2.1	-11.7		168	140%	Tplton Emg Mkt
1691/2	136	Hend High Inc	1611/2	*	11/2	6.0	-8.2		172%	1281/3	The Glbl Smaller
987%	626	Hend Smlr	893	+	6		-14.4		34		Tiger Royal and
2305	1590	Herald	2090	٠	20		-12.4	- [	349		TR Property
550	357	HgCapital Trust	508	+	4		-4.6		87		Troy Inc&Gth#
141	111	HICL Infra	125	*	1/2		-22.6		1471/2	99	Utilico Ord
1252	1047	Highbridge Tactical	1220				61.1		241	2031/4	Utilico Emerging
1352 410	1046	ICG Ent Tr	1238 386	-	22		-38.7		650 277	508 209	Vietnam Ent Inv Witan
410	551%	Impax Env Mkts	586	*	1	1.0	-11.0		2//	209	ALLEGU

	companies		
12 month High Low Company	Price Yld Dis(-) (p) +/- % or Pm	12 month Price Yld Dis(-) High Low Company (p) +/- % or Pm	
3180 1858½ <b>31 Group</b> 360 289 3i Infrastructure	2985 + 31 2.8 40.6 338½ + 3 3.3 -7.9	174% 154% Invesco Bond Inc 171 + % 6.9 2.1 147% 133 IPST Ball 140% 2.5 -9.4	
1690 1126 Aberforth Smlr 1264 980 Alliance 426% 323 Asia Dragon Tr	1580 + 6 3.2 -12.8 1186 + 16 1.9 -3.4 393 + 3 1.5 -16.1	1477; 133 1731 5811 1407; 12 25 274 242 122 1575 614 61 04 104 105; 1951 Managodf 103 0.9 -6.6 109; 160 1951 UK 269 14545 37 -133	
426% 323 Asia Dragon Tr 210 160 Athelney Trust 250% 186 AVI Global Trust	185 5.0 -6.5 226 + 4 1.4 -10.2	199), 160  PST UK Eq.   164), _ 37 - 133 1912 748   PM American   99   13 0.7 1.7 384 309), (PM Asia Gro & Inc. 356 + 10 3.9 - 9.3 COMPANY COMPANY	
238 175 Baillie Gifford Ch	ir 91½ + 1½ 2.3 -14.6	290 188% JPM China 197% + 15 52 -106 1	
774 633 Baillie Gifford Jpn 138% 101% Baillie Gifford SN 183% 141% Baillie Gifford UK	109½ + 1½16.3	748 622% JPM Claverhs 714 + 1 43 4.7 804 514 Phospi Empt for ME 68 Africase - 1½, 1.0 158.6 110% 96 JPM Em Mets 107% + 1½, 1.4 11.7 8483; 352% JPM Euro disc 454% + 2½, 2.0 10.8	<b>368</b>
88 60 Bal Comm Prop 118¼ 91½ Bankers Inv Trst	86% + 1% 4.6 -27.7 110% + 1 2.0 -10.8	102() 116 JMM 66M 1 130() + 3 35 -112 Free expert comparison could I 585 455() JPM 66M 555 + 10 32 13 your mortgage rate and help your mortgag	
388 325% BH Macro 1064 715 Biotech Growth	383 + 10½13.5 987 + 75.2	1042     820 JPM Indian     1014     * 619.4       332     283% JPM Jap Sml (o     310     * 10     3.8 -12.8   on your monthly repayments.	
127 104 BlckRck Com Inc 159% 131% BlckRck Fro Inv 653 457% BlckRck Grt Euro	113 - ¼ 3.4 -10.8 141 + 1½ 3.8 -8.1 580 + 5 1.0 -5.6	562 435 JPM Japan 523 * 11 1.1 -8.7 1430 995 JPM Mid Cap# 1220 - 1½ 2.9 -14.6 107 90§ JPM Multi-asset Gist 101½ - ½ 5.7	
209% 170 BlckRck Inc & Gwt 1622 1146 BlckRck Smlr	h 195 3.5 -12.2 1504 + 4 2.7 -11.7	380 229 JPM Smillr Co 369 - 2½ 3.3 -13.4 236 182 Keystone Positive Change Inv gl./214 + 7 0.1 -11.5	
207 172½ BlckRck Sustain A 682 503 BlckRck Throgmor 634 490 BlckRck Wld Min		929 718 Law Debenture 881 + 15 3.9 -1.0 135 103½ Lovaled 127 + 1½ 3.5 -12.5 21 179 Majdide 220 + 1 2.6 -9.0	
1425 1065 Brown Adv US sm 1420 964 Brunner	1345 + 2½11.9 1340 + 20 1.6 -4.9	399 294% M. Currie Port 359 + 7 1.0 -1.7 102% 76 Marvyn Val In 93 * ½ 4.9 -52.2  Compare now at the times coul	
3700 2593½ Caledonia Inv 454 371½ City of Lon IT 112¼ 60 Crystal Amber Fd4	3545 - 55 1.2 -35.4 429½ + 7½ 4.9 -2.2 103 22.6 -31.2	269 177½ Mecantile II 242 + 1½ 3.0 -12.1 605 476 Merchants 581 + 9 5.3 -0.2 802 665 Mid Wind 779 + 13 1.2 -1.6	,,,,,
516 406 CT Priv Eq Ord 96 72 CT Property	470 3.9 -35.8 73½ - 1½ 4.1 -14.5	1218 800 Moniks Inv Tst 1130 + 10 02 11.1 4209% 3504% Sun Life Can 3734% - 15% 12.D 146 106 Montanaro Eur Sml 142 + 3% 0.6-13.9 6% 2% Tavistock Inv	6413% 6141% Kingspan G
345¼ 266½ CT UK Cap&Inc 89 75 CT UK HIT B 99 71 CT UK HIT	328 + 2½ 3.6 -3.5 888.7 91 - 4 5.9 -4.9	908 766½ Murray Income Trust 865 + 10 4,3 -9,7 263½ 218½ Murray Int 249 + 3½ 4,1 -10.8 3465 2350 TBC Bank Group 2810 + 45 7.4 4.4	725% 559% Land Sec 73% 33 Life Science
590 448% Dunedin Entp 786 629 Edinburgh IT	515 + 2½ 5.7 -22.3 750 + 9 3.6 -9.5	390 338 Pacific Assets 370 + 2 0.5 -12.6 49 41½ Thames Ventures VCT 41½ - 1 -52	15½ 8½ Lon & Asso 210½ 156¾ Londonmet
165% 120% Edin Wwide 320 273% EP Global Opp 92% 73 European Assets	152½ + 1½11.7 300 - 1 1.3 -21.6 84½ + ¾ 5.6 -11.7	4368 2782 Pershing Sq 3618 + 130 0.5 -26.7 54½ 24½ Time Finance 49 11.5 49½; 477 Personal Assets 488 + 11½, 15 -0.7 133½ 46½ Vanquis 53½ - ½ 11.1. 474½ 2009 Polar Can Fech 2004 + 4598 1500 1000 Molecular 1425 - 25 17.6	56% 31% Macau Prop
92½ 73 European Assets 917¾ 748 European Opp Tru: 1066¾ 825¾ F&C Invest Tr	04/4 . 18 220 221	135 87 Prem Glb & Inf 106 6.7 -14.9 7 2½ WH Ireland	358½ 198 Marshalls 105½ 75 Michelmers
549% 467% Fidlty Asian Val 246 180% Fidelity China Sp	493 * 8 2.6 -9.6 187¼ * ¾ 2.7 -10.9	2030     1696     RIT Cap Ptnr     1848       280     26½     20     Walker Crips Grp     20     -½     2.4     15.8       1045     561½     Riverstone     801     -6      269     4873½     2022½     Wells Fargo     4139½     +23½      10.9	1½ % Mindflair Pl 2860 1816 Morgan Sin
740¼ 569 FdJtyEmrgMkt 412½ 311½ Fidelity European 186½ 144 FidJty Jap Tru	683½ + 5½ 2.0 -11.9 Trust386 + 1½ 2.0 -4.9 157½ + 210.5	472 382 Schroder Toll 448 + 10 2.3 -7.8 1520% 1044 Westpac 1423½ - 10½ 153 554 456 Schrod Asia Pac 519 + 9 2.1 -12.3 1520% 1044 Westpac 1423½ - 10½ 153 304½ 247 Schrod Inc Gwth 288 45 -10.9 31 23½ Worsley Investors Ltd 28½	2860 1816 Morgan Sin 10950 9375 Mountview
335½ 252 Fidlty Spec Val 896 788½ Fins Gwth & Inc	319 + 3 2.8 -9.5 826 + 13 2.0 -7.4	266         218         Schrod Jap Gwth         242         +         1         1.8         -9.9         43650% 36246         Zwrich Find         42253% +1126%          18.1           686         482         Schrod UKMid         636         +         8         3.1         -14.8          -	88% 67% NewRiver R 260 200 Palace Capi
85 59½ GCP Infrastructure 38¼ 22½ Gldn Prosp Prc Mt 152¾ 127½ Greencoat UK Win	1 33¼ - ½18.7	15%   11% Schroder (MPP 17   11% - % - 47.6	315 255 Panther Sec
230% 176 Hansa Investment 221 175 Hansa Inv Co 'A'		227 207 Sees Tist Scot 222 + 3 3.0 -0.4 88\(\frac{1}{2}\) 72\(\frac{1}{2}\) Sequipilit From \(\frac{7}{2}\) 74 - 135 \(\frac{1}{2}\) 74 - 135 \(\frac{1}{2}\) 72\(\frac{1}{2}\) Sequipilit From \(\frac{7}{2}\) 78\(\frac{1}{2}\) - \(\frac{1}{2}\) 74 - 135 \(\frac{1}{2}\) 72\(\frac{1}{2}\) Sequipilit From \(\frac{7}{2}\) 78\(\frac{1}{2}\) 32\(\frac{1}{2}\) 32\(\frac{1}{2}\) 33\(\frac{1}{2}\) 43\(\frac{1}{2}\) 43\(\frac{1}\) 43\(\frac{1}{2}\) 43\(\frac{1}2\) 43\(\frac{1}2\) 43\(\frac{1}2\) 43\(\frac{1}2\) 43\(	1588½ 960% <b>Persimm</b> 50 30 Plaza Cent
2772½ 2114½ Hbrvest Glbl Pt Ec 1370 1102½ Hend Euro Foc 169½ 136 Hend High Inc	2485 - 1042.8 1235 + ¾ 2.1 -11.7 161½ + 1½ 6.0 -8.2	207 222 Tempte bal 207 7 3 3.7 4.3 168 140½ Tplton Emg Mkt 159½ + 4½ 2.7 -15.2 8½ 6½ Aseana Props 6½ - ½ -1.9	106¼ 85½ Primary Heal 37 27½ Real Estate
987% 626 Hend Smlr 2305 1590 Herald	893 + 6 2.9 -14.4 2090 + 2012.4	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	748 445% Redrow
550 357 HgCapital Trust 141 111 HICL Infra Highbridge Tactica	508 + 4 1.3 -4.6 125 + ½ 5.2 -22.6	87 74½ Tray Inc6cths 79½ + ½ 3.7 -0.3 425½ 255½ Ballora Beatty 355½ + 2½ 29 11.3 147½ 99 Utilico Ord 104½ + 1½ 3.2 42.5 556½ 372½ Barratt Devs 57½ + 8½ 5.4 23.1 42.2 1283½ Utilico Energing Mix 220 + 4 3.1 -1.85 26.4 2008 Ballinear 2704 + 3.6 4.1 1.50	913 653 Safestore: 1276 763½ Savills
1352 1046 ICG Ent Tr 410 331% Impax Env Mkts	1238 - 22 1,6-38,7 386 + 1 1,0-11,0	650 508 Vietnam Ent Inv 553169 2000 2000 Selimay 2704 + 26 4.1 Est.   2500 2000 Selima	6 3½ Secure Prop 946½ 679½ Segro
348 283 Invesco Asia Tr	316 + 8 4.2 -12.3	372½ 286 Ww Health 356 - 1½ 0,8 -9.5   1264 910 Big Yellow Group 1184 + 10 3.8 9.3	

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4209%	3504%	Sun Life Can	3734%	-	15%		12,0
61/2	21/4	Tavistock Inv◆	23/4			2.4	
3465	2350	TBC Bank Group	2810	+	45	7.4	4.4
81/2	1%	Tern♦	1%				-0.5
49	41%	Thames Ventures VC	T 41½	-	1		-52
541/2	241/2	Time Finance◆	49				11.5
1331/2	461/8	Vanquis	531/4	-	3/1	11.1	
1500	1060	Volvere◆	1425	-	25		17.6
7	2%	WH Ireland◆	31/4				-0.4
261/2	20	Walker Crips Grp	20	-	1/2	2.4	15,8
48731/3	3022%	Wells Fargo	4139%	+	23%		10.9
1520%	1044	Westpac	14231/2	-	101/4		15.3
31	23%	Worsley Investors Lt	d 28½				
43650%	36246	Zurich Find	42253¾	+1	126½		18.1

# **Construction &** property

236	1421/2	Alumasc◆	236	+	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4.4	10.7
8%	614	Aseana Props	6%	-	1/2		-1.9
48%	39	Assura	42	+	$\frac{3'}{1}$	7.9	
1%	3/4	Aukett Swanke◆	11/2				
426%	295%	Balfour Beatty	395%	+	$2 \frac{1}{2}$	2.9	11,3
566%	3921/4	Barratt Devs	521	+	$8_{74}^{3\prime}$	5.4	23.1
2866	2008	Bellway	2704	+	26	4.1	15.0
5320	3860	Berkeley	4978	+	26	1.3	11.8

73%	33	Life Science Reit	341/4	+	1/4		5.5	
151/2	81/2	Lon & Assoc	101/2				2.3	
210%	156%	Londonmetric Prope	erty199%	+	21/2	5.1	18,8	
56%	31%	Macau Prop Op	35%	+	1/2		-1.8	
358½	198	Marshalls	332½	+	2	2.5	45.5	
105½	75	Michelmersh◆	95%	+	%	4.7	9.4	
1½	1/2	Mindflair PLC◆	1				-0.7	
2860	1816	Morgan Sindall	2775	+	75	4.2	11.0	
10950	9375	Mountview:	9700	+	475	5.6	14.2	
88%	67%	NewRiver REIT:	79%	+	1/2	8,3		
260	200	Palace Capital:	222	-	1½	6.7	9.3	
315	255	Panther Securities	300	-	5	3.9	11.8	
1588½	960%	Persimmon	15381/2	+	37	4.0	19.3	
50	30	Plaza Cent	40				11	
106%	851/2	Primary Health Proper	ties:93	+	1%	7.4	46.5	
37	27½	Real Estate Invs◆	34			6.9	6.2	
748	445%	Redrow	736	+	10	3.4	11.4	
913	653	Safestore:	8071/2	+	31/2	3.7	6.7	
1276	763½	Savills	1242	+	18	1.7	43.1	
6	3%	Secure Property◆	4					
9461/3	679%	Segro	9001/2	+	11%	3.1		

 $6413\% \ \ 6141\% \ \ \text{Kingspan Group} \qquad \ \ 6214\% \ \ - \ \ 221\% \ \ \ \ 0.3 \ \ \ 20.5$ 

725% 559% Land Sec

# 3½ 2 Ukrproduct Gp◆ 5664 4314 Unilever (NV) 5636 + 70 3.0 25.4 4845 3694 Unilever 4845 + 53 3.0 21.8 159% - 3% -1.7

En	giı	neerin	g				-
		Ass De Cont	15			-6.	-
***	***	Ass Br Eng₽	15			-0.	2
1378	593	Avon Rubber	1254	+	6	1.8 .	
5651/2	3681/2	Babcock	521	+	13	0.3 82	7
1400	955%	BAE	1293	+	22	2.3 21	4
1475	900	Braime A N/V♦	1000			1.4 6.	3
2400	1850	Braime Group♦	1950			0.7 12	3
580	450	Caffyns:	460			2.1 9.	7
1%		Cap XX Ld♦	1/4			-0.	5
412	326	Castings*	354	+	2	5.2 9.	2
3	1%	Chamberlin◆#	1%			5.	0

# 95 55 Zytronic◆ Health

2440 776 XP Power

1330 + 30

		Abcam♦	1226	+	123		
258	177%	AdvancedMedical◆	2351/2	+	5	1.0	32.4
6	11/8	Allergy Therap♦	4%				-0.8
311/4	91/8	Angle◆	14	+	1/4		-1.8
3371/2	200	Anpario◆	290			3,6	21.5
12690	9501	AstraZeneca	12690	+	282	1.8	39.5
293%	196%	Convatec	230	+	4	2.1	46.5
33	18	Creighton	261/3	+	%		16.6
3866	3744	Dechra Pharma	3866	+	2		57.7
34		Deltex Medical♦	1/4				-1.3
181/8	81/8	e-Therapeutics•	9	-	%		-5.0
1311/2	84	Eco Animal Hlth♦	1021/2				
33%	231/2	EKF Diagnostics♦	26%	+	1/4	4.4	51.8
53%	25½	Futura Medical♦	34½				
2434	1630	Genus	1730	-	18	1.8	34.1
1812½	1345%	GSK	1535	+	131/2	3,8	14.1
14		Gunsynd◆	1/4				-0.3
374	312	Haleon	374	+	5%	1.6	31.9
2205	1722	Hikma Pharms	1840	+	19	3.1	27.6
352	192%	Hutchmed China◆	311	-	3		33.0
2½	34	ImmuPharma◆	1%				-2.1
1885	756½	Indivior	1037	-	9		
531/2	15%	Inspiration Health◆	251/2			2.4	
201/4	63/8	IXICO♦	71/3				-1.8
		Mediclinic	501	٠	1/2		31.3

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# **Equity prices Business**

									Equity	prices bu	12111622
				l							
12 month High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E	12 month P High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E	12 month High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E	12 month High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E	12 month High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E	12 month High Low Company	Price (p) +/- Yld% P/E
	_										
1% % N4 Pharma♦	½1.0	Bonhill Group+	% - ½1.5	8560% 72% DRD Gold	72% + % 8.5	1¼ % Sound Energy♦	%2.4	RPS Group	221 - 1	134⅓ ⅓ Location Sciences♦	1/4 - 1341/4
75½ 58 NIOX Group◆	63% + % 1.5 30.0	157½ 65 Catalyst Media♦ 85	5 31.7 5.8	¼ KECR Minerals◆	¼ 13.5	12% 7% Star Energy♦	7%2.1	839½ 660½ RS Group	774 + 19 2.9 20.0	49 31 MTI Wireless◆	37½ 6.5 10.2
	F 96.74 + 3.45 25.2	% ½ Catenae◆	½0.2	% ≤ Empyrean Energy	% 1.0	Sunrise Resources	7.2	125 40 RTC Group◆	102½ 5.3 8.0	23% 13% Nanoco Gp	14½ + ⅓ 3.2
2½ 2 Omega Diags♦ 14 ½ Ovoca Bio♦	2½1.6	DCD Media•# 100	0 - 30 5.0	1891 1250 <b>Endeavour</b>	1562 + 3 4.1	⅓ Tertiary Minerals♦	5.5	257¾ 162⅓ RWS HJdgs♦	177% + 5% 7.1	98½ 71½ Netca  ◆	94 + 2½ 0.9 29.8
14 ½ Ovoca Bio◆ 446 166¾ Oxford Biomedica	354 + 6 -2.1	46½ 31 Ebiquity♦ 38	8	18% 12 EnQuest	13 + % -1.1	2% % Thor Mining♦	3/40.7	468 373 Science Group♦	445 + 9 1.8 37.0	50½ 35 Northamber◆	36 - ½ 1.6
2% % Physiomics◆	34 + 14 -2.0	1145 577 Future 1055	5 + 18 0.3 13.8	3¼ 1½ Eurasia Mining◆#	2½ + ½ -4.5	5871¾ 4482¾ Total Eng SE	52421/8 + 2401/2 5.1 7.4	194 139 Serco	169% + 2 2.0 9.4	17¾ 9¼ Online Blockchain◆#	15½ + 2½2.0
8½ 2½ Proteome Scies◆	3½ + ½ -4.3	243 132 GlobalData♦ 213	7 + 8½ 2.2 57.1	1¼ % Europa Oil&Gas♦	1	Tower Resources	1.7	65½ 40% Smiths News	59 7.6 6.3	115 78 Oxford Metrics◆	88½ + ½ 3.1 22.9
5960 4093 Reckitt Benckise		Hyve Group 120	0½	90¼ 41½ Ferrexpo	48¾ + ½ -4.3	39½ 26½ Tullow Oil	27% + 1/3 -4.6	3882 2554 Smurfit Kappa	3656 + 124 41 144	3¼	¼0.2
37½ 8¾ RUA Life Sciences◆	10½ + ¼ -1.2	235 107½ IG Design Grp◆ 207	7½ + 7½ -9.2	639½ 440½ Fresnillo	545 + 12 0.8 21.9	1½ UK Oil & Gas♦	0.2	19½ 8¼ Software Circle plo		38 23 Pennant Intl♦	24½9.6
101 10¼ Sareum Hldgs♦	29 + 1½ -4.6	878½ 685½ <b>Informa</b> 810	01/8 + 113/4 2.2 27.1	G3 Exploration#	282.6	150 42½ URU Meta s◆	501.0	41½ 22½ Staffline Gp◆	37% + 1% -7.1 384 + 3½ 43 92	565 370 Playtech	518 - 1 17.7
1179½ 896¼ <b>Smith &amp; Neph</b>	1179½ • 14 2.6 49.9	84½ 55¾ ITV 78	8½ + 1½ 6.4 15.1			⅓ Vast Res♦		442½ 340 SThree 197½ 97½ Synectics◆‡	384 + 3½ 43 9.2 180 + 5 2.8 14.0	89½ 53 Pulsar Group♦	74½ + ½
266 210 Spire Hcare	251½ + 2½ 0.8 38.1	5 1½ Jaywing♦ 1	1¾0,1			Victoria Oil&Gas•#	3%1.8	30 15½ Thruvision Group◆	16	483½ 292¾ QinetiQ‡	464% + 6% 1.8 19.5
9% 3% Synairgen♦	3% - ¼ -0.7	¾ Live Company Gp◆#	¼	10 % GCM Resources◆	31/45.5	W Resources◆#	2%0.3	71% 39½ Tribal◆	56¼ - 3¼ 23.4	103½ 47% RM	83 + 1% -1.4
74 49½ Tissue Regenix◆	63	193½ 119½ ME Group 189	9½ + 2½ 3.9 14.2	18¼ 7% Gem Diamonds	12¼	2½ 1¼ Westmount Engy♦	1%0.3	137½ 63½ Vianet♦	126% + 1 0.6 47.0	1282 930% <b>Sage</b>	1014½ - 3½ 1.9 39.3
12½ 4 Totally◆ 498 327½ Tristel◆	10 + ¼ 1.2 475 - 7 2.7 37.9	Mediazest	2.5	11% 1% Getech◆	1%0.2	211% 127% Wood Grp (J)	1331/4 + 43/4 -8.7	3½ 1 Westminster◆	2%5.7	6 4 Seeing Machines♦	4% + 1/4 -7.8
14½ 1½ ValiRx◆	2%13	88½ 42½ Merit Grp◆ 74	46.3	501½ 368% <b>Glencore</b>	404% + 11 5.7 15.1	¼ ¼ Woodbois◆	¾ 1.4	438 311½ ZIGUP plc	398 + ½ 6.2 6.9	52½ 35 Shearwater Grp♦	45½1.4
27/4 2/3 10(1001	2/8 12	Mirada+ 1	1½ - 1¾	⅓ Global Petrol♦	0,6	1½ ¾ Xtract Resources♦	¾5.1		12	90 33½ Smartspace S'ware♦	909.4
Industrials		43½ 10½ Mission Group◆ 24	4 - 1½ 6.5 -1.9	153941% 1295% Gold Fields	1295% + 2% 20.9	5% 2 Zephyr Energy◆	3%	Real estate		1855 1212 Softcat	1552 + 24 1.6 27.7
		283% 208 Moneysupermarket: 214	43/6 + 23/4 5.7 15.8	8½ 5½ Goldplat♦	6¼ 4.7					200 90 Spirent Comms	175 + 2 1.2 52.3
105½ 50¼ Accsys Tech◆	51% * % -7.5	22231/4 15181/4 News Corp A 2071	1¼ + 22¾ 70.7	1¼ % Goldstone Res♦	1½2.1	Professiona	1&	152¼ 102½ Shaftesbury Cap	1461/4 + 31/4 2.2 3.2	59 17 SRT Marine♦	308.3
4633% 3423% BASF	3575% + 63%	2289% 1566% News Corp B 2142	2 + 26% 73.1	11½ 5½ Greatld Gld◆	7 - 1/4	support ser	vices	W		536% 357% Tele. Ericsson	526% + 6%9.3
4446% 2138% Bayer DM50	2244¼ + 68¾8.2	1036 554 Next 15 Group◆3 816	6 + 14 1.9 31.7	164 78 Griffin Mining♦	121 - 2 19.3	support ser	vices	Retailing		107½ 87½ Touchstar◆	99 2.5 13.0
175 21½ Biome Tech♦	21½ - 1½ -0.5	1056 812 <b>Pearson</b> 1044	4 + 4½ 2.1 19.8	151½ 84½ Gulf Keystone	124½ + 3¼ 4.4					960 614 Tracsis♦	614 + 4 0.3 40.2
1¾ Byotrol◆ Camb Gbl Timber◆	0.2	5½ 2½ Primorus Inv◆	31.8	17¼ 8½ Harland & Wolff Gp	◆# 8¾ - ¼ -0.1	6540 4255 4imprint Grp	5490 - 130 2.9 24.5	119 77% AO World	112 23.1	17 7 Trakm8◆	7 3.1
Camb Gbl IImber◆	6¾9.0 96 + 1 2.3 23.8	172½ 107½ Quarto 140	0 + 15 5,3	193% 76% Hochschild	166% + 1	742½ 545 Andrews Sykes◆	547½ 4.7 12.9	612½ 434½ B&M European		315 105 Triad Grp‡	270 2.2
5746 3899 <b>Croda</b>	3900 + 38 2.8 31.8	105% 59 Reach 104	4½ + 1½ 7.1 15.3	157⅓ ¾ Horizonte MinrIs•#	¼0.1	6104 4667 <b>Ashtead</b>	5262 + 160 1.5 18.1	25% 13% Brown (N)◆ 120% 85½ Card Factory	25% - % 118½ + 1¾ 3.8 8.2	99 53% Wandisco♦	631/2 + 1/2 -1.9
835 230 Cropper (James)♦	250 2.8 7.3	85 62½ REACT Grp◆ 74	4½ + ¼ 76.0	459 231 Hunting PLC	414 + 15 2.0 7.5	Asimilar Group+	1	2120 922 CVS Group♦	1110 + 26 0.6 22.4	445 312 Water Intel◆	400 - 2½ 20.6
159% 107% Elementis	1481/2 - 11/2 1.1 40.3	3688 2473 <b>Rel</b> x‡ 3512	2 + 62 1.7 37.3	Independ Res		48½ 31 AssetCo◆	38½ + ½ -5.6	128% 99% DFS Furn	120% - % 3.3 15.8	190 91½ Xaar	122
15½ 4¾ Hardide◆	6342.7	594 <sup>37</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 462 <sup>37</sup> / <sub>8</sub> Rightmove 518	8% - 5% 1.7 20.9	141 6¾ Indus Gas◆	7½ + ¾ 0.5	76 45½ Avisen◆	69 69.0	1241 967 Dunelm	1171 - 7 3.6 15.8	½ ¾ Yourgene◆	1/20_3
1870 1446½ Johnson Math	1585 + 29 4.9 27.1	105 58½ SpaceandPeople♦ 105	5 14.7		48	132 98% Begbies Traynor◆	100 - ½ 3.8	938 776 Frasers Group	857½ + 16 7.6	71¼ 21¼ Zoo Digital♦	58
1706 1311½ <b>Mondi</b>	14511/2 * 161/2 4.3 14.7	290½ 176½ STV Group 271	1 + 1½ 4.1 28.8			226 216 Blancco Tech◆	225 + 3 80.6	3134 2282 Greggs	3064 + 34 2.0 22.0	Talasama	
115 87½ Robinson◆	110 5.0	790 170 System1 Group♦ 740	0 + 25 75.5	97 45 ITM Power◆	52½ - ¾ -5.0	3306 2687 <b>Bunzl</b>	3190 + 40 2.1 20.4	234 136 Halfords	142½ - ¾ 6.9 9.6	Telecoms	
456% 263% DS Smith	446 + ½ 4.0 15.9	3099 2221½ 21st Cent Fox Inc A 3099	9 + 48¼ 12.3	8% 4% Jubilee Metals◆	5% 12.4	26¼ 12½ Capita	16% + % -1.5	947½ 624 Howden Joiner		AdEPT Technology	÷ 2002
734½ 489½ Swire Pacific 9½ 2 Symph Environ◆	708½ + 21½ 3.5 2¼ 1.9	2892% 2024% 21st Cent Fox Inc B 2892	25/8 + 47//8 11.5	5% 1½ Karel Diamd Res◆	1½6.8	41 17½ CEPS♦	20 7.5	859½ 624½ Inchcape	811½ + 4 4.2 12.5	131½ 90% Airtel Africa	109½ + 1 4.3
6231/4 1221/5 Synthomer	2441/2 + 8 -2.0	Vela Tech	5.0	1/4 1/2 KEFI Gold and Coppe		132½ 67½ Christie Group◆	102½ 0.9 -6.9	5% 1 IQ-AI	11/43.5	145 102½ BT Group	135% + 1% 5.7 15.8
2531½ 2046½ Takeda Pharm	2185 + 97½ 34.9	400 297 Wilmington 394	4 + 4 2.6 19.4	442 294 Kenmare Res	333½ + 9½ 13.8 3.1	2396 1945½ Compass	2340 + 4 1.9 29.9	175½ 104 JD Sports	125% + 2½ 0.7 12.0	82½ 43½ Currys plc	77% + % 3.6
1¼ ¼ Velocys◆	½0.2	855 681¼ <b>WPP</b> 703	3 - 14 5.5 69.6	Lampre  #	8%0.7	186½ 122½ CPPGroup◆	150% - 6% -1.5	280½ 201½ <b>Kingfisher</b>	2701/2 + 21/4 4.6 15.0	1496 994 Gamma Comms◆	1488 + 4 1.1 28.3
1566 1040 Victrex	1040 + 10 5.7 29.7	97½ 67½ Zinc Media◆ 67	7½ - 2 -7.4	11 1% Landore Res◆	3½3.6	74½ 43 Croma Security◆	67½ - 2½ 3.1 3.0	331¼ 202¼ Marks & Spenc	er 320½ + 7½ 0.9 15.4	131 59 Helios Towers	122½ + 3½
471½ 325 Wynnstay Group♦	345 - 12½ 4.8 13.6			⅓ Lansdowne 0&G◆#		6035 4171 DCC	5145 + 105 3.9 15.6	8 3¾ Mothercare◆	3¾ 21.2	1340 896 Just Eat T'away	1042 + 107 -1.3
574 276 Zotefoams	488 - 6 1.4 26.3	Natural resour	rces	13½ 6¼ Leeds Group◆	6½1.9	103 47 De La Rue 4448 2804 <b>Diploma</b>	95 + 1 -4.2	74 28½ Naked Wines♦	531/4 + 1/4 -1.3	¼ Mobile Streams◆	0.6
T				6½ 2% Lexington Gold◆	3½		4102 + 102 1.4 47.5	9476 6750 <b>Next</b>	9476 + 116 2.2 14.4	2% ¾ Mobile Tornado◆	1%7.2
Investment			¾0.7	9½ 6% MC Mining◆	7%4.0	791 593 Discoverie	020 13 13 37.0	885 281 Ocado	390% + 9%	1900 1362 Telecom Plus	1760 + 22 4.7 45.1
companies			½0.1	5% 1% Metals Explorn◆	4½ 0.9	29½ 22 Driver Group◆ 190 143½ Essentra	26 5.7 65.0 160% + 5% 2.3 80.3	36¼ 17¼ Pendragon	35½ 0.5	81 62% Vodafone	73½ + 2½ 10.8 19.2
580 418 PatriaPrivEq	544 + 17 17.1		4 + 1/6 -5.9	⅓ Nostra Terra♦	0.6	3779 2390 Experian	160½ + 5½ 23 80.3 3488 + 83 1.3 33.8	380 254% Pets at Home 156 100% Saga	292½ + 2½ 4.4 17.8 100¾ + 1½ -1.2		
Jou 410 Patharnivey	544 ° 17 1/11		01/8 + 1	14½ 4 Nostrum 0&G	5½ + ½	17685 12100 Ferguson	15800 + 100 1.5 21.6	310% 245% Sainsbury's	100% + 1½ -1.2 271% + 5% 4.9 47.6	Transport	
Leisure		⅓ Alba Mineral Res♦		Oil Search	218% - 5% 60.3	273 205 FIH Group	230 + 22 3.1 14.3	1484 1083 WH Smith	1216 - 33 25 24.9		
2010410		¼ Alien Metals♦	2.3	0ilex•#	½ 0.1	598 394½ Hargeaves Serv◆	598 + 8 4.0 15.6	23¼ 8½ Sosandar◆	8½ + ½ 77.2	312½ 253 Braemar Ship‡	291 + ½ 4.4 22.7
130 70½ 888 Hldgs	85% - 1 -6.7	96% 35% Alumina 74	4¼ - 1¼	¾ Oriole Resources◆	¼4.1	890 600 Impellam Grp◆	875 + 35 25.0	Studio Retail#	115 - 2½ 2.4	577% 359% EasyJet	418% - 5% 1.0 8.5
759 507 Accesso Tech♦	690 + 4 47.1	2 % Aminex 1	1½	Ormonde Mining •#	¾3.4	Ince G•#	5½ 2.9	331½ 246½ <b>Tesco</b>	329% + 9 3.7 13.4	3¾ Esken Limited#	
530 525 Best of the Best◆	530 5.9	28 Amur Mins Corp◆#		5¼ 2 Orosur Mining♦	3¼6.2	5075 3755 Intertek	4644 + 44 2.4 25.3	53½ 39 Topps Tiles	41% - 1/4 8.5	187% 140% FirstGroup:	158 - 2¼ 3.4
1377 811½ Carnival	1041½ - 14 41.1	4219931/ <sub>4</sub> 2644 Anglo Amer Plat 2644	4 - 8% 12.4	29½ 12½ Pan African Res◆	28¼ + ¾ 2.7 9.2	207 127% IWG	172 + 5½ 0.6 -8.0			406 245½ Fisher (James)	336 - 3 -3.3
192½ 116 Celtic◆ 424½ 282½ Domino's Pizza	187½ * 15 25.2 282¾ - 4½ 3.6 10.1	2773½ 1670¼ Anglo American 2201	1 * 8 3.5	40% 10% Pantheon Res◆	18½ + 1	171⅓ 108 Johnson Srvce◆	157% + 1 1.7 24.5	Technology		186% 138 International Airlin	
1403% 523% Entain	523% + 19% 3.5 -3.7	91 42 Anglo Asian Mng♦ 91	1 + 1 3.4 -5.5	20⅓ 11⅓ Parkmead Grp◆	11¼ - ¼ -0.4	294 180½ Journeo◆	268½ - 1½ 14.9			346½ 213 IDS	337 + 1/6 60.1
17475 12155 Flutter Ent	14345 + 65	2410 1293 Antofagasta 1816	6½ - 4½ 1.5 27.3	% Pathfinder Mins◆#	¼3.4	161% 81% Kier Gp	149% + 2% 1.1 16.6	18 3½ Aferian pic◆	3½ - ½	540 366 Irish Cont Uts	458 2.7 14.8
41¾ 29¾ Gaming Realms◆	41 + 1½ 20.9	3% 1% Arc Minerals♦ 1	1% + % -7.0	76½ 28¾ Petra Diamonds	28% - 1 -0.7	1515 955 Latham (J)◆‡	1385 - 2½ 2.4 9.5	198 140 Alfa Financial Allied Minds	183% + 2% 0.7 23.2	1519 991½ Jet2◆	1330 - 17 0.8 7.2
290 265 Heavitree◆	290 2.1 10.5	3 1% Ariana Res♦ 2	2¼	3¼ % Petrel Resources◆	%3.7	1125 628 Loli'n Store◆	1105 - 5 12 88.1	388 230 Aptitude Software	13½ + 3½1.2 356 15 50.1	92% 46 Mobico Group 1475 914 Ocean Wilson	52¼ - ¼ 3.2 -1.7 1250 5.3 8.4
177 145 Heavitree A♦	177 * 17 3.2 6.4	½ ¼ Arkle Resources◆	1/42.6	4% 2% Petro Matad◆	2% + 1/4 -7.4	3900 2900 Lon Security◆	3900 3.1 20.5	206 95½ Bango◆	122½	17½ 8½ Sutton Harbour◆	
120 45 Hermes Pacific◆	52½	1¼	1/4 7.5	87% 10% Petrofac	14% + % -01	347 216 LSL Prop Services	347 + 4 3.3 44.4	29% 15% BATM Adv Coms	19% + %	17½ 0½ 3utton Harboul♥ 630 218¼ Wincanton	10½5.7
8752 5612 InterContinental Hot  1 % Minoan Gp◆		1½ ½ Asiamet Rsrcs♦	¾4.4	Petroneft Rese#	0.2	145 99 Macfarlane	126 2.8 13.4	22½ 13½ Berkeley Res	16½ + ¼	2536 1423 Wizz Air	1423 - 26 5.6
1 % minoan Gp♥ 315½ 199¼ Mitch & Butlers	½8.5 303½ + 8 41.0	485½ 286 Atalaya Mine: 352	2 + 14 2.0 20.1	Phoenix Global	65 + 141.6	278 157½ Maintel Hldgs♦	2406.4	12¾ 3¾ Blackbird◆	68.8	2000 1420 WILL MI	1425 20 340
178 82% On The Beach	136% - ½ 0.6 14.4	Baron Oil •	9.1			29 18 Malvern Intl♦	18½ - 1	285 155 Celebrus Tech PLC•	÷ 278½ + 8½ 1.1 30.3	Utilities	
96 62½ Rank Grp	67 - 2 -3.2	125 24 Beowulf Mining♦ 24	42.2	28½ 3½ Plexus Holdings◆	13% 54,5	394 253 Mears Group	340 + 7 3.9 10.6	1	½0.5	- Ctilities	<del></del>
68 40% Restaurant Gp	64¾	Bezant Res	1,3	Polymetal Int#	215 + 50 2.4	124% 91% Mitie Gp	118% + 2 3.4 13.0	2962 2026 Computacenter	2582 + 32 2.7 14.9	172½ 124 <b>Centrica</b>	125% + 1% 3.2 1.8
63 42 Rotala◆	63	2700 2093 BHP Group 2097		730 524 Porvair:	630 - 2 0.9 18.7	9¼ 2½ MobilityOne◆#	2% - 1/4 -9.1	123½ 63½ Concurrent Tech♦	117½ + 2¼ 0.8 24.2	ContourGlobal	251 + ½ 28.3
138¼ 62½ Sportech◆	84 + 9		23/8	8% 4% Prospex Energy◆	6¼	102½ 47½ Newmark Sec◆	87½	20¼ 6½ Corero◆	19¼	648½ 401½ Drax Group	6451/2 + 15 3.6 4.6
244½ 144½ SSP	164% + 1% 2.2	**	3% - 1%	9½ 1½ Proton Motor Power		10½ 5¾ Norm Broadbent◆	7½ 18,5	2470 1345 Craneware◆	2390 + 90 1.2	485 405 Jersey Electricity	447 4.4 12.1
2% % Tasty◆	13/80.2		1540.5	Providence Res•	3½ 29.0	64 44½ Northern Bear◆	60½ + 1½ 6.7 6.5	270 135 Crimson Tide◆	150 - 5	1050 838% National Grid	976 + 9½ 5.8 17.7
97½ 32½ Tintra◆# 677 401 Tui	32½ - 51.7 563% - 20% 3.1		7½ + 6½ 5.3 6.4	3 % Quadrise♦	1%8.8	255 164 NWF Grp◆	170 + 5 4.7 6.4	17½ 7½ CyanConn Hldgs♦	8	13½ 8 OPG Power◆	91/2 + 1/2 3.5
	563½ - 20½ 3.1 ½4.8			Rambler Met&Min◆	≠ 5¾ 0 <b>.1</b>	498¾ 365 PageGroup	406½ + 2½ 4.0 16.7	17½ 9 Dillistone Group♦	9	767 551 Pennon*	611 + 3 7.3
1% 7/ Wahir Holdinar▲	728½ + 6½ 22.5		2%1.9	¼ Reabold Resources◆	8.0	66½ 39½ PCI-PAL◆	65½ + 1	18% 1 EQTEC◆	1½1.5	½ ¼ Rurelec◆#	% 42 <u>.</u> 5
1% % Webis Holdings◆ 847% 613 Wetherspoon JD		2% 1% Cadogan Petrol 2	2 5.3	⅓ Red Rock Res◆	0.3	8¼ 3¾ Petards◆	7½ + ½ -4.0	594 320 FDM Group	410 87 11.0	2728 2265 Severn Trent	2530 + 55 4.7 49.7
-10	2823 - 7 3.4 17.6	2020 720 711		/4 1100 11001 11034				77 14% Filtronic♦	67 + 1½		
847½ 613 Wetherspoon JD	2823 - 7 3.4 17.6 972 - 2 2.2 20.3	1010 720 Caledonia Mining♦ 835		6969% 5289% Rio Tinto Ltd	6012 - 84½ 12.4	26 18½ PHSC◆	24½ 7.1 11.1			1896 1508 SSE:	1874 + 28 3.2 11.9
847½ 613 Wetherspoon JD 3678 2823 <b>Whitbread</b>	972 - 2 2.2 20.3	5 2⅓ Caspian Sunrise♦ 4	4½		6012 - 84½ 12.4 4923 + 10 6.9 10.1	26 18½ PHSC♦ 2 ¼ PowerHouse Egy♦	24½ 7.1 11.1 1½	1780 812 First Derivts◆	1440 - 20	1896 1508 SSE: 1125 900% United Utilities	
847½ 613 Wetherspoon JD 3678 2823 <b>Whitbread</b> 1170 946 Young & Co - A.◆ 854 592 Young & Co - N/V.◆	972 - 2 2.2 20.3	5 2¼ Caspian Sunrise	4½ 8½ + ½ 2.6 19.3	6969% 5289% Rio Tinto Ltd				1780 812 First Derivts◆ 358¾ 208¾ GB Group◆	1440 - 20 332¾ + 6 1,2	1125 900% United Utilities	1012 + ½ 4.9 54.4
847½ 613 Wetherspoon JD 3678 2823 <b>Whitbread</b> 1170 946 Young & Co - A◆	972 - 2 2.2 20.3	5 2¼ Caspian Sunrise♦ 4 133¼ 78½ Centamin 118 229½ 152½ Cent Asia Metals♦ 186	4½ 8½ + ½ 2.6 19.3 6½ 9.6 12.0	6969% 5289% Rio Tinto Ltd 5891 4559 <b>Rio Tinto</b>	4923 + 10 6.9 10.1	2 ¾ PowerHouse Egy◆	1%	1780 812 First Derivts♦ 358% 208% GB Group♦ 163 114 GreshamTech	1440 - 20 332½ + 6 12 162½ 45.7	1125 900¾ United Utilities  ◆AIM company; # Price at † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲	1012 + ½ 4.9 54.4 : suspension; ▲ Ex rights issue;
847⅓ 613 Wetherspoon JD 3678 2823 Whitbread 1170 946 Young & Go - A♦ 854 592 Young & Go - N/V♦	972 - 2 2.2 20.3 726 + 28 3.1 38.4	5 2½ Caspian Sunrise♦ 4 133½ 78½ Centamin 118 229½ 152½ Cent Asia Metals♦ 186 7½ ½ Chaarat Gold♦	4½ 8½ + ½ 2.6 19.3 6½ 9.6 12.0 ½0.1	6969% 5289% Rio Tinto Ltd 5891 4559 <b>Rio Tinto</b> San Leon Energy•#	4923 + 10 6.9 10.1 16½ + 1½ 6.1	2 ¼ PowerHouse Egy♦ 84¼ 58 Record	1½ 63 + 1 7.4 13.1	1780 812 First Derivts♦  358¼ 208⅓ GB Group♦  163 114 GreshamTech	1440 - 20 332½ + 6 1.2 162½ 45.7 25 6.9	1125 900% United Utilities  ◆AIM company; # Price at † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ↓ ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distri	1012 + ½ 49 544  suspension; A Ex rights issue; ibution; * figures
847½ 613 Wetherspoon JD 3678 2823 <b>Whitbread</b> 1170 946 Young & Co - A.◆ 854 592 Young & Co - N/V.◆	972 - 2 2.2 20.3	5 2½ Caspian Sunrise♦ 4 133½ 78½ Centamin 118 22% 152½ Cent Asia Metals♦ 186 7½ ½ Ohaarat Goló♦ 17½ 6½ Charlot Oll & Gas♦ 6	4½ 8½ + ½ 2.6 19.3 6½ 9.6 12.0	6969% 5289% Rio Tinto Ltd 5891 4559 <b>Rio Tinto</b> San Leon Energy◆ ½ ½ % Scirocco Energy◆	4923 + 10 6.9 10.1 16½ + 1½ 6.1 ¼1.3	2 ¼ PowerHouse Egy♦ 84¼ 58 Record 1112 675 Renew Hldgs♦	1½ 63 + 1 7.4 13.1 1062 + 20 1.7 17.2	1780 812 First Derivts◆ 358¼ 208¾ GB Group◆ 163 114 GreshamTech 48¼ 24½	1440 - 20 332½ + 6 1.2 162½ 45.7 25 6.9	1125 900¾ United Utilities  ◆AIM company; # Price at † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲	1012 + ½ 49 54.4  suspension; • Ex rights issue; ibution, * figures significant data. stituents of the

2946 2318½ **Shell** 2770½ + 62 3.9 12.8

15 7% Shuka Minerals♦ 7% ... -1.8

 572
 317½ Ascential
 568 ° ½ ...
 ...
 Clottarf Energy• ...

 829½ 567
 Auto Trader
 789½ • 1½ 1.1 28.1
 35 14 Condor Gle• 22½ • ½

 744
 381
 Bloomsbury Publs
 690 ° • 4 2.1 17.6
 1½ ...
 Corcel• ...
 ...

512 + 19 2.5 ...

472 340 Robert Walters 340 - 5 6.8 17.8

36½ 13½ IQE◆ 29½ + 1 -8.9

124 72½ K3 Business Tch◆ 72½ - 4 ...

36½ 13½ 10€ 29½ + 1 - 4.9 124 72½ K3 Busines Tch 72½ − 4 - ... 145½ 1055½ L6 Electronics 1336½ - 2.0 11.4 | Durposes only of this publication



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THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024



Footballer who survived being George Best's room-mate

Tommy Cassidy **Page 46** 



**Obituaries** 

# Register

# Zamira Menuhin

Daughter of the celebrated violinist who became a key custodian of his legacy and established a series of concerts for children

The first time Zamira Menuhin became aware of her father Yehudi's international standing was in 1944. "I was five years old, and taken to hear him play the first performance of Bartok's Solo Violin Sonata," she told Richard Morrison in The Times. "I was leaning over the balustrade in Carnegie Hall [New York] and saw him playing alone on the stage, with Bartok in the audi $ence, and then \, all \, these \, people \, clapping$ and cheering.

According to Tony Palmer's book Menuhin: A Family Portrait (1991), Zamira was the child to whom Menuhin was closest, and it was she who kept his flame burning after his death in 1999.

She was patron of the Yehudi Menusine was partied in ternum whend-hin International Competition for Young Violinists and president of the Austrian and German branches of Live Music Now, the charity her father founded in 1977 with Ian Stoutzker (obituary, April 12, 2024) to take music to those who are unable to experience it to those who are unable to experience it due to illness or disadvantage

Zamira was also on the board of the Yehudi Menuhin School, which has produced a stream of brilliant violinists,

# **Daniel Barenboim and** Vladimir Ashkenazy dropped by regularly

from Nigel Kennedy and Tasmin Little to Nicola Benedetti and Alina Ibragimova. Her ability to raise money "in the nicest possible way", as a friend told Country Life magazine in 2000, was behind the successful appeal for the school's Menuhin Hall, which opened in 2006.

Even as Menuhin approached 80, his heavy workload continued. According to Humphrey Burton's biography Menuhin (2000), when Zamira pleaded with him to slow down he replied: "Darling, I'd miss the airports ..." She was also I'd miss the airports ..." She was also heard to complain, only half in jest, that to be sure of seeing her father she had to book an appointment with his secretary some weeks in advance.

Zamira Ruby Menuhin was born in Los Angeles in 1939, the elder of Menu-hin's two children by his first wife, Nola (née Nicholas), who was from a wealthy Australian family; her younger brother, Krov, became an underwater film-maker in Australia. The name Zamira means "songbird" in Hebrew and in Russian means something akin to "peace". To mark her birth Nola presented Yehudi with a Guarneri del Gesu violin from 1742.

At the age of six Zamira was taken by her mother to Australia to meet her maternal grandparents. "On the boat [Nola] affected a surprise meeting with a man she knew, who was to be her second husband. Her father, a prominent member of Melbourne society. was horrified and sent her packing. There followed a gruesome time before my parents divorced," she said.

The next years were miserable, with Zamira only seeing her father during holidays. "I worshipped him and, ridiculous as it sounds, felt I understood him." she said. Before he went away, she jumped into his suitcases in the hope of joining him. When he was gone, she memorised his recordings. "I could sing



Zamira Menuhin with Yehudi after her wedding in 1960. Below with her first husband Fou Ts'ong, whom she would divorce

practically a whole movement of Beethoven, Bach or Brahms and I could go a long way into a Bartok concerto," she said.
At the age of 12 she left her mother to

oin Menuhin and his second wife, the British actress Diana Gould. She also acquired two half-brothers who survive her: Jeremy, a composer and pianist, and Gerard, who is associated with the neo-Nazi movement in Germany and is estranged from the family.

Zamira described how her father dis-

covered yoga in the 1950s and practised it for the rest of his life. He was also preoccupied with wholesome food, declaring sugar to be the enemy. "If we received sweets at a party, he was so cross that he'd wind down the car window and throw them into the street," she told The Jewish Chronicle.

Yehudi had stopped flying after the violinists Jacques Thibaud and Ginette Neveu and the pianist William Kapell were killed in separate plane crashes in the early 1950s, meaning the family travelled everywhere by boat or train. To sail through the Suez Canal on the way to India at the age of 16 — in terms of great experiences, I was spoiled," Zamira recalled. In 1956 they were in Tel Aviv. "I remember visiting the

future president [prime minister] Golda Meir with my father, and also his being shown little bits of the Dead Sea Scrolls

at the university in Jerusalem," she said. Although Yehudi insisted that Zamira had a good ear, her own musical prowess extended to no more than amateur piano playing. "I was very nervous, even if I had to play in a school concert," she said. She was terrified when on one occasion the pianist Wilhelm



Kempff asked her to turn pages for him at Menuhin's Gstaad Festival, adding: Anyone would have thought I was giv-

ing the performance."

After boarding school in the Swiss mountains and a finishing school in Paris, she studied history of art in Florence, acquiring fluency in four languages. In London she attended the Monkey Club, another finishing school. "We were taught to sew, carry books on our heads and to sit down," she said. "It really made a complete rebel out of me and at the first opportunity I was out

with the wrong people."
One of these was Fou Ts'ong, a pianist who in 1958 had fled China and sought asylum in Britain, where his first sanctuary had been the Menuhin home. They were married in 1960 and for the next few years she was his manager.

Through her father's role as artistic director of the Bath Festival in the 1960s they became part of the circle around the cellist Jacqueline du Pré who formed a trio with Fou and the violinist Hugh Maguire. The pianists Daniel Barenboim and Vladimir Daniel Barenboim and Vladimir Ashkenazy dropped by regularly. "It was like being married to a whole tribe, I liked that. It was great fun," she said. On another occasion she described du Pré's amorous nature, adding: "These were the Sixties, everyone slept with evervone

Friends and family had cautioned against marrying a brilliant pianist, telling her: "Don't do it. You will simply become the fourth leg of the piano Their warnings proved prescient. "He had many affairs, including one with my best friend, because he needed to conquer. I became a doormat, which made me even less attractive to him. After eight years I walked out ... throwshe said. The marriage was dissolved and Fou died of Covid-19 in 2020. Zamira is survived by their son Lin, who is involved with the Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao in China.

She had two more important relationships, "including one with a man I thought I could marry who rejected she told The Times. In her thirties she lived for a time in Italy, in an apart-ment owned by a man 40 years her senior. "He wanted to look after me, but I realised that he would keep me caged like the birds in his drawing room," she added.

# Yehudi said that she had a good musical ear, but she was nervous playing

At the age of 35 she met Jonathan Benthall, a writer and director of the Royal Anthropological Institute, at a dinner party "and it was love at first sight", she said. They married in 1975 and settled in a manor house near Tunbridge Wells in Kent that had been in his family since the 16th century. He survives her with their sons, Dominic, a criminal barrister, and William, an executive at an urban delivery company

in Spain.
At her London home Zamira started Concerts for Children with a friend, inviting a pianist to perform each week with a different instrumentalist or singer. Over 11 years about 800 children passed through her drawing room. "I wanted to do something which would help my children and other children," she explained. "I was also terribly fed up with going to dinner parties and being asked what I did. I was able to say, 'I run Concerts for Children', which shut

concerts for Children, which shut everybody up."

Zamira Menuhin, who looked strikingly similar to her father, dressed in an elegantly bohemian manner, while her personality was a compelling mixture of shyness, generosity and warmth. Shower sextend for a furnity warmth. warmth. She was a central figure during celebrations of his centenary in 2016, including overseeing an exhibition of his life and work at the Royal Academy of Music.

Speaking of how Yehudi Menuhin's desire to change the world never ended, she told how he was patron of more than 200 charities. "He just couldn't say no," she said. "He wanted everything, and he wanted it immediately. He was like a little boy somehow, but much of what he wanted was impossible."

Zamira Menuhin, daughter of Yehudi Menuhin, was born on September 29, 1939. She died of complications from dementia on July 31, 2024, aged 84

Register

# Benito Nonino

Italy's 'father of grappa' whose family distillery elevated the uncouth, poor relation of wine into a premium beverage

Contrary to stereotype, Italian cooking and viticulture are dynamic and have evolved greatly in the past 50 years. Supposed staples such as tiramisu and panettone are quite recent inventions, while carbonara may have been imported during the war by US soldiers.

What drove change was Marshall aid and membership of the European Economic Community. These transformed Italy's economy in the 1950s and 1960s, creating a large middle class who could afford to eat out and wanted more sophisticated food when they did. So it was too with grappa. Historically it was the uncouth, poor relation of wine, but Benito Nonino and his family turned it, in their words, "from a Cinderella into the queen of spirits".

Grappa is made from fermenting the pressed skins, pips and stems of grapes, a residue known as pomace. Its origins lie in the Middle East and by the 14th century — before grain-based spirits were known — its manufacture was practised in what became its heartland in Italy, the Alpine regions. By the 19th century, when there were 200,000 distillers across the north, it was associated with the town of Bassano del Grappa, in the Veneto, and with neighbouring Friuli.

Much of the area was still under Austrian domination and pomace was what was left to labourers once landowners had claimed the grape juice for their tables. Nonino's great-grandfather, Orazio, was clerk of the works for a Hungarian noble family. He also operated a mobile still, with a cart and donkey carrying it to vineyards until he opened a distillery in 1897 at Ronchi di Percoto, northwest of Trieste.

For generations more, however, grappa would still remain a rough moonshine, containing up to 60 per cent alcohol by volume. It was typically taken as a digestive after heavy meals or as a bracing "correction" to one's coffee before work on chilly mornings.

This all changed at precisely noon on December 1, 1973. At that moment, Benito Nonino knew that his experiment had worked and that he had distilled



Benito Nonino with his wife, Giannola, and their daughters Elisabetta, Antonella and Cristina, who all work for the business

the first grappa made from only a single variety of grape. Sensibly, he had been listening to his wife, Giannola, whom he had married in 1962. She nurtured a deep regard for and understanding of local culture.

Pomace was customarily composed of a mixture of red and white grape skins, with the husks often collected when they had dried out. Giannola Nonino went to local farmers' wives and, knowing they were keen not to be dependent on handouts from their husbands, promised to pay them if they kept different kinds of skins separate and called her to collect them when they were still moist.

The Noninos focused on Picolit grapes, used to make dessert wine and in the 18th century a favourite of royal courts across Europe. By concentrating on a single variety, they were better able to control the quality of the premium product they envisaged creating.

with the distinctive taste of the fruit preserved.

The following year, Nonino made a single distillation from Ribolla grapes. Giannola knew that to get the borghes to buy a drink that recalled the peasant identity many were trying to forget, it would have to look upmarket. She packaged it in bottles with silver stoppers wrapped in red thread and wrote to everyone influential she could think of to press samples on them.

Where Monovitigno Nonino led the way, soon other producers followed. In 1983, Benito doubled his number of stills from 12 to 24 and kept them going 24 hours a day. That year, he distilled 1,200 quintals — more than II and a half tonnes — of pomace. Then one day a car pulled up at the Noninos' farmhouse. Out stepped a chauffeur who ordered 48 bottles of grappa for his employer, signor Dolce Vita himself, Gianni Agnelli, the owner of Fiat.

Benito Nonino was born at Percoto in 1934. His name was bestowed on him by his father, Antonio, in honour of Italy's then leader, Mussolini. Fortunately, his mother, Silvia, had better judgment and after she was left a widow in the 1940s became the first woman in Italy to make grappa and manage a distillery. A fine cook, she used her knowledge of botanicals to improve the house amaro, or herbal liqueur. Benito's paternal grandfather, Vigi, had a similar reputation for resourcefulness, being admired locally for having saved his cows from the Austrian forces during the First World War by plying the troops with his grappa.

While fond of sweet treats, and of canoeing, Benito was a man of reserved emotions and let his abilities speak for themselves in the still house. In 1984 he became the first to create a wholegrape distillate, which he named Ue.

As well as advancing grappa, the Noninos sought to preserve other traditions central to Friulian culture. In the mid-1970s, as they looked to distil other local grapes, they discovered that because they were not on the list of those regarded by the EEC as fundamental to wine-growing in the region, three varieties that had once been much-prized were no longer allowed to be cultivated. They were Schioppettino, a red grape almost wiped out by a phylloxera epidemic a century before, Pignolo, another red with dense bunches like the pinecones after which it was named, and Tazzelenghe. Giannola Nonino pestered European officials for several years until a decree was forthcoming that reversed the ban.

coming that reversed the ban. In similar fashion, the couple founded the International Nonino Literary Prize in 1975. It is awarded to writers whose work is rooted in and conserves their cultures, and on half a dozen occasions its percipient judges have anticipated the approval of the Nobel prize committee by several years.

Giannola was appointed cavaliere del

Giannola was appointed cavaliere del lavoro (the Italian equivalent of a dame) for her work in 1998, one of the first 25 women so to be honoured. By 2003, her husband's stills were producing more than one million litres of grappa annually, 20 per cent of it for export.

Key to that success was the growing involvement in the company of the couple's daughters, Cristina, Antonella and Elisabetta (there was a family rule that husbands were best excluded from it). Their contributions included, after a decade of research, discovering how to distil honey, a product they named Gioello. Keeping the family hand on the tiller into a sixth generation, Benito's granddaughter Francesca now handles Nonino's social media as the "grappa influencer".

fluencer".

Though he had been using a wheel-chair due to illness for some years, on the last afternoon of his life Benito asked to be taken to look around the distillery a final time.

Benito Nonino, distiller, was born on February 6, 1934. He died on July 7, 2024, aged 90

# Tommy Cassidy

# Newcastle and Northern Ireland midfielder who survived having the chaotic, hard-living superstar George Best as a room-mate

It was quite a way to mark your final international appearance. At the 1982 World Cup Northern Ireland were, astonishingly, beating the host nation Spain 1-0. But they were struggling, down to ten men after a sending-off and losing their key player Sammy McIlroy to injury. The manager, Billy Bingham, chose as his substitute Tommy Cassidy, 31, then of Burnley and a hugely experienced and canny midfielder who had played for many seasons at Newcastle United.

Cassidy helped steady the ship, preventing Spain from dominating midfield and using the ball intelligently to keep as much possession as possible. Northern Ireland held on. "At the final whistle," he recalled, "we just looked at each other for about ten seconds in amazement. We couldn't believe what we'd done."

Cassidy's main memory of the day, however, was frustration as he had to delay celebrations while waiting with the winning goalscorer, Gerry Armstrong, to take a drugs test. "We were both so dehydrated that it took us an hour and a half to give a sample. We were sat under armed guards, next to Fifa doctors and officials, we tried and tried, drinking water, lager and even wind, drinking water, lager and even alcohol that he was a little bit drunk. He was singing Danny Boy and all sorts."

Cassidy had previously had unusually rich experience of the social side of international football through his role as room-mate for his fellow Belfast boy and glamorous celebrity player George Best. He hugely admired Best's footballing genius and described him as "the opposite of a big-headed superstar". Yet his life off the pitch as his fame grew was frequently chaotic.

"We were playing Portugal and by the time we

"We were playing Portugal and by the time we landed he had every air hostess's number," Cassidy remembered in an interview with the Daily Mail. "I was rooming with him and three of them turned up, all at separate times. Miss World also called by once."

On another occasion he accompanied Best on a walk around Moscow before a game against the Soviet Union. "The KGB followed us. They were frightened someone might do something silly to George — now that would have started a war.

Cassidy playing for Newcastle in 1979



was born in Belfast in 1950 and became a successful young striker with Glentoran, scoring a hat trick in a Northern Ireland Cup final in 1969.

The following year Newcastle brought him to Tyneside and arranged for his parents and three brothers to join him there to escape the Troubles. All the brothers went on to marry women from northeast England. Cassidy was married to Rosemary and they had four children, Jennifer, Anders, Victoria and Hannah.

It took some time for Cassidy to establish himself as a Newcastle player. He struggled to keep his weight down, once admitting ruefully to one of the

fitness coaches: "I found myself passing a Chinese restaurant on Saturday night and here I am, a pound and a half heavier."

Yet there was no doubting his ability as a midfielder who was never the speediest but used the ball well, creating opportunities for strikers such as Malcolm Macdonald. Cassidy, said Macdonald, "had wonderful skills and could glide over the grass when dribbling with the ball. He had great awareness of everything around him. He made so many goals for me."

Cassidy also scored goals of his own, notably a powerful shot from more than 30 yards against West Ham United, a beautifully controlled volley from the edge of the area against Queens Park Rangers and another long-range goal in a 3-I win over Newcastle's great rivals Sunderland. That reinforced his reputation as a hero among fans, who also admired his wild hair and sideburns. These were, however, only brief moments of consolation as Newcastle failed to win trophies. Cassidy was on the losing side in the 1974 FA Cup final and 1976 League Cup final.

His international career, meanwhile, was marked by periods in and out of the Northern Ireland team after a debut in 1971. He scored one memorable goal, a winner against Scotland in 1974 and won 24 caps, ending with the 1982

victory over Spain.

Cassidy's time at Newcastle had ended in 1980 when he surprised many by dropping into Division Three to join Burnley. In 1983 he moved to Apoel in Cyprus, where he also began a managerial career, but left after exposing corrupt payments to referees. Thereafter he managed Gateshead back in the northeast, and Glentoran, Ards and Sligo Rovers in Ireland. Returning to England he managed at Workington, Whitby Town and Blyth Spartans.

After retirement he worked in a sports shop and complained that modern football bored him. "I played with lads like Malcolm Macdonald and George Best and they would be horrified if we tried to play this bland style of football which seems to boil down to ball retention."

Cassidy made poignant visits to the Memory Café at Newcastle United, attended by fans suffering from dementia. Lately his own brain disorder worsened and the memory of spectacular goals, defiant wins and wild nights out slowly faded away.

Tommy Cassidy, footballer and manager, was born on November 18, 1950. He died of complications from Alzheimer's disease on August 2, 2024, aged 73

# **Court Circular**



**Buckingham Palace** 7th August, 2024 The King this morning held a Meeting with Kingi

Tuheitia (Maori King) via telephone. His Majesty later visited Helmsdale Railway Station to mark the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Sutherland and Caithness railway line and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland (Major General Patrick 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

7th August, 2024 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.

# **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit: newsukadvertising.co.uk for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email BMDs@thetimes.co.uk

**BE** strong, be courageous, all you that hope in the LORD. Psalm 31.24 (GNB)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### **Births**

LIST on 30th July 2024 to Emily List (née Woods) and Tony List, a son, Edward Henry, brother to Charlotte Joan, at Kingston Hospital, London.

MASSON on 19th June 2024 to Rhiannon and Robert, a daughter, Seren Anna Strickland.

MIDGLEY on 3rd August 2024 to Eleanor (née Haycock) and Alexander, a son, Harry Nicholas James. A beautiful grandson to Nick and Lesley and Ian and Clare.

### Deaths

MEDHURST Patricia ANNE (née Beer) MEJHUKSI Patricia ANNE (nee Beer) died peacetus died peacetus 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, Mattle, Monty, New and Rudi, greatgranny of limogen, Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

### PHILLIPS

Mark Thornton Phillips of Wallingford It is with great sadness that the family of Mark announce his passing, aged 86. Formerly Eton College housemaster and head of modern languages, where he taught for 36 years, Mark attended Westminster Abbut Choic School, Aldonbun Schoo rears. Mark attended Westminste bey Choir School, Aldenham Scho and Worcester College, Oxford, winning a squash blue. He was a much-loved brother to Peter (deceased), Anthea and Tim. A nemorial service will be held in the autumn.

STEED Joe died peacefully on 4th July 2024, aged 73. His funeral will be held on the 21st of August, Ipm at Putney Vale Crematorium, and afterwards at Surbiton Town Sports Club, KT4 7QB. All welcome.

STODDART Patrick died on 24th July, 2024. Beloved husband of Nicki and treasured uncle and great-uncle. He will be forever missed.

**SURATGAR** David passed away on 17th July 2024, aged 85. David was a beloved husband of Cita and the late Barbara, a beloved father, father-in-law, stepfathe beioved ratine; ratiner-in-ina, supariner and grandfather and friend to many. He will be sorely missed. Donations if desired may be made to garsingtonopera.org/donate/ or rotarygbi.org/donate/ A memorial service will be held in late 2024 to celebrate his life.

THOMAS Graham Charles, of Cambridge, formerly of Bellingham, passed away peacefully on August 1st 2024, aged 73. Dearly loved husband of Lynne, much-loved Dad of Jason and Gene, also a loving grandad. For funeral service details, Please contact FW Cook Funeral Service, 01954 260325.

### In Memoriam - Private

JOHN BRADBURY 1940-2023 Today marks a year since we lost you. And yet we feel your presence every day.

ROUSHAM Johanna (née McLoughlin). Beautiful daughter of Terry and Liz. Adored Mama of Oliver and William. Reunited with her Dad and her babies Jasmine, Max and Hanna Elizabeth. All forever loved.

# LEGAL, PUBLIC, **COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES**

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# Lives remembered

# Paul Darling KC



Martin Spector writes: I was a contemporary of Paul Darling (obituary, August 7) at St Edmund Hall from 1978-81

and he was the first person I met on my first day there.

As a grammar school boy in awe of all the aristocrats and public school boys, Paul made me feel immediately at ease with his funny and sympathetic style of friendship. He wore his academic brilliance lightly; I think even his tutors were shocked he took a first-class degree.

I ran into him in later life and congratulated him on all he had achieved. He told me he would swap it all for a 45-minute runout in Newcastle United's first

Gerald Simpson KC writes: Some 20 years ago Paul Darling KC came to Northern Ireland to appear in a complex construcprofessional negligence case. I was his opponent in the case that lasted three long months over a winter and I got to know him well, both professionally and socially. He was

popular and gregarious and he joined the Bar Library, being regularly seen there having cof-fee with members of the Northern Ireland Bar. He was also an innately generous man, amply demonstrated when, at the conclusion of the case he sent me, as a gift, a desktop lectern inlaid with leather, which I have cherished ever since. It is now a more poignant souvenir. Over the following years he returned to Northern Ireland from time to time to appear in other cases and was always welcome here. He will be fondly remembered by his many friends at the Northern Ireland Bar.

# John Mayall



Tony Westhead writes: John Mayall (obituary, July 24) spent his childhood in the very conventional, suburban envi-

ronment of Bramhall, Cheshire. His treehouse was amazing. It had two floors and cooking facilities. Also it housed a truly amazing collection of jazz records. John went through a phase of being interested in Indian culture and a lot of time was spent playing cowboys and Indians.

He was multi-talented from an early age. He could draw, paint and sculpt. He played pi-ano, guitar and harmonica. He typically played Boogie Woogie on the piano at teenage parties; he also did a lot of wall paintings. In later life he designed his own record covers.

He failed the 11-plus and when it came to National Service was "conned" by the Army (his words) into signing on for three years by being promised better pay and privileges — he later composed a song about how they put a rifle in his hand.

# Oliver Walston



Valerie Grove writes: The fine obituary of Oliver Wal-Oliver Wal-ston (July 19) mentioned how unfazed

Graham Greene. However, Greene's excitable biographers made some unreliable revelations, including Michael Shelden's about sex behind high altars

Norman Sherry dropped the



he was by his mother's long affair with However,

names of the glittering guests who signed the visitors' book at the Walstons' house, Thriplow, in the 1940s: "George VI, Elizabeth II, Dwight Eisenhower, Bob Hope" not realising that these names were all in the hand of one mischievous guest, Sir John Rothenstein. (One mythical signatory, Ingrid Bergman, did come to Thriplow 20 years later and signed the book, "the real Ingrid Bergman" alongside the spoof.)

Walston's freedom to go travelling — to a Siberian gulag, the Arctic wastes, the Borneo jun-gle, the Mississippi — was what he most valued: what was the point of a penthouse on Park Lane, he said, if you don't have the freedom to see the sun rise over the Bering Strait?

His unfulfilled ambition was to become a director of Sunderland FC, the team he supported since the age of five, through thick and thin, and to eat sushi in the directors' box at Roker Park. Sunderland was "my single largest passion in life", he said, "including my wife".

on If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can send your contribution by post to Times Obituaries, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, or by email to

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The 6th of June 2024 marked the occasion of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, one of the most significant military operations in history that turned the tide of the Second World War.

Throughout the country, we joined together, paying our respects in a heartfelt homage to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. In Normandy, Pipe Major Trevor Macey-Lillie, began the commemorations by playing a lament at sea at the same moment of the beach invasion in 1944. World leaders and royalty stood shoulder to shoulder with the few remaining veterans and their families in a poignant service of remembrance. This year's 80th anniversary could very well be the last major commemoration witnessed by the veterans. Five years ago, 225 British veterans travelled to Normandy for commemorations, this year, there were 23, including some centenarians.

As we paid tribute to all those who took part in that defining date in history, a very special coin was being struck.

The design depicts the ships, aircraft, soldiers and equipment that were all used on D-Day and has been officially licensed with The Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

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Diameter:	100mm
Weight:	1 kilo (32.151 troy ounces of silver)
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Quality:	Proof
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THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

Weather

Today Unsettled with a band of rain spreading eastwards, heavy at times further north. Max 24C (75F), min 10C (50F)

At 17:00 on Wednesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

ATLANTIC

**OCEAN** 

00

Channel Islands

Slight

(14)

(21)

**SCOC** Rough

(mph)

Temperature

(degrees C)

# **Around Britain**

	Temp C		Rain mm	Sun hr
	idday yesti		24 hrs to 5pr	
Aberdeen	16	<u>C</u>	0.6	9.0
Aberporth	16	C	0.0	8.7
Anglesey	17	C	0.0	10.0
Aviemore	18	R	6.0	6.4
Barnstaple	18	C	3.4	88
Bedford		C	0.0	
Belfast	16	С	0.8	5.9
Birmingham	18	R	0.0	
Bournemouth	19	C	0.0	4.1
Bridlington	19	C	0.0	
Bristol	18	C	1.2	9.5
Camborne	18	C	0.0	5.1
Cardiff	16	R	2.2	9.9
Edinburgh	17	D	0.0	9.5
Eskdalemuir	13	R	4.2	3.3
Glasgow	14	R	4.8	5.6
Hereford	18	D	0.2	22
Herstmonceux	20	PC	0.4	2.6
Ipswich	21	PC	1.2	3.9
Isle of Man	16	C	0.0	10.8
Isle of Wight	21	PC	0.0	22
Jersey	20	PC	0.0	3.8
Keswick	15	R	1.0	**
Kinloss	18	R	0.0	9.9
Leeds	16	C	0.2	**
Lerwick	14	C	0.0	3.8
Leuchars	19	M	0.0	7.8
Lincoln	18	C	0.0	2.7
Liverpool	18	C	0.0	22
London	20	C	0.0	3.5
Lyneham	18	C	0.0	6.3
Manchester	16	R	0.0	6.5
Margate	21	C	0.0	5.8
Milford Haven	18	PC	0.4	**
Newcastle	16	C	0.0	22
Nottingham	17	Č	0.0	3.8
Orkney	16	c	2.6	10.2
Oxford	20	Ċ	0.0	22
Plymouth	19	c	0.0	22
Portland	19	PC	0.0	22
Scilly, St Mary		PC	0.6	88
Shoreham	21	C	0.0	2.3
Shrewsbury	18	R	0.0	7.9
Snowdonia	15	C	0.2	2.7
Southend	21	PC	0.0	5.9
South Uist	15	(	13.0	2.9
Stornoway	13	R	24.0	3.1
	15	C	5.0	3.8
Tiree	15	(	5.0	3.8

# The world

Buenos Aires Cairo Calcutta Canberra Cape Town Chicago

# Five days ahead





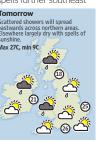






The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Outbreaks of rain and showers in northwestern areas. Drier with sunny spells further southeast







Tides				
Tidal predictions. Heights in metres				
Today		Ht		H
Aberdeen	04:17	4.1	16:49	3.
Avonmouth	10:32	12.0	22:41	12.
Belfast	02:09	3.5	14:33	3.
Cardiff	10:16	11.3	22:24	11.4
Devonport	09:00	5.0	21:06	5.:
Dover	02:14	6.2	14:27	6.4
Dublin	02:15	3.9	14:43	3.
Falmouth	08:32	4.8	20:41	5.
Greenock	03:18	3.5	16:04	3.
Harwich	02:56	3.7	15:01	3.
Holyhead	01:13	5.4	13:34	5.
Hull	09:20	7.2	21:48	6.
Leith	05:43	5.3	18:04	5.
Liverpool	02:01	8.9	14:21	8.
London Bridge	05:06	6.8	17:15	6.
Lowestoft	:		12:34	2.
Milford Haven	09:25	6.4	21:38	6.
Morecambe	02:11	8.9	14:32	8.
Newhaven	02:04	6.3	14:27	6.4
Newquay	08:17	6.4	20:30	6.
Oban	08:55	3.7	21:01	3.
Penzance	07:48	5.0	20:03	5.:
Portsmouth	02:25	4.3	15:00	4.
Shoreham	02:16	5.8	14:39	5.
Southampton	01:26	4.1	14:34	4.
Swansea	09:33	8.7	21:43	8.
Tees	06:42	5.4	19:13	5.
Wevmouth	10:07	1.8	22:14	1.

further west later. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 17C (63F). N Isles, NE Scotland, MV Scotland, Moray Firth, Argyll, Cen Highland, Aberdeen, Glasgow: A dry morning with sunny intervals. Cloudier in the afternoon with patchy rain spreading activated. Light to moderate arternoon with patchy rain spreadin eastwards. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 10C (50F). E Eng, Midlands, Wales, Channel Is, SW Eng, Cen S Eng: Cloudy with a

Plymouth

25

17/10

(17)

(18)

13

00 (19)

00

(20)

CELTIC

IRISH

SEA

22

00

000

(19)

Liverpool

10

(21)

22

(19)

000

00

Nottingham

16

**1**7

NORTH

SEA

17

0 21 Hull

CHANNEL

0

19 15

23

scattering of light showers spreading eastwards. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 13C (5FF). Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Borders, NE Eng, Lake District, IoM, NW Eng, Gen N Eng: Patchy cloud in the morning with a few isolated showers. A band of rain will spread in from the west later, heavy at times in western areas. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 11C (52F). Cold front 4.4 Warm front LOW HIGH Trough Highs and lows Hours of darkness Synoptic situation Aberdeen Belfast 21:36-04:54 21:40-05:19 An area of low pressure to the southwest of Iceland will push Warmest: Wisley, 22.7C Coldest: Cairngorm, 4.0C Wettest: Stornoway, Cardiff

southwest of Iceland will push a series of fronts eastwards across the British Isles today. This will bring thicker cloud and a band of patchy rain to Ireland and northwest Britain, heavy at times in northern areas during the afternoon. A few weak occluded fronts behind the initial front will bring a scattering of showers later.

Sun and moon

21:16-05:11 21:18-05:19 21:17-05:23 21:38-05:08 21:24-05:12 21:06-05:07 21:21-05:09 21:24-05:01 21:04-04:58 21:23-05:33 Exeter Glasgow Liverpool London Manchester Newcastle Norwich Penzance

Weather Eye Paul Simons



urricane Debby was a Category 1 storm with 80mph winds when it hit Florida on Monday before weakening into a tropical storm shortly afterwards. As the storm crawled northeastwards, it dropped colossal amounts of rain, fuelled by warm, moist subtropical air pumped up from the Atlantic, setting off widespread flooding and power blackouts. And even though the remnants of Debby will probably die out by the weekend, the threat of further flooding remains along the coasts of the northeastern United States and southeast Canada.

Sometimes the remnants of old tropical storms in the US can sweep across the Atlantic and affect the UK. But even though Debby will stay far away from the UK, its influence may in a strange twist drive a heatwave in southern parts of the UK this weekend. The huge energy of the storm over the eastern US will charge up the jet stream to speeds of about 160 mph, and also buckle it into a huge loop over the mid-Atlantic. That in turn will generate hot air over southern areas of England on Sunday, and by Monday there is a chance of temperatures possibly reaching 30C or even the mid-30s. And unlike earlier heatwaves this summer, this next bout of heat will not be pumped up from Europe or north Africa, but instead will be created by air sinking down from a great height in the atmosphere and being compressed — and as that air becomes squashed it heats up, rather like the heat from using a bicycle pump. But it will not take long before the heat in the south breaks down and possibly sets off thunderstorms.

There will also be a big split across the UK, with northern parts facing heavy rainfalls and much cooler conditions. Later in the week, the buckle in the jet stream shifts from the Atlantic and passes over the UK, sweeping away the hot air into central Europe and leaving unsettled conditions in its wake. And so the ups and downs of this British summer look likely to carry on in a familiar erratic manner.

# Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

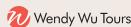


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# **Sport**

# Home games at West Ham cost taxpayers £21m

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

The London Stadium's owner lost £20.9 million in the last financial year according to its latest accounts, underlining the financial burden of West Ham United's home on the capital's taxpayers.

Draft accounts published by the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), which oversees the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on behalf of the mayor of London, show that its subsidiary, E20 Stadium LLP, made that loss for the year ending May 31, 2024, despite cutting some costs and increasing revenue through concerts.

increasing revenue through concerts. The accounts also show that the LLDC budgeted £2 million in income for naming rights for the stadium which never materialised. Its hopes of clinching a deal with Allianz were dashed after the insurance giant signed a contract with the RFU for Twickenham

The long-term costs of running the London Stadium compared with the income received from West Ham and UK Athletics are so great that its value to the LLDC is stated in the accounts as only £910,000. E20 Stadium's valuation is even lower — it says the long-term value, as assessed by independent experts, is nil.

E20 Stadium's losses are significant. The accounts state that even when excluding capital investment in the stadium and changes in the provisions made for "onerous contracts", the "underlying operating position for the group is a loss of £14.1 million (2022-23: £15.8 million)". That would work out at a loss of about £500,000 for each of West Ham's home matches.

The club pay £3.6 million a season in rent but do not have to pay for heating, cleaning, maintenance or even the cost of goalposts and corner flags, while

they keep all the ticket money and a share of the catering income.

One London Assembly member has referred to it as "the deal of the century". The concession agreement struck when Boris Johnson was the London mayor did not even oblige West Ham to pay more in rent when the stadium's capacity increased from 53,500 to 62,500.

West Ham are believed to be open to buying the stadium if the price is right but the London mayor, Sadiq Khan, has ruled that out, saying last week it was one of the "jewels" of the capital. A review of operations ordered by Khan has contributed to costs being cut significantly and income increased, leading to a net gain of £1.2 million last year.

The cost of removing seats to make the stadium suitable for athletics events such as this summer's Diamond League and MLB baseball matches has been greatly reduced from £11 million to £3 million, though that is still almost as much as West Ham's annual rent.

West Ham signed a 100-year lease agreement which has 91 years left to run. The LLDC has been trying to secure a naming-rights deal for some years but has been struggling to attract sponsors willing to pay the desired sum. The LLDC would get the first £4 million per year of any deal, with any more split 50-50 with West Ham.

In relation to the stadium's value, the latest accounts state: "The fair value of the stadium is assessed on an annual basis by independent valuers and based largely upon E20 Stadium LLP's long-term forecasts. As at March 31, 2024 the stadium's fair value is assessed to be nil."

The LLDC also has "two ongoing queries with HM Revenues and Customs relating to the use of taxable losses generated in prior years by E20 Stadium LLP and LLDC".



# United want to keep Old Trafford even if they build a new 'Wembley of the north'

## Charlotte Duncker

Manchester United plan to keep Old Trafford even if they build a new 100,000-seat stadium on nearby land.

The club will decide by the end of the year if they want to upgrade their home ground or build a brand-new stadium on a site next to the present facility.

The prospect of a state-of-the-art new ground, which is likely to cost about £2 billion, appeals to the new coowner Sir Jim Ratcliffe, who is looking to build a "Wembley of the north", but some supporters are torn over the idea of leaving Old Trafford, their home since 1910.

The Times understands that should they go down the route of a new build, they would plan to keep the present stadium in some form. It is understood that the capacity would be scaled down from 74,000 to about 30,000 so it could be used as a home ground for the

women's team and the academy teams. That would mean the stadium's

That would mean the stadiums historical features — such as the Munich Clock and the old tunnel on the halfway line, the only surviving part of the original 1910 stadium, which was bombed in the Second World War — could be retained.

If it were to be scaled down it would be the smallest the ground has been for about 30 years. United have set up a taskforce, led by

United have set up a taskforce, led by Lord Coe and including figures such as Gary Neville and the mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, to oversee the decision on Old Trafford's future. The group is leaning towards recommending that a new stadium be built in the car park area behind the Stretford End, rather than a revamp of the existing ground. However, the club say that no final decision has been made.

There is also the possibility that the

naming rights for a new ground would be sold to help fund the expensive project. Snapdragon, United's front-ofshirt sponsor, has said it would be interested should that opportunity arise. "Old Trafford is Old Trafford, it should always be Old Trafford," Don

"Old Trafford is Old Trafford, it should always be Old Trafford," Don McGuire, chief marketing officer for Snapdragon, said. "But if there is a brand attached to that in some way, shape or form, powered by someone, an 'at' or whatever — [for example] this is Snapdragon Stadium at Bashor Field...

"We are working very closely with the team on the reimagination of Old Trafford from a technology and innovation standpoint. And Carrington [the training ground]. Both. So if that leads to something bigger, where it would make sense for us to go even bigger—this [shirt sponsor] is pretty big by the way, not inexpensive—but if it makes sense, we are always looking out for opportunities."



Sky Sports Complete: £22 extra a month. 24-month minimum term. After 24 months, standard Sky Sports rolling monthly contract pricing applies, currently £35 extra a month for Sky Q customers or £30 extra a month for new Sky Q customers. £28 extra a month for new Sky Q customers a month for new Sky Q customers, £28 extra a month for new Sky Q customers because the subscription (currently £31.50 extra a month for new Sky Q customers, £28 extra a month for new Sky Q customers and subscription (currently £31.50 extra a month for new Sky Q customers, £28 extra a month for new Sky Stream or Sky Glass). Prices may change during this time. Not available in conjunction with any other offer or to existing Sky Sports subscribers. Ends 11 September 2024. UK Channel Islands and Islands and Islands are subscription (currently £31.50 extra a month for new Sky Q customers, £28 extra a month for new Sky Q customers.

# Solanke in Spurs' sights

# CONTINUED FROM BACK

Bournemouth coach 12 months ago, while Alonso was approached to replace Jürgen Klopp but opted to remain at Bayer Leverkusen.
The fee equates to €60 million (about

£51 million) and one sticking point could be the Basque club's insistence that Liverpool pay the money in one

Last summer's captures of Dominik Szoboszlai (£60 million) and Alexis Mac Allister (£35 million) came after clauses were triggered. although, in doing so, Liverpool committed themselves to a big outlay in the short term.

As ever, trimming the current squad will be key and selling Tyler Morton, who has had loan spells at Blackburn Rovers and Hull City, could bring in funds. He is valued at £20 mil-

lion and is wanted by RB Leipzig among others. Leicester City and Southampton are and Fábio Carvalho.

Hotspur ampton are also keen on

are increasingly confident of ending their search for a striker by signing the Bourne-mouth striker Dominic Solanke before the start of the season. The England striker has given the green light to a move after enjoying his best campaign last season, when he scored 19 league

goals, having managed nine league goals in the two previous campaigns for the club in the Premier League.

Tottenham, who begin their campaign away to Leicester City a week on Monday, would break their transfer record if they met Solanke's £65 million release clause and the deal could be partly funded by Richarlison's



potential exit. The Brazil forward is wanted by Al-Ahli but would need to be persuaded to move to Saudi Arabia. He said at the end of the season that he did not want to leave England in response to being linked again with the Saudi Arabian clubs who showed interest in

him last summer. It is not clear why Tottenham did not try to sign Solanke, who will be 27 in September, in time for their pre-season tour to Asia, since he was not part of England's squad for Euro 2024. Harry Kane, who will return with Bayern Munich to play Tottenham for the first time in a friendly on Saturday, was supported by Ivan Toney and Ollie Watkins instead. Solanke has one England cap.

Toney was among the names considered by Ange Postecoglou, the Tottenham head coach, who has been looking for a mobile forward who can play in more than one position since taking charge last summer.

Other players scouted were Lille's Jonathan David, RB Leipzig's Loïs Openda, Sporting's Viktor Gyokeres and Gift Orban, before he left Gent for

Solanke joined Bournemouth for an initial £19 million from Liverpool, who have a 20 per cent sell-on clause. He spent two years at Liverpool after more than a decade at Chelsea, where he began at their academy aged seven and scored 4l goals for the under-2ls in the 2014-15 season. Solanke became Chelsea's youngest Champions League debutant but his career never really

took off until last season.

Tottenham hoped Richarlison would be the answer up front when he joined for about £60 million from Everton two years ago but he managed only one goal in his first league season and 11 last season. Richarlison, 27, was on Tottenham's tour but has been recovering from a hamstring injury since May. He has three years left on his contract.

# Fernández to get Chelsea leadership role

## Garv Jacob

Enzo Fernández is expected to be appointed one of Chelsea's vice-captains despite having upset some of his teammates by posting a video singing a racist and homophobic song about France footballers.

The Argentina midfielder was handed the captain's armband for the second half of the 2-1 defeat by Real Madrid on Tuesday, taking over from Reece James, who said two weeks ago that the video could cause a "problem" in their dressing room. Their team-mate Wesley Fofana had called out Fernández by reposting the video and labelling the chant "uninhibited racism".

Enzo Maresca said that Fernández was respected among the squad and the Chelsea head coach implied that he would be part of the leadership group this season. "He's one of the important players," Maresca said. "I think when we changed Reece, he gave the 'bracelet' to Enzo and this shows how Enzo is respected inside the squad. It's quite clear."

Last week the 23-year-old apologised to his Chelsea team-mates for the video, which was taken as Argentina celebrated winning the Copa America. He offered to make a contribution to an anti-discrimination charity to reflect his misjudgment, a sum that the club will match.

Meanwhile, Chelsea have agreed a £35million deal with Atletico Madrid to sign the 20-year-old striker Samu Omorodion. The Spaniard, who scored eight La Liga goals on loan at Alavés last season, is set to sign a seven-year contract at Stamford Bridge and is expected to provide competition to Nicolas Jackson and Marc Guiu up front. Conor Gallagher was scheduled to fly to Madrid on Wednesday night before his £34million move to Atletico.

# **Results and scoreboards**

# Metro Bank Cup: Group A

Hampshire v Derbyshire		
Utilita Bowl (Derbyshire wo		
Hampshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire b	y 143	runs
Hampshire	(1	balls)
F S Middleton c Guest b Dupavillor	130	(27)
J J Weatherley run out		(125)
*N R T Gubbins b Dupavillon	62	(70)
T J Prest c Dal b Moore	11	(11)
†B C Brown c Dal b Patel	31	(22)
T E Albert c Whiteley b Dupavillon		(18)
F S Organ Ibw b Patel	0	(1)
D C Kelly c Patel b Chappell	14	(11)
K J Abbott not out	29	(16)
Extras (lb 7, w 4, nb 2) Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)  B.T. I Wheel and M.Abbas did not be	13 <b>295</b>	
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)		
Fall of wickets 1-44, 2-157, 3-183, 4-2 6-240, 7-261, 8-295.	21,5	-240,
Bowling Chappell 10-0-59-1;	Cor	iners
6-2-34-0; Dupavillon 9-0-52-3; Dal	8-0-	43-0;
Moore 7-0-32-1; Patel 10-0-68-2.		
Derbyshire	(1	balls)
L M Reece c Brown b Abbott	0	(3)
M J Lamb c Brown b Abbas	14	(28)
†B D Guest run out	44	(50)
D L Lloyd c Brown b Wheal	8	(12)
A K Dal b Kelly	12	(19)
S R Patel not out	35	(49)
*R A Whiteley c Middleton b Kelly	_2	(11)
Z J Chappell c Wheal b Kelly	26	(41)
H J Moore b Kelly	0	(1)
S Conners c Middleton b Wheal	0	(2)
D M Dupavillon Ibw b Kelly	0	(2)
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 2) Total (36.1 overs)		
Total (36.1 overs) Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-26, 3-43, 4-80, 5	152	6 90
7-146, 8-146, 9-147.	)-81,	6-89,
Bowling Abbott 6-1-17-1; Abbas		
Wheal 7-0-25-2; Organ 4-0-29-	0;	Kelly
6.1-0-19-5; Gubbins 3-0-22-0.		
Northamptonshire v Somers		
Northampton (Northamptonshire v		
Somerset (2pts) beat Northampto	nshir	e by
seven wickets (D/L Method)		
Northamptonshire		balls)
D.D.Charres Barrelle Oaksansa	_	(0)

P P Shaw c Rew b Ogborne R S Vasconcelos Ibw b Vaughan G A Bartlett b Davey J J G Sales b Davey S A Zaib c G W Thomas b Goldsworthy

\*†L D McManus b G W Thomas A H Miller b Leach

Total (37.3 overs) 155	J Home and T G Sturgess did not bat.			
Fall of wickets 1-10, 2-25, 3-33, 4-69, 5-115, 6-116, 7-148, 8-153, 9-154.	Fall of wickets 1-27, 2-76, 3-146, 4-177, 5-200, 6-233, 7-238.			
Bowling Davey 6-0-22-2; Ogborne 5.3-0-27-2; Vaughan 5-0-26-1; Meredith 7-0-28-1; Leach 7-0-24-1; G W Thomas 5-0-21-1; Goldsworthy 2-1-4-2.	Bowling Stewart 10-0-73-3; Swanepoel 9-1-37-0; Gilchrist 9-1-44-2; Stobo 9-5-0-47-1; Parkinson 4-0-25-0; Evison 5-0-31-0.  P.W. L. T. NR Pts. RR			
Somerset (balls)	Somerset 6 4 2 0 0 8 1.07			
G W Thomas c Vasconcelos b Broad 28 (22) AR I Umeed c McManus b Sales 63 (66) L P Goldsworthy Ibw b Broad 1J E K Rew not out 19 (27) 'S R Dickson not out 11 (8) Extras 0.4 w. 9, nb 6) 15	Hampshire   5   4   1   0   0   8   1.06   Morcestershire   5   4   1   0   0   8   0.75   Derbyshire   6   4   2   0   0   8   0.13   Middlesex   5   2   2   0   1   5 -0.55   Durham   5   2   2   0   1   5 -0.80   Kent   5   2   3   0   0   4 -0.29   Morthamptonshire   6   1   5   0   0   2 -0.29   Morthamptonshire   6   1   0   0   0   0   0   0   0   0   0			
Total (3 wkts, 24.2 overs) 156	Lancashire 5 0 5 0 0 0 -1.36			
A M Vaughan, J F Thomas, J H Davey, M J Leach, A R J Ogborne and R P Meredith did not bat.	Group B Gloucestershire v Sussex			
Fall of wickets 1-58, 2-88, 3-135.  Bowling Sanderson 6-0-54-0; Finan 5-0-24-0; Broad 5-1-24-2; Heldreich 4.2-0-34-0; Sales	<b>Bristol</b> (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (2pts) beat Sussex by eight wickets (D/L Method)			
4-1-16-1.	Sussex (balls)			
Worcestershire v Kent Worcester (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (2pts) beat Kent by three wickets (D/L Method)	*T G R Clark c Hammond b Dale 6 (14) H P Rogers c Bancroft b Dale 2 (6) C Tear c Bancroft b Dale 5 (27) Z B Lion-Cachet b Akhter 27 (57)			
Kent (balls)	tO J Carter b Akhter 10 (13)			
M K O'Riordan b Sturgess 4 (4)	D K Ibrahim c and b Akhter 30 (57) A M Foreman c Dale b Van Buuren 4 (15)			
B Swanepoel c Roderick b Khan 10 (9)	A D Lenham run out 25 (32)			
J D M Evison c Roderick b Home 23 (40)	A Karvelas c Van Buuren b Dale 2 (6)			
*J A Leaning c Brookes b Home 15 (34)	S F Hunt not out 8 (16)			
†H Z Finch b Home 4 (12) J K Denly b Hinley 26 (38)	J O I Campbell not out 1 (4) Extras (lb 9, w 1, nb 2) 12			
C H Stobo st Roderick b Singh 72 (79)	Total (9 wkts. 41 overs) 132			
G Stewart b Khan 78 (60)	Fall of wickets 1-7, 2-8, 3-19, 4-35, 5-65, 6-94,			
H Qadri c Hinley b Singh 2 (4)	7-101, 8-106, 9-130.			
M W Parkinson b Singh 0 (2)	Bowling Dale 9-3-15-4; Taylor 6-2-17-0; Shaw			
N N Gilchrist not out 3 (7) Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 11, nb 8) 22	8-0-28-0; Akhter 8-1-25-3; Van Buuren			
Total (47.3 overs) 259	8-1-28-1; Price 2-0-10-0.			
Fall of wickets 1-4, 2-18, 3-60, 4-68, 5-70, 6-115,	Gloucestershire (balls)			
7-206, 8-228, 9-228.	M A H Hammond c Ibrahim b Hunt 46 (28)			
Bowling Sturgess 7-0-34-1; Khan 8.3-0-44-2;	C T Bancroft not out 49 (53) O J Price c Lion-Cachet b Hunt 15 (28)			
Home 9-0-62-3; Brookes 10-0-42-0; Hinley 5-0-23-1; Singh 8-0-51-3.	†J R Bracev not out 14 (12)			
Worcestershire (balls)	Extras (lb 1, w 6, nb 2) 9			
tG H Roderick Ibw b Gilchrist 33 (58)	Total (2 wkts, 20 overs) 133			
E J Pollock c Finch b Stewart 21 (11)	B G Charlesworth, *J M R Taylor, G L van			
R P Jones c and b Stewart 57 (91)	Buuren, Z Akhter, M D Taylor, J Shaw and			
*J D Libby run out 75 (68)	A S Dale did not bat.			
E A Brookes c O'Riordan b Stobo 15 (15)	Fall of wickets 1-73, 2-110.			

B W Sanderson c and b Goldsworthy 1 F J Heldreich c Rew b Ogborne 0

E A Brookes c O'Riordan b Stobo R M Edavalath c and b Gilchrist

F Singh c Gilchrist b Stewart H M Khan not out

9 (9) 29 (39) 9 (16) 6 (13)

57 (69) 20 (33) 0 (5) 19 (27) 0 (6)

Fall of wickets 1-27 6-233, 7-238.	7, 2-	76,	3-1	46,	4-17	7, 5	-200,
Bowling Stewart 9-1-37-0; Gilchrist							
Parkinson 4-0-25-0							,
Somerset Hampshire Worcestershire Derbyshire Middlesex Durham Kent Northamptonshire Lancashire	Р	w	L	Т	NR I	Pts	
Group B							
Gloucestershire							
Bristol (Glouce: Gloucestershire (2 wickets (D/L Metho	pts	) be					
Sussex							balls)
"T G R Clark c Han H P Rogers c Banc C Tear c Bancroft I Z B Lion-Cachet b. to J Carter b Akht D K Ibrahim c and A M Foreman c Da A D Lenham run o A Karvelas c Van E S F Hunt not out J O I Campbell not Extras (Ib 9, w. 1, ni Total (9 wkts, 41 c Fall of wickets 1-7, '1-101, 8-106, 9-130. Bowling Dale 9-3-3	ou b A le b ut ou ou o 2) ove	kht Varen t r <b>s)</b>	er an I b I	Buu Dale 4-3	ren : 5, 5-	30 4 25 2 8 1 12 132 65,	(13) (57) (15) (32) (6) (16) (4) 6-94,
8-0-28-0; Akhter 8-1-28-1; Price 2-0-1	8	-1-2					
Gloucestershire M A H Hammond of C T Bancroft not o O J Price c Lion-Ca tJ R Bracey not ou Extras (b 1, w 6, n) Total (2 wkts, 20 o B G Charlesworth Buuren, Z Akhter, A S Dale did not ba	ut t t 2) ove , *J M	et b	Hı R	ınt Tay	lor,	46 49 15 14 9 <b>133</b> G L	(53) (28) (12) van
Fall of wickets 1-73 Bowling Karvelas 3				Cam	pbe	114-	0-32-

0; Hunt 7-0-32-2; Ibrahim 4-0-25-0; Clark 2-0-12-0.

T I Hinley not out 8 Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 7) 10 Total (7 wkts, 46.5 overs) 260 J Home and T G Sturgess did not bat.

8 10 **260** 

Leicestershire Essex Surrey	5 5 6 5			000000	0 0 0 0	10 10 6 6 6 6 2 2	RR 1.25 1.04 0.92 0.29 -0.15 -0.86 -0.05 -1.35 -0.90	
The Hundred Trent Rockets v	, L	on	do	n S	Spir	it		
Trent Bridge (Tr Trent Rockets (2p 22 runs	er	ıt F	Roc	ket	s w	on/		
Trent Rockets A Lyth c Hetmyer †T Banton c Russe A D Hales run out J E Root c Dawson R Powell not out R A Khan not out Extras (lb 2, w 1, nt Total (4 wkts, 100 S I Wasim, *L Grego	ll l b	Gle  ()  alls	esc )	on		4 36 68 32 13 6 7 <b>166</b>	(25) (42) (23) (7) (1)	
S J Cook did not be Fall of wickets 1-4 Bowling Gleeson 2 Ellis 20-4-3-50; Da 10-1-22-0; Russell 1	, 2 O	10-3 son	32-2 20	2; S -3-	tone	15-6		
London Spirit							(balls)	
tM S Pepper c Kha K K Jennings c Bush O J D Pope lbw b v D W Lawrence c I S O Hetmyer lbw b M J J Critchley run A D Russell b Woo L A Dawson lbw b O P Stone c Lyth b N T Ellis c and b G R J Gleeson not o Extras (b 5, b 2, w Total (97 balls) Fall of wickets 1-8, 7-126, 8-142, 9-143.	Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na N	on b isim well har ut nan loo gory	6) KI	Kha	an	2 31 10 4 0 37 23 16 3 0 0 18	(4) (18) (6) (6) (1) (30) (15) (12) (5) (2) (1)	
Bowling Wood 20 Cook 20-6-26-0; 20-10-24-4; Turner	G	ege -0-5	ory 5-0.	16	5-6-2	21-1;		
Southern Brave Oval Invincibles	5	<b>W</b> 4 4 3	1		0 0 0	8	NRR 1.055 0.705 0.600	

# | F Smith run out | 34 (22) | 6 E Scrivens b Glenn | 55 (43) | 74 R Sciver-Prunt c Dean b Sharma | 21 (22) A K Gardner c Lanning b Sharma | 8 (8) H L Graham not out | 7 (4) | 24 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 (4) | 25 K H G grun out | 7 ( TN A J Wraith, K L George, J P Groves, A K Stonehouse and K L Gordon did not bat. Fall of wickets 1-74, 2-116, 3-121, 4-149, 5-158. Bowling Norris 5-2-8-0; Dean 20-8-26-0; Gray 10-2-23-0; Gibson 20-6-34-0; Glenn 20-8-28-1; Sharma 20-8-25-2; Munro 5-1-12-0. London Spirit M M Lanning c Gordon b King 16 P Redmayne b Gardner C L Griffith st Wraith b Gardner H C Knight c Smith b King D R Gibson Ibw b Gardner D B Sharma not out C E Dean c George b King E Gray run out S Glenn not out London Spirit Extras (lb 1, w 6, nb 2) Total (7 wkts, 100 balls) S E N Munro and T G Norris did not bat. Fall of wickets 1-21, 2-21, 3-34, 4-63, 5-77, 6-106, 7-126. Bowling Stonehouse 5-4-4-0; Gordon 15-5-33-0; Sciver-Brunt 15-6-13-0; Gardner 20-7-23-3; George 5-1-7-0; King 20-5-23-3; Graham 20-5-23-0.

20:5-23:0.

P W L T NR Pts NRR
Welsh Fire 5 4 1 0 0 8 0.198
N Superchargers 5 3 1 1 0 7 1.690
Oval Invincibles 5 3 1 1 0 7 -0.104
London Spirit 5 2 2 1 0 5 -0.129
Trent Rockets 5 2 3 0 0 4 -0.129
Mster Originals 5 2 3 0 0 4 4 -0.107
Southern Brave 5 0 4 1 0 1 -0.451

Third ODI
Colombo (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka
248-7 (W I A Fernando 96, B K G Mendis 59):
India 138 (26.1 overs: D N Wellalage 5 for 27).
Sri Lanka won three-match series 2-0

Football

Champions League: Third qualifying round, first leg Slavia Prague 3 Union Saint Gilloise 1; Slovan Bratislava 2 Apoel Nicosia 0.

Tennis

ATP National Bank Open

Montreal: First round T Etcheverry (Arg) bt N

Jarry (Chile) 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (5-7), 6-2. N Borges

(Por) bt M Kecmanovic (Ser) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; K

Khachanov (Russ) bt C Diallo (Can) 6-4, 6-4; P

Cell (1) 7-6 (8-6), 6-3; HElmer (Deni) Alf Baultia

Agut (Sp) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; A T abilo (Chile) bt F

I Iafoe (US) 6-6, 6-2; HElmer (Auss) bt T Darberl

(Japan) 6-1, 7-5; J Thompson (Aus) bt J Draper

(GB) 7-5, 6-2; T Paul (US) bt L Darder (10) 6-4

7-6 (7-2); M Arnaldi (Ub) th MhcDonald (US) 4-6

7-6, 4-6, 4-8; Bethon (US) bt A Bublik (Ka2) 7-6

7-4, 6-2; A Davidovich Fokina (Sp) bt R Saffullin

(Russ) 6-2, 7-5; U Humbert (Fr) bt A F lis (Fr) 6-2

6-2; B Coric (Cro) bt P Martinez (Sp) 6-4, 6-4

-6-1 Duckworth (Aus) bt M Giron (US) 6-4, 6-1 J Duckworth (Aus) bt M Giron (US) 6-4, 6-1.

# **Fixtures**

# **Football**

(balls) 23 (18) 3 (9) 0 (1) 29 (20) 13 (10) 30 (23) 13 (12) 7 (8) 0 (0)

Europa Conference League: Third qualifying round, first leg Ballkani v Larne (7.0); Kilmarnock v Tromso (7.0); St Mirren v Brann (7.45).

# Cricket

Metro Bank (11.0): Group A: Old Trafford Lancashire vMiddlesex Group B: Edgbaston Warwickshire v Glamorgan Scarborough Yorkshire v Leicestershire. The Hundred: Kia Oval Oval Invincibles v Southern Brave (women 3.0, men 6.30). Sophia Gardens Welsh Fire v Northern Superchargers (women 11.30, men 3.0).

# Rugby league

Betfred Super League St Helens v Salford Red Devils (8.0).

# Ali says balls and low scores are hurting Hundred India stunned

## Cricket Elizabeth Ammon

Moeen Ali has called for the batch of Kookaburra balls being used for this year's Hundred to be changed as their extra lacquer and large seams have tilt-ed the balance in favour of the bowlers.

Ali, the England all-rounder, plays for Birmingham Phoenix, who have been involved in two very low-scoring matches in this year's tournament. In the opening match they were bowled out for 89 by the Oval Invincibles, a total which Invincibles chased down with 31 balls to spare.

In Tuesday's match at Edgbaston against Northern Superchargers, the visitors were blown away for 83 despite having Harry Brook and Ben Stokes in their line-up, which Phoenix chased down with ten wickets in hand and 61

balls to spare. Earlier that day in the women's tournament, Phoenix had been bowled out for 54 runs in 86 balls

— the lowest total in the four-year history of the tournament. In the men's competition there have been four totals below 100 for the side batting first and only four scores in excess of 150 in the first innings. The average score when batting first in the opening 19 men's matches this summer is 132, lower than

the previous three years.

Across the men's and women's tournaments there have been a number of low-scoring matches in which teams have been bowled out without facing their 100-ball allocation. While that is not totally unusual in short-form cricket, it has meant that some matches have been over quickly, raising questions about the quality of cricket on display.

Ali believes that low-scoring games

9-2 Haymaker, 11-2 Miss Attitude, 7-1 Reigning Profit, Apeeling, Alligato Alley, 8-1 Star Of Lady M, Radio Goo Goo, 12-1 Glamorous Breeze, Existent

Alley, 8-1 Star Of Lady M, Radio Goo Goo, 12-1 Glamorous Breeze, Existent.

Thunderer's choice: Miss Attitude ran a cracker when beaten a nose at Goodwood last week Danger: Haymaker

Handicap (£25,770: 1m 4f) (9)

2 (3) 05132 WAHRAAN 14 (H,D) J Osborne 6-9-9 S Osborne 3 (8) 00130 CHASE THE DOLLAR 54 (D) D Loughnane 6-9-8 C Fallon

4 (2) -9012 LIEBER POWER 20 (D) A Balding 49-8 O Murphy 5 (d) 4-642 BIZARRE LAW 14 (P,D) A Balding 5-9-4 D Probert 6 (7) 4111 WALTER HARTKENHT 14 (B,D) E Joulng 39-9 D Muscutt 7 (1) 46540 THE THUNDERER 14 (V,D) S C Williams 6-8-11 H Davies

Thunderer's choice: Walter Hartright arrives on a roll and a 7lbrise may not stop a fifth successive win Danger: Wahraai

Handicap (£25,770: 1m 2f) (10)

8.00 Handicap (£25,770: Im 27) (10)

(a) \$1505 ARTHUR'S REALM 27 (P.D) E bunlop 6-10-0 D Muscutt
2 (c) 126-6 KING LEAR 14 (P.B7) 6 Boulphy 4-10-0 B Loughbane
3 (d) 55-22 HAVE SECKET 14 (0) R Falsey 4-9-12 OSisin Orr
4 (e) 12201 RATHORA 14 (0) 1 Johnnon 49-11 D Probert
5 (2) 3566 IDEROT 52 (HD) J Ferguson 6-9-3 K Stott
6 (3) 506-0 F ANTASY BELEVER 27 (D) E Walker 7-6 Sobre
6 (7) 55346 QHTAAL 7 (D) L Johnston 59-4 J Fanning
8 (d) -0595 SELWAN 40 (P.D) I Williams 5-9-0 T Whelan
1 (D) 3056 LADO F ARBABA 14 (GD) F Housinth ACT & IS Reich

Thunderer's choice: Rathgar impressed at Yarmouth last time and gets the nod in a competitive contest 
Danger: Financer

Thunderer's choice: Akkadian Thunder did well to get up at Doncaster last time, a 3lb rise looks lenient Danger: Aalto

Handicap (£38,655; 7f) (10) 1 (10) 5-060 STREETS OF GOLD 50 (C,D) E J-Houghton 4-9-12 C Bishop 2 (1) 01345 CARRYTHEONE 12 (H,T,D) M Bell 7-9-11 S Osborne 3 (7) -0000 JUMBY 47 (D) E J-Houghton 6-9-10 O Murph 4 (5) 02003 RAHMI 19 (B,T,D) J P Murtagh (Ire) 5-9-5 D E Sheeh (5) 0203 RAHM1 L 2 (6) 45210 AALTO 12 (9) 1 Williams 4-9-4 (7) -4200 GOARA 26 (9) 0 (7 edlowes 5-9-4 H Davies (6) 01021 ARKADIAN THUNDER 19 (0) D 0 "Mears 4-9-1 (8) 01021 ARKADIAN THUNDER 19 (1) 0 T Mears 4-9-1 (8) 0 T Mears 4-9-1 (9) 0 T Mears 4

3-1 Walter Hartright, 9-2 Wahraan, 5-1 Gangster Granny, Lieber Power, 13-Law. 7-1 Furzio. 10-1 Dream Harder, 20-1 The Thunderer, 33-1 Chase The

1 (9) 46520 DREAM HARDER 14 (P) | Williams 5-9-12 2 (3) 05132 WAHRAAN 14 (H,D) J Osborne 6-9-9

will not make the competition attractive to the new audiences the ECB is trying to attract and the 37-year-old told The Cricketer magazine he believes the issue is with the balls being used.

"There's an extra lacquer on them and the seam seems to be massive," Ali said. "Every game it seems the ball is nipping. Most teams are 30 for five in most games.

"We should go back to normal Kookaburra balls immediately, I think. It's better for the crowd to come and see. When you've got such good players like Harry Brook and Ben Stokes struggling a little bit, I think it needs to be sorted

A number of other players have also told The Times that the ball seems to behave differently from the T20 Blast earlier in the summer. Some players believe that the large Hundred logo

printed on the side of the ball could also mean it is moving more than usual. Kookaburra were asked for a comment.

This is a particularly important year for the Hundred because potential external investors will be looking closely before the ECB puts 49 per cent of each team up for sale in the autumn.

Initial expressions of interest from investors will be made in September, after which the ECB will hear presentations from interested parties. Then, they will set out not just what monetary figure they will bid for the equity share, but also how they will meet a number of other criteria, including growing the audience, the spectator experience and how they will work with the host venue. who will be handed a controlling 51 per cent stake in their team. The governing body is hopeful of raising up to £500 million from the sale.

# by Sri Lanka

Spinner Dunith Wellalage took five for 27 as Sri Lanka clinched a first ODI series victory over India in 27 years with a 110-run thrashing of the tourists in the third match.

Chasing 249 for victory, India, the world's top-ranked side, suffered a third successive batting collapse in the threematch series to be bowled out for 138 in 26.1 overs at Colombo's Premadasa Stadium. Sri Lanka, who last registered a bilateral series triumph over India in the 50-over format in 1997, won the series 2-0 after the opener ended in a tie. They come to England for a three-Test series that begins later this month.

South Africa ended a rain-hit first day of the first Test against West Indies in Port of Spain on 45 for one.

# Chepstow

Thunderer

5.30 Lady Flora 6.00 Believe You Me 6.30 Alpine Girl 7.00 Miss Attitude **7.30** Walter Hartright **8.00** Rathgar **8.30** Akkadian Thunder

Going: good to firm

Draw: 5f-1m, high best Sky Sports Racing Handisan (C10 020 1

5.50	<b>Hallulcap</b> (£16,039: 1111) (11 rur	iriers)
	DUTCH DECOY 6 (D) C Johnston 7-10-0	J Fanning
2 (7) -0365	AUSTRIAN THEORY 5 (D) T Easterby 5-9-12	D Allar
3 (3) 00340	BENNETOT 12 D O'Meara 5-9-11 B	Loughnane
4 (1) 6-106	AZAHARA PALACE 26 (CD) H Morrison 4-9-7	K Stot
5 (8) 50110	EAGLE DAY 12 (D) P Evans 4-9-6	J Mitchel
6 (5) 02465	ENOUGH ALREADY 9 (D) A McGuinness (Ire)	8-9-5
		E Sheehy
7 (2) 46031	YOUARENOTFORGIVEN 8 (D) A Carroll 6-9-5(5e)	) B Sayette
8 (4) 06600	CAROLUS MAGNUS 14 (D) M & D Easterby 6-8-	12 S James
9 (10) 31163	GREAT ACCLAIM 15 (D) E J-Houghton 3-8-10	C Bishop
10(11) 34341	LADY FLORA 13 (CD) A Balding 3-8-8	O Murphy
11 (0) 44403	DAIMMATED 12 (D) D Falou 2 0 4	C Havdie

11 (9) 440UZ KAINWATEK 12 (P) K Faney 3-0-4 CHARLES 4-1 Lady Flora, 9-2 Dutch Decoy, 5-1 Youarenotforgiven, 13-2 Austrian Theory, 8-1 Rainwater, 12-1 Azahara Palace, Enough Already, Great Acclaim, Bennetot Thunderer's choice: Lady Flora was an emphatic winner here last time and can defy a 7lb rise Danger: Dutch Decoy

6.00 Handicap (£18.039: 7f) (11)

1	(10) -0301 CRAVEN 13 (V,D) R Fahey 4-9-12	Oisin Orr
2	(1) 35030 LEADENHALL 13 (BF) T Easterby 4-9-10	D Allan
3	(7) 11403 BRUNEL NATION 27 (D) R Hughes 3-9-9	9 F Marsh
4	(8) -3301 VON BAER 13 (D) B Meehan 3-9-8	S Osborne
5	(9) 20440 LESSAY 13 (D) A Balding 3-9-7	O Murphy
6	(3) 24211 BELIEVE YOU ME 13 (CD) H Main 4-9-6	Amie Waugh (5)
7	(6) 00204 GET THE MUSIC ON 15 (D) C Cox 3-9-6	J Mitche
8	(11) 35-12 ETOILE D'ALEXANDRE 9 (H,T) G Boughey	3-9-5 B Loughnane
9	(5) 53000 LAHAB 12 (CD) M Wigham 4-9-4	S James
1	0 (2) 00020 BRINDLEY 14 (T,BF) J Channon 3-9-0	C Bishop
1	1 (4) 35442 ALPINE SIERRA 10 (H,D) J Goldie 6-9-0	J Fanning
4	-1 Believe You Me, 5-1 Craven, 6-1 Etoile d'Alexandre,	. 7-1 Von Baer, 8-1

Thunderer's choice: Believe You Me has a 10lb rise for her latest win here, but is in the form of her life Danger: Craven

# Handicap (£18.039: 6f) (10)

1	(4) 30650	GISBURN 27 (D) R Hannon 5-9-12	O Murphy
2	(7) -5633	INGRA TOR 14 (D) J Channon 5-9-11	D Probert
3	(1) 62450	EMINENCY 12 (T,D) S C Williams 4-9-11	D Muscutt
4	(10) 401-0	DOLLY GRAY 47 (D) D Loughnane 5-9-3	C Fa <b>l</b> lon
5	(3) 12314	CONNIE'S ROSE 14 (P,CD) G Harris 5-9-2	J Mitche
6	(2) -3325	COUP DE FORCE 27 (C,D) W Kittow 5-9-1	T Whelan
7	(6) 63215	HAVANA RUM 7 (D) R Fahey 4-9-0	Oisin Orr
8	(8) 30002	MUSCIKA 13 (V,D) D O'Meara 10-9-0	B Loughnane
9	(9) 52011	ALPINE GIRL 26 (H,D) J Fanshawe 4-8-11	H Davies
10	(5) 66513	GIS A SUB 11 (P,BF,D) P Midgley 5-8-4	C Hardie
7-	2 Muscika,	5-1 Ingra Tor, Havana Rum, 7-1 Alpine Girl, 8-1	L Connie's Rose,

Coup De Force, 10-1 Eminency, Gisburn. **Thunderer's choice: Alpine Girl** did we**ll** to win at Salisbury
last time and can defy a 2lb rise **Danger:** Muscika

# Handicap (£25,770: 5f) (12)

		RADIO GOO GOO 12 P Evans 4-9-12	J Mitche
2	(2) -1016	VENTURA EXPRESS 20 (D) P Midgley 7-9-12	Oisin Orr
3	(3) 21123	HAYMAKER 26 (D) H Morrison 5-9-12	K Stott
4	(12) 20444	EXISTENT 4 (V,D) S C Williams 6-9-11	H Davies
5	(6) 55321	STAR OF LADY M 20 (V,D) D O'Meara 4-9-10	C Fallon
6	(8) 51232	MISS ATTITUDE 9 (P,D) J Channon 4-9-6	C Bishop
7	(4) 10240	MANILA SCOUSE 12 (T,CD) T Easterby 5-9-6	D A an
8	(1) 03061	ALLIGATOR ALLEY 5 (T,V,D) D O'Meara 7-9-6	
		В	Loughnane
		GLAMOROUS BREEZE 14 (P,CD) C Mason 6-9-	
1	0(11) 62401	REIGNING PROFIT 5 (V,D) R Carr 5-8-13(5ex)	JP Sullivan

2.30 Little Boy Blue 3.00 Praetorian 3.30 Mumayaz 4.00 Bletchley Storm 4.30 Temur Khan 5.00 Hawajes (nb)  $\textbf{Going:}\ \mathsf{good}\ \mathsf{to}\ \mathsf{firm}\text{-}\mathsf{good}\ \mathsf{in}\ \mathsf{places}$ Draw: no advantage 2.30 Handicap (£4,972: 7f) (5)

3.00 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £3.672: 7f) (4) 1 (4) 00 BROADHAVEN BAY 7 G Baker 9-7

# 322 PRAETORIAN 13 (BF) A Watson 9-7 H Doyle 00 LIRICIST 36 A Newcombe 9-5 T P Queally 2 (3) 322 PRAETOKIAN 15 (6P) P. NYRISHY 17 3 (1) 00 LIRCIST 36 A Newcombe 9-5 T P Queally 4 (2) 4 GRADUATED 19 Dr R Newland 6 J Insole 9-2 Gina Mangan (3) 2-7 Praetorian, 100-30 Graduated, 20-1 Broadhaven Bay, 33-1 Liricist. 11ricist.

# Handicap (£2,983: 1m) (6)

1		MARSH BENHAM 12 (BF,CD) G Baker 5-9	-10 N Curri
2	(3) 62500	MUMAYAZ 13 (T,D) A Carroll 5-9-9	J Doughty (5
3	(5) 00635	OJ LIFESTYLE 21 (B,T) G & J Moore 4-9-9	T P Queal
4	(6) 42550	POETIC FORCE 24 (CD) A Carroll 10-9-8	Molly Gunn (7
5	(2) 10000	HARBOUR VISION 30 (V,D) S Dixon 9-9-7	
		M	Mortensen (7
6	(4) 02055	GALLIMIMUS 17 (B.C) J Gallagher 4-9-3	H Dov

11-8 Marsh Benham, 100-30 Gallimimus, 9-2 Oj Lifestyle, 6-1 Mumayaz, 10-1

# 4.00 Handicap (£10,468: 1m 4f) (10)

1	(9) 0/02-	20M20 152 (h) k a Hawket 9-10-1	W Co
2	(5) 21306	LEXINGTON KNIGHT 14 (T,D) R Hannon	6-10-1 J Leavy (5)
3	(7) 25124	UNCLE DICK 21 (C) E J-Houghton 6-9-9	Mia Nichiolls (5)
4	(8) 0205-	ZHANG FEI J18 F O'Brien 6-9-8	Fern O'Brien (7)
5	(4) 20144	TATATEO 20 (P) J Ferguson 3-9-7	R Dawsor
6	(1) 20-04	DUNDORY 14 (P,D) J G O'Shea 8-9-7	W Carsor
7	(3) 15425	HILL STATION 14 (T,D) Dr R Newland &	J Insole 5-9-6 H Doyle
8	(6) 01153	BLETCHLEY STORM 13 (C) G Baker 4-9	<ul> <li>5 A Keeley (3)</li> </ul>
9	(2) 42204	OPEN SECRET 8 (V) C Johnston 3-9-4	F Nortor
10	(10) 13-00	BUG BOY 21 (CD) A Newcombe 8-9-4	C Planas (3)
4-3	1 Bletchley	Storm, 11-2 Zhang Fei, 13-2 Open Secret,	7-1 Tatateo, Uncle
Die	ck. 15-2 Hill	Station, 8-1 Lexington Knight, Songo, Dun	dory, 50-1 Bug Boy

# 4.30 Classified Stakes (£2,983: 1m 4f) (9)

1	(7) -5000 ATWIXADAY 52 (V) G & J Moore 4-9-9	T P Queally
2	(2) 30000 COME ON JOHN 16 (C) M Attwater 5-9-9	P Bradley
3	(1) 22654 FOINIX 12 (B) J & S Best 4-9-9	J Leavy (5)
4	(6) 46044 IREZUMI 30 (P) J Boyle 4-9-9	L Catton (3)
5	(5) 64065 LUCKY QUESTION 16 (P,T) A Carroll 4-9-9	R Dawson
6	(9) 400-0 SILVER ATOM J38 (D) A Watson 6-9-9	H Doyle
7	(4) -0541 TEMUR KHAN 37 (CD) A Carroll 9-9-9	J Doughty (5)
8	(3) 60360 WALK THE MOON 16 (T) A Carroll 4-9-9 Gir	na Mangan (3)
9	(8) 0000 CHELSEA FLOWER 36 (B) James Owen 3-8	
	9	D Bowen (3)

# 5.00 Classified Stakes (£2,983: 7f) (9)

L	(2) -2402	GONZAGA 12 ) Delillett 9-9-9	aura Couginaii (5
2	(7) 03622	HAWAJES 13 (D) A Carroll 4-9-9	J Doughty (5
3	(3) 13205	HEER'S SADIE 37 (CD) J Feilden 6-9-9	C Howarth (3
4	(9) 00335	REBEL REDEMPTION 24 (B) S Dixon	
			M Mortensen (7
5	(4) 03514	RIVER WHARFE 30 (P,CD) A Carroll 6-	-9-9 M Ghian
6	(5) 40000	SIR TITAN 31 (D) A Carroll 10-9-9	Molly Gunn (7
7	(6) 00360	CLEAR AIM 21 J Boyle 3-9-3	C Bennet
В	(1) 54360	DANEHILL STAR 24 A Carroll 3-9-3	W Carson
9	(8) 13544	TRES CHIC 15 (D) J S Moore 3-9-3	J Leavy (5
10	0-30 Hawa	jes, 4-1 Gonzaga, 9-2 Tres Chic, 6-1 He	er's Sadie, 7-1 Rive
MI	arfo 8-1 9	ir Titan 12-1 Cloar Aim Robal Radomotio	n 20-1 Danahill Star

# Sandown Park

# Thunderer

5.45 Global Esteem 7.15 Mr Monaco **6.15** Clover Time **6.45** Betelgeuse 7.45 Smart Hero 8.15 Dreamrocker Going: good-good to firm in places

Draw: no advantage

Racing TV Handicap (£5,712: 1m 2f) (8)

1 (3) 36415 FAST STEPS 24 (CD) B Millman 6-11-2 Mr P Millman 2 (2) 00010 BLUE YONDER 14 (P,D) A Watson 4-10-10 Miss B Hampson | Miss B Hampson | 3 (7) 00005 BASS PLAYER 14 K Frost 5-10-9 | Miss L Frost (5) | 4 (6) 560-0 GOZO 36 (P,T) B Brookhouse 4-10-9 | Miss M Jordan (3) |

# 5 (8) 530-4 GLOBAL ESTEEM 13 (T,C) F O'Brien 7-10-8 Miss B Smith 6 (4) 41060 DESTINADO 67 (B,D) James Owen 6-10-6

																						MI	ISS	1	г	Pa	dg	et	t (	1)	
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8	(5	)	-45	514	(	0	ITI	Νl	JΑ	N	Œ	49	(H	1,0	))	М	K	ei	ηh	le	y 3	-9	-12	2							
																						Λ	۸r	F	ŀ	(ei	gh	le	у (	7)	

Global Esteem, 7-2 Fast Steps, 9-2 Saint Riquier, 13-2 Gozo nce, 15-2 Destinado, 12-1 Blue Yonder, 14-1 Bass Player.

Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £5.400: 5f) (7)

1	(2)	02 CLOVER TIME 13 M Appleby 9-7	Rossa Ryan
2	(6)	04 HUCKLESBROOK 55 R Teal 9-7	T Marquand
3	(1)	00 RAGE OF THUNDER 22 G & J Moore 9-7	R Clutterbuck
4	(5)	0 BEAUTIFUL THINGS 41 G Scott 9-2	C Shepherd
5	(4)	HOLD A DREAM C Cox 9-2	C Lee
6	(7)	MOLLYMOOK (H) Darryll Holland 9-2	H Crouch
7	(3)	44 PEARL OF WINDSOR 13 C Allen 9-2	D Keenan
15	-8 Clo	ver Time, 100-30 Pearl Of Windsor, 5-1 Hucklesb	rook, 6-1 Hold A
Dr	eam. 7	'-1 Beautiful Things, 12-1 Rage Of Thunder, 14-1 I	Mollymook.

# Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 1m) (9)

_			00
1	(3)	6 BEECHDALE 14 Tom Clover 9-7	N Callai
2	(7)	00 BERKSHIRE SMUDGE 35 A Balding 9-7	R Hornby
3	(5)	BETELGEUSE S Woods 9-7	J Crowle
4	(8)	BONDI R Hannon 9-7	S M Leve
5	(9)	DUNAMASE J & T Gosden 9-7	J Doyle
6	(4)	PRIDE OF ARRAS R Beckett 9-7	Rossa Ryai
7	(1)	00 SPARDAKOS 14 R Hannon 9-7	C Shepher
8	(6)	STORMY MONDAY E Walker 9-7	T Marquan
9	(2)	WILD NATURE C Appleby 9-7	P Dobb:
15-	-8 Duna	amase, 9-4 Wild Nature, 15-2 Betelgeuse, 10-1 Prido	Of Arras, Bondi
12-	-1 Stori	my Monday, 14-1 Berkshire Smudge, 16-1 Beechdale	, 25-1 Spardakos

7	.15	Handicap (3-Y-O: £6,019: 1rr	1 2f) (8)
1	(3) 6-423	MR MONACO 27 R Beckett 9-11	H Croucl
		SOLOMON 4 (H,D) W Haggas 9-9	T Marquan
3	(8) 1-363	AL MOOTAMARID 27 (D) M Botti 9-9	N Calla
4	(5) 621-	TOUCH THE MOON 342 G Scott 9-8	C Shepher
5	(2) -4212	MIDNIGHT RUMBLE 33 (D) A King 9-6	Rossa Ryai
		CRIMSON ROAD 20 (T,D) S & E Crisford 9-	
		DRAMATIC EFFECT 19 E J-Houghton 9-1	Georgia Dobi
8	(6) 201-2	ROYAL BLAZE 24 M Tregoning 8-12	J Crowle
		o, 9-2 Solomon, 5-1 Touch The Moon, 6-1 Midni d, Royal Blaze, 10-1 Crimson Road, 12-1 Dram	

# Handicap (£6.019: 7f) (7)

1	(7) (	00040	GOOD KARMA 13 (P,D) James Owen 4-9-13	D Keenar
2	(5)	15	PERENNIAL 40 (H,D) E Walker 3-9-9	T Marquano
3	(6)	2-445	AMERICAN BAY 48 (BF) Harry Charlton 3-9-	8 Rossa Ryar
4	(4)	1-6	MURASHAH 64 (BF,D) C Hills 3-9-8	Doubtfu
5	(1)	204	SMART HERO 64 (W) J Tate 3-9-6	C Lee
6			TENNESSEE GOLD 23 J Parr 3-9-2	C Shephero
7	(3)	14065	BEAU JARDINE 14 (B,D) R Cook & J Bridger	6-8-13 R Clutterbuck

Gold, 11-4 Smart Hero, 9-2 American Bay, 6-1 Beau Jardine

# Handicap (£4.449: 1m) (15)

T (T2) 0T400	21AW LOV 15 (6'1'n) V 11021 0-3-TT	C Le
2 (3) 23360	HAT TOSS 35 (C) James Owen 4-9-10	D Keena
3 (13) -0352	MAGICAL MERLIN 13 (P) Harry Charlton 4	-9-10
	** *	Rossa Rya
4 (2) 56002	CRYSTAL CASQUE 8 (CD) B Millman 9-9-9	O Searle (5
<b>5</b> (11) -0321	DREAMROCKER 27 (D) E Walker 4-9-9	T Marquan
<b>6</b> (10) -4500	NEW HEIGHTS 24 (P,C) J Portman 6-9-9	H Crouc
7 (6) 51341	CERVETTO 34 (P,T,CD) D Cunha 4-9-9	R Clutterbuc
8 (12) 61505	MOONLIT CLOUD 27 (P) D Ivory 6-9-8	L Kenir
9 (1) 415-5	RAIMUNDA 79 (D) D & C Kubler 4-9-8	A Rawlinso
<b>10</b> (7) 01230	LAW SUPREME 32 (D) I Williams 5-9-8 C F	lutchinson (3
<b>11</b> (5) -4040	YEOMAN 32 J Fanshawe 4-9-7	C Shepher
<b>12</b> (14) 55511	ATLANTIS BLUE 10 (H,D) G Baker 5-9-7(5e	<li>x) J Crowle</li>
13 (4) 16-12	GUITEAU 21 D F Davis 4-9-6	N Calla
14 (9) 42-02	CHALK MOUNTAIN 14 (T) W Kittow 4-9-3	R Hornb
<b>15</b> (8) 43141	KYNSA 29 (P,D) K P De Foy 4-9-2	S M Leve
	nrocker, 9-2 Atlantis Blue, 11-2 Guiteau, 13-	
Kynsa, 10-1 C	halk Mountain, 12-1 Crystal Casque, Magical N	Aerlin.

# Yarmouth

# Thunderer

 2.15 Four Adaay
 3.45 Kinetic

 2.45 Anna Swan
 4.15 Kurimu

 3.15 Caballo De Mar (nap) 4.45 Moakadd

Going: good to firm-good in places

Sky Sports Racing

# Handicap (£3,768: 5f) (5)

1	(3) 34500 VADAMIAH 16 (D) P Midgley 5-9-1	) M Winn (3)
2	(1) 02025 HAVAGOMECCA 6 (P,BF,D) M Dod:	6-9-8 C Beasley
3	(5) 00254 FOUR ADAAY 13 (D) B Millman 6-9	<ul> <li>6 P J McDonald</li> </ul>
4	(2) 0-000 CONCIERGE 28 (V,D) M Attwater 8-	9-5 L Morris
5	(4) 20024 EXCEED 17 (T,D) N Tinkler 4-9-1	L Edmunds
2-1	1 Exceed, 5-2 Havagomecca, 4-1 Four Adaay, 5-1 V	adamiah, 7-1 Concierge

# **Novice Stakes**

(2-Y-O: £5,373: 7f) (6)

1	(6)	61 FOUETTE 35 (CD) James Horton 9-9	A Farraghe
2	(1)	41 ELLARIA SAND 28 A Watson 9-7	L Morri
3	(3)	ANNA SWAN Sir M Stoute 9-2	R Kingscot
4	(4)	4 HELP FROM ABOVE 20 R Eddery 9-2	J P Spence
5	(5)	LIBERATE James Horton 9-2	P J McDonal
6	(2)	6 TANGO IN PARIS 8 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	K Shoemar
5-2	2 Ellai	ria Sand, 11-4 Help From Above, 10-3 Fouette, 4-1	Anna Swan, 10-
1.05	orato	20 1 Tango In Darie	

# Handican (£3.768-1m.2f) (6)

-			,
1		3 CABALLO DE MAR 17 (P) G Scott 3-9-9	L Wright (5)
2	(5) 5003	LO FORTNUM 33 (BF,D) G Boughey 3-9-9	P Cosgrave
3	(3) 00	13 <b>UPTON</b> 17 (H) A Balding 3-9-6	K Shoemark
4	(1) 6002	25 RICH HARRY 10 (P) Alice Haynes 3-9-6	K O'Nei
5	(4) 00-5	53 OVERTURE 13 (BF) Sir M Prescott 3-9-4	L Morris
6	(2) 4365	52 PERSIAN PHOENIX 9 C Johnston 3-9-3	S De Sousa
2-1	L Overtur	e, 7-2 Persian Phoenix, 9-2 Caballo De Mar, 5-	1 Fortnum, 6-1

Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 1m 3f 104yd) (7)

1	(4) 0-0	TEATIME 49 J Chapple-Hyam 9-11	J Peate (3)
2	(7) 3443	KINETIC 31 James Owen 9-9	S De Sousa
3	(5) 04!	AMONGST THE STARS 20 D & C Kubler 9-9	R Kingscote
4	(2) 40-5	SURFER DUDE 43 S Hodgson 9-4	A Farragher
5	(1) 6205	KEEN INTEREST 13 Alice Haynes 9-3	K O'Nei
6	(3) 0-055	WHITE COCO 41 D M Simcock 9-3	L Morris
7	(6) 0-04	LADY BIRDIE 21 (T) A Balding 9-3	W Carver (3)
3-1	L Keen Inte	rest, 100-30 Lady Birdie, 9-2 Teatime, 11-2 Amo	ngst The Stars,
/ 1	Vinatic 9	1 Curfor Dudo 12 1 White Core	

# 4.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 6f) (5)

L	(5) 10242	FUKEVER A DIAMOND 29 W MUIT & C GRASSI	(K 9-9	
			L Edmunds	
2	(4) 46454	LIEUTENANT RASCAL 30 (P) P McEntee 9-7	T Heard	
3	(3) 660-6	TWILIGHT MELODY 21 James Owen 9-5	A Farragher	
ļ	(1) 24213	KURIMU 15 (D) C Dwyer 9-5	S De Sousa	
5	(2) 6-532	GULTARI 15 (H) W Haggas 9-3	H Burns (3)	
-4	-4 Gultari, 5-2 Kurimu, 11-2 Forever A Diamond, 6-1 Lieutenant Rascal, 7-1			

# 4.45 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3.768: 1m) (9)

1	(1) 56235 ZARIELA 16 (P) S Woods 9-11	B Sanderson (3)
2	(2) 05-30 BEAT THE CLOCK 49 D M Simcock 9-1	1 J P Spencer
3	(8) 22163 BAROQUE BUOY 15 G Scott 9-10	L Wright (5)
4	(3) 21145 COGSWORTH 29 C Dwyer 9-7	S De Sousa
5	(9) 5034 MOAKADD 19 (BF) R Varian 9-7	C Noble
6	(4) 400 ZENZIC 20 T Kent 9-6	A Farragher
7	(6) 36560 KINEMATICA 22 Sir M Prescott 9-6	L Morris
8	(7) 66600 ICECAP 10 P Owens 9-3	T Heard
9	(5) 20114 DASHING DONKEY 21 (CD) W Stone 9	<ul> <li>-0 K Shoemark</li> </ul>
7-:	2 Moakadd, 4-1 Dashing Donkey, 5-1 Baroque Buoy, 11-	2 Cogsworth, Zariela,
8-	1 Beat The Clock, 12-1 Kinematica, 14-1 Zenzic, 20-1	Icecap.

# Yesterday's racing results

# Brighton

Going: good to firm (good in places)

**2.25** (5f 60yd) **1, Grace Angel** (Jason Watson, 100-30); **2,** Wrestling Revenue (7-2); **3,** Dapperling (9-1). 5 ran.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ **1,** sh hd. D Holland. Dappleining 9-17: 3 Helson Rose (Jason Watson, Evens Rav), Z. Edergole's Gift (4-1); 3, Another Jack (18-1). E ran. NR: Wedgewood Sapphire. 3½, 1½. A West. 3.25 (77 216yd) 1, Romanovich (William Carson, 5-1); Letter Of The Law (100-30 fav), 3, Hawajes (4-1). 10 ran. NR: Port Noir. 2½, 1¾, 1.54 M. OSheo.

J G M O'Shea.

J G M O'Snea. 3.55 (7f 216yd) 1, **Uncle Dick** (Oliver Carmichael, 28-1); 2, Lunatick (7-1); 3, Buy The Dip (13-2). 9 ran. ½1, ½1. Eve Johnson

4.25 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Chourmo (J F Egan, 5-2); 2, Early Morning Dew (28-1); 3, Three Dons (6-1). 6 ran. 11, 5l. Mark Gillard.

ton, o ran. ii, э.i. Mark Gillard. 4.55 (6f 210yd). On Song (Billy Loughnane, 3-1fav). 2. Kracking (d-1); 3. Cut To The Chase (7-). 8 ran. NR: Marching Mac, Salaamaat. 1½I, 1½I. G Boughey, Placepot: £103.40. Quadpot: £38.80.

**Brighton** 

Thunderer

# **Pontefract**

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.10 (1m 2f 5yd) 1, **Bruno's Gold** (Mr Jack Nicholls, 11-1); 2, **Highwaygrey** (7-2); 3, V Twelve (9-2). 11 ran. ½I, 2l. P D Niven.

2.40 (6f) 1, End Of Romance (C Lee, 7-2); 2, Midnight Thunder (15-8 fav); 3, Sir David (6-1). 7 ran. NR: Hindley. 1½1, ¾1. K R Burke.

3.10 (2m 1f 27yd) 1, Godsend (L Morris, 4-7 fav); 2, Tailorman (8-1); 3, Yorkindness (85-40). NR: Charles St. Nk, 8½I. Sir Mark Prescott. **3.40** (1m 6yd) 1, **Zozimus** (D Nolan, 2-1 fav); 2, Casilli (5-1); 3, Garden Oasis (3-1). 6 ran. 2I, ¾I. D O'Meara

Placepot: £53.90. Quadpot: £20.00.

**Kempton Park** 

Going: standard/slow 5.23 (6f) 1, Leyhaimur (Hayley Turner, 9-2);

2, Ellomate (11-2); 3, Bank On Kent (20-1). 10 ran. Nk, nk. D M Simcock.

5.55 (7f) 1, Yaroogh (Tom Marquand, 11-4); 2, Sheikh Raj (17-2); 3, Chemical (5-1). 13 ran. 1¾I, nk. W J Haggas.

6.25 (Im) 1, Arabian Light (W Buick, 2-13 fav); 2, Running Spirit (6-1); 3, Al Ameed (17-2). 9 ran. NR: Tribal Rhythm. 5½I, ½I. C Appleby.

6.55 (1m) 1. Radiant Beauty (K Shoemark 11-1); 2, Port Road (66-1); 3, She's A Warrior (100-30). 10 ran. ¾I, ¾I. Dr R Newland &

7.25 (1m 3f 219yd) 1, Sea Just In Time (Tom Marquand, 2-5 fav); 2, Beeley (9-2); 3, One Glance (40-1). 9 ran. 11,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ I. W J Haggas. 7.55 (7f) 1, Invincible Aura (Tom Marquand, 15-2); 2, Havana Touch (5-1); 3, Kindest Nation (9-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: All Agleam, Big Time Rascal, Charlie Mason. Nk,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ l. M Botti.

8.25 (7f) 1, Heathcliff (Daniel Muscutt, 5-4 fav); 2, God Bless America (11-1); 3, Ten Commitments (16-1). 10 ran. 2¾I, nk. J R Fanshawe.

Fanshawe. 8.55 (1m 7f 218yd) 1, **Warmonger** (Jack Gilligan, 3-1); 2, Smart Charger (11-4 fav); 3, Wilderness (40-1). 10 ran. 3¾l, 2l. Sir Mark Proceedt

# Jackpot: £7,430.60. Placepot: £60.50. Yarmouth

Going: good to firm (good in places) Callan, 18-0); 2, Fen Tiger (12-1); 3, Dereham (14-1). 9 ran. 1½1, 1½1. R Eddery. 6.10 (6f 3yd) 1, Raneenn (Harry Burns, 25-1) 2, Khaldiya (5-1); 3, Scattering Light (11-8 fav). 11 ran. Nk, ½I. W J Haggas. 6.40 (1m 2f 23yd) 1, James Webb (P J

McDonald, 11-2); 2, Northern Ruler (10-11 fav); 3, Shader (9-2). 6 ran. 1¼I, 3½I. Sir Michael Stoute.

Stoute.
7.10 (Im 31104yd) 1, Clever Currency (Callum Shepherd. 10-11 fav): 2, Trackman (9-4). 8, Blondelle (28-1). 7 ran. 7, 7. M. I. W Bell. 74.0 (54 42yd) 1, Match Play (Mark Winn, 7-2): 2, Bang On The Bell (7-2). 3, Stone Circle (11-4). 5 ran. Nk, 4½, P.T. Midgley.
8.10 (61 3yd) 1, Wrath of Hector (Ben Sanderson, 12-1); 2, Foreseeable Future (6-1); 3, Gatwick Kitten (9-1). 10 ran. 2\(\frac{1}{2}\), 2\(

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# WAITROSE

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# **Sport Paris Olympics 2024**

# Gladiators for gold in six seconds

Men's 100m is no longer the shortest event, with climbers scaling walls incredibly fast, writes **James Gheerbrant** 

For the women of the K1 200m kayak sprint, the distance between the start of their event and the finish they have visualised so many times evaporates in about 38 seconds. For the fastest men in the pool, the 50m freestylers, it goes by in 21 seconds. For the sprinters who propel themselves across 100m of rub-berised track, it's all over in less than ten.

For decades the 100m has been the quickest event at the Olympic Games. But not any more. On a sunny day yesterday in Le Bourget, a gold medal was won in a faster time than any of Usain Bolt's victories by a woman who was once a junior swimmer and whose day job is training Polish soldiers.

At 12.57pm Paris time, Aleksandra Miroslaw stood at the foot of a 15-metre climbing wall with a five-degree overhang. Her hands, dusted with chalk, were wedged into a nook of moulded plastic and the ball of her left foot, squeezed into a tight, split-soled climbing shoe, was on the floor. When she swiped the touch plate at the top of the wall, 6.10 seconds later, she had become the first Olympic champion in

speed climbing.

We have seen speed climbing before in Tokyo but there it was one third of a sort of climbing triathlon, a combined event which also featured bouldering and lead climbing. for But these speed Olympics, climbing has been separated: the combined event now comprises bouldering and lead only, and speed is its own event.

That was always likely to favour Miroslaw, who had set a speed climbing world record in Tokyo. But she still had to get the job done. Her mission: ascend the wall faster than the woman navigating the exact same wall to the side of her, three times. Do that in an event reminiscent of "the wall" in TV's Gladiators, and she would be the champion. Speed climbing is a kinaesthetic marvel. When you imagine climbing and indeed, when you watch the lead climbing, which takes place on a far steeper, more challenging surface — you see each limb placed, anchored, then used to propel the body upwards. The best speed climbers condense all these movements into a single action. As Miroslaw, 30, reaches the handholds near the top of the wall, she doesn't seem to be gripping or grabbing them so much as scrabbling over them with a series of quick, percussive motions, as if she were playing the world's weirdest set of bongos.

The Spaniard, Leslie Romero Pérez, was dispatched easily in the quarterfinal, in what by Miroslaw's standards was a relatively pedestrian 6.35sec. In the third quarter-final the American Emma Hunt, the second-fastest qualifier, slipped halfway up and her Olympics was over. In the last quarterfinal the Chinese climber Deng Lijuan beat the Indonesian climber Desak Made Rita Kusuma Dewi by six

thousandths of a second. Eventually it came down to Miroslaw against Deng in the final. The start was neck and neck but the Polish climber seemed to levitate up the final metres. In the end she clinched victory, and her country's first gold at these Olympics, by 0.08sec. "I was constantly watching my route, I didn't even look at my rivals," she said. "I cut myself off from the

world." Iga Swiatek, her compatriot, celebrated her in a tweet which

contained three emojis: a Polish flag, a gold medal and a spider. Lead climbing,

the second half of the combined event, offers a very different spectacle. This is arguably the closest thing in sport climbing to navigating a rockface. The overhang is

savage, the gaps between the handholds seemingly impossibly wide, the challenge to climb as high as possible. Here we saw the lead semi-final of the men's combined competition, following on from the bouldering semifinal on Monday. After that portion of the event Britain's Toby Roberts, from Elstead in Surrey, was third, but an even



# Climbing events

**Speed climbing**Speed climbing consists of two athletes racing side by side, competing to scale a wall of 15 metres as quickly as possible.

### Bouldering and lead climbing

In boulder climbing, athletes must negotiate as many obstacles as they can on a 4.5-metre wall in a set time. Each athlete has four boulders, or "problems", to tackle, with 25 points awarded to each problem they overcome. In lead climbing, athletes have six minutes to get as high as they can on a 15-metre wall, with many inclines and obstacles on the way and a maximum of 100 points for reaching the top. The gold medal is awarded to the athlete with the highest combined score from both

# Female climbers can reach the top of a 15-metre wall in six seconds; left, Team GB bouldering hope Toby Roberts

better performance on the lead wall where he finished second, meant that he qualified for the final in second place behind Japan's Sorato Anraku.

The defending champion in men's climbing, Alberto Ginés López of Spain, qualified in fourth while another Briton, Hamish McArthur, also snuck into the final in eighth place. The final tomorrow will involve the climbers tackling bouldering "problems" — smaller, ropeless routes, so called because they are meant to be puzzled out — before another lead section.
"I think the format will show who is

the most versatile climber," Roberts said. "It's going to be a completely different challenge and there is a short gap between the boulder and the lead in the final, which will test people's energy systems and recovery. Doing a lead route on the back of four intense boulders is definitely a lot harder."

Roberts, 19, has done well on the World Cup circuit in the past 18 months, winning two lead competitions and one bouldering event. "Obviously I've got expectations because I've done well in the World Cups," he said. "But for me it's best to keep a clear head. When it's just me and the wall, I don't think about anything else.



y former colleague Simon Barnes once wrote that the problem with the football World Cup is that it's a monoculture: one sport played over everlonger formats, with a single winner. The distinctiveness of the Olympics, on the other hand, is its biodiversity.

Dozens of sports, athletes of all shapes and sizes, hundreds of heroes getting a moment of glory after four years in the shade and, regardless of how often you've watched, a constant learning experience. I mean, had you ever seen kayak cross before or expected to become an expert in BMX?

With this in mind, here are my top 15 moments of the Gamesso far, the pixels of excitement, quirkiness and drama from the totality of which emerges the unique mosaic of the Olympic experience. This is a personal choice, so please visit our website and add your own favourite moments to the online version of this article. But please don't mention Cole Hocker's (admittedly brilliant) victory over Josh Kerr in the 1,500m. Even now, writing yesterday lunchtime, it's just too painful.

- I I watched the climaxes to the mountain biking and triathlon in almost exactly the same way: peering through barely parted fingers, belatedly realising that Tom Pidcock and Alex Yee were in with a chance, then screaming myself hoarse as they roared into the lead at the death. Two athletes with different physiques and temperaments but utterly united in determination and class. Great Britain's answer to Lazarus.
- 2 I know it's a tad corny, but I loved Sweden's Armand Duplantis pole-vaulting to gold, breaking the world record, then sprinting over to kiss his girlfriend, the blonde model Desiré Inglander. Roger Moore as James Bond could never have pulled it off, not even with special effects.
- 3 Simone Biles is a legend I've loved watching her again at these Games but that floor exercise by Rebeca Andrade of Brazil (to win gold) was a thing of beauty. She possesses preternatural calmness despite executing the most audacious moves and all after coming back from three anterior cruciate ligament tears.
- 4 Perhaps the most beautiful aspect of the Olympics is the way top athletes pay tribute to those who give them the courage to dream. No interview was more poignant, in this respect, than that of Sophie Capewell, who, after winning gold in the women's team sprint, was thinking only of her late father, Nigel, a former Paralympian cyclist, who spent much of his life nurturing her talent. In tears, she said, "I wish my dad was up in the stands watching it." Emma Finucane put her arms around her team-mate and whispered gently: "He was."
- 5 Aren't we lucky to have Steve Cram, one of the greatest middle-distance runners who also happens to be a peerless athletics commentator. After the 1,500m final (damn, I







# The 15 moments that make the Olympics better than World Cup

From a trackside Tennyson to a pole-vaulting James Bond, these quirky heroes leave even Messi in the shade, writes **Matthew Syed** 

almost Tennysonian with the line: "Kerr did his best but in trying to go with Ingebrigtsen, Ingebrigtsen trying to run away from Kerr, the two of them, I think, destroyed each other."

6 I'm not sure I've seen a leg quite like that of Femke Bol, whose speed in the last lap of the 400m mixed relay was so prodigious that her opponents seemed to be running through cement. It was poignant, too, as Bol fell in the final five

metres at the 2023 World Championships, taking the Dutch off the podium.

7 Did you manage to catch any of the table tennis? If so, you'll have been wowed by Truls Moregard, a Swede who plays the game as I like to imagine Leonardo da Vinci would have done. Towards the end of the men's singles final (he narrowly lost to China's Fan Zhendong), he performed a trick shot of

only laugh in admiration: a chop that spun back over the net before his opponent touched it. Magical.

8 It's a mystery to me why badminton isn't a high-profile sport, given the synthesis of athleticism, touch and stamina. Still, a rally from the men's singles will live long in the memory: Lakshya Sen diving full length to retrieve a drop shot, getting to his feet, then playing an

India's Sen turns badminton into ballet, left, while his hockey compatriots, below left, stun GB. Bol, below right, performs a miracle in the mixed relay and, bottom, the men's 100m was a race for the ages

improvised winner while running away from the net. He lost to Viktor Axelsen, of Denmark, another wonderful player, who would go on to retain gold.

- 9 If you want a powerful metaphor for what Olympic sport means at its best, you'll struggle to beat Germany's Laura Lindemann, America's Taylor Knibb and Team GB's Beth Potter belting down the blue-carpeted final straight in the triathlon relay. Lindemann sneaked it, but they all collapsed at the line as team-mates came out to celebrate, console, cry and hug. The race had it all.
- 10 I always thought that Gordon Banks's heroics against Brazil in 1970 represented the high point of goalkeeping, but I almost changed my mind during England's defeat by India in the men's hockey. PR Sreejesh was like Banks, Peter Shilton and Lev Yashin rolled into one, keeping India (a man down because of a red card) in the match with lightning reflexes and preternatural anticipation. A note to all Premier League managers: give the man a trial.
- 11 The BBC gets it in the neck for its coverage and I'm not saying it's perfect—but doesn't it have a superb athletics anchor in Gabby Logan? And on the subject of the BBC, a quick story about the incomparable MJ (Michael Johnson). I hosted a Times Plus event before London 2012 and talked about how I'd fallen apart under pressure at the Sydney Olympics. I turned to my fellow Times columnist and said: "Did you ever struggle with nerves?" MJ paused, turned in my direction, fixed me with those eyes, and said emphatically: "No."
- 12 Ilove Tom Daley and Noah Williams and their silver was superb, but let's be honest, China's Lian Junjie and Yang Hao have taken synchronised diving to new levels. For a few moments while watching them I started to believe in telepathy.
- 13 Keely Hodgkinson is fabulous: a bundle of laughs, full of common sense, popular with her team-mates and a former criminology student. She is also a superb runner whose victory in the 800m was one of the most thrilling of these Games. I know most of us dread the term "role model" since it sets up unreasonable expectations but let me just whisper it.
- 14 Novak Djokovic's defeat of Carlos Alcaraz was stunning for the quality of tennis and the courage of the Serb—but also the sportsmanship of the Spaniard, who protested to the umpire in the second set when a Djokovic serve was wrongly called out (the decision was reversed). The future of tennis is in good hands
- 15 The men's 100m final was perhaps the most thrilling of them all. Only five thousandths of a second separated Noah Lyles and Kishane Thompson. A race for the ages.



# British bid hit by rider too 'weak' to stay on his saddle

**Sport Paris Olympics 2024** 

We are hearing throughout the Olympics of athletes pushing themselves to their limits and, every so often, there comes a vivid illustration of exactly what that means. In the final of the men's team pursuit yesterday evening, Great Britain were desperately trying to claw their way back against an Australia team who, after breaking the world record a day earlier, once again had their noses in front in the final. The gap was not huge — with the final kilometre of the four-rider 4km race to go, the British team were 0.183sec behind. But to overcome that deficit, they knew they had to push to the limits

of their physical endurmeant that, rather than Ethan Hayter taking his usual 4¼ laps at the front of the aerodynamic train, where the hardest work is done, he was done, he was asked to do a little more. And with the deficit narrowing fur-

ther and Britain retain-

ing hope as they entered the final lap, Hayter was the final lap, Hayter was suddenly unable to give any more. He slipped from where he had been erched, on the edge of his saddle, lost his place in the line, and in that instant the race was over.

"We were so close and I could see it," Hayter told the BBC. "My whole body went weak and I struggled to hold myself on the bike. We went out to get it but just came short in the end.

This is an event in which the workload is shared with meticulous plan-

ning, with one rider – Ethan Vernon, in this case - providing early impetus before dropping out, and the remaining three riders – Hayter, Dan Bigham and Charlie Tanfield – all taking their turns on the front. Hayter, the 25-year-old who began riding at the Herne Hill velodrome in south London, has been in bailling form and in barilling forms. in brilliant form and is heavily fancied for the omnium today, but chasing the Australians proved just too much on this occasion.

"This is the nature of team-pursuiting at this level," Bigham, his teammate, said. "It's on a knife-edge at the back end. You're trying to get three guys over the line absolutely empty, completely cooked. The breaking

point has to be somewhere and you saw it. We gave half a lap too much to

[Hayter] and he found the limit." It had been a gripping race up to that dramatic denouement on the final lap, with the British quartet starting the quicker, but the Australian quartet of Oliver Bleddyn, Sam Welsford, Co-nor Leahy and Kelland

O'Brien soon moved ahead. At the halfway point, their lead was 0.14sec and they had stretched that further before Britain began their fightback in the final kilometre. The Australians crossed the line in 3min 42.067sec, more than a second slower than their world record, but they had won their first men's team pursuit gold medal for 20 years

The British team, meanwhile, have made the four podium in all four medal events in the velodrome so far, with sil-



vers in the men's team pursuit and team sprints coming after gold for the women's team sprint, and followed tonight by bronze in the women's team

Ashes battles have been a regular feature of the men's team pursuit at recent Olympics, with Great Britain and Australia having contested the gold medal match at four of the last six Games. Britain's run of three successive golds was broken by a seventh-placed finish in Tokyo three years ago, when Australia also missed out on the final, finishing

third behind Italy and Denmark. Normal service has been resumed in Paris, though, with a British team much the same as the one that fell flat in Tokyo. Bigham, 32, was one difference, an aerodynamicist as well as a rider, who was working as a coach for the Denmark team that won a silver medal in Tokyo. Back in the British fold, he has taken on a leadership role to rejuvenate this team.

There will be chances of further medals today including the chance for Emma Finucane to win the second of a potential hat-trick of gold medals. Finucane, the 2l-year-old from Carmar-then, led from the front to qualify from the first round of the keirin, the mass sprint race, with the quarter-finals to come this afternoon.

Jack Carlin and Hamish Turnbull, meanwhile, have both qualified for the quarter-finals of the men's individual sprint. And Hayter, after that agonising team pursuit, will have a chance to get back in the saddle, to push himself to his in the omnium.

# Jones faces questions about doping, but will she answer them?

Matt Lawton

Chief Sports Correspondent, Paris

One theme at these Olympics has been the sight of certain athletes being

smuggled out of the room.

It is a requirement for every one of them to pass through an area called the mixed zone, where post-event media interviews are conducted. Yet the Netherlands admitted to protecting a convicted child rapist from difficult questions at the beach volleyball. The boxers at the centre of the gender dispute have also been kept a safe distance from microphones.

Team GB are about to face a similar challenge with Jade Jones due to compete in the taekwondo today on the back of an extremely curious, and slightly troubling, doping case.

Staff at the British Olympic Association do a terrific job of providing access

to their star athletes in the build-up to each event but, much like the dressage competitors in the wake of the Charlotte Dujardin horse abuse scandal, both Jones and the wider taekwondo team have been kept off limits.

It has not been said explicitly. Team GB insist they have simply been focused on their preparations at the pre-Games training camp. But for a 31-year-old double Olympic champion to have maintained this level of radio silence is not only indicative of her predicament but par for the course for personal advisers who rarely see the value in dialogue.

Jones's situation was one even UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) made a point of trying to keep a lid on, publishing the outcome of her case on the agency's website without sending out an accompanying media release. Perhaps it thought we wouldn't notice. The facts. as we understand them, are these: Jones

admitted committing a potentially serious anti-doping rule violation by refusing to take a drugs test in December.

But she escaped a four-year ban because a national anti-doping panel accepted that she had suffered a "loss of cognitive capacity", with the panel concluding she bore "no fault or negligence". Nothing to see here.

We don't know the more specific reasons for the mental health issue that the doctors identified, because it is not detailed in the eight-page report that was published.

It is this lack of clarity, while justified on the grounds of private medical infor-Anti-Doping Agency, that invites further scrutiny of the events that happened at the Leonardo Hotel in Manchester at 6.50am on December I.

Essentially, Jones declined to take the test, insisting she had not eaten or had a drink since November 29 - ves.

for two days - in an attempt to shed pounds for a weigh-in at 10am that day. She also said she was about to leave

for a dehydration bath, rendering her even more incapable of providing the doping control officer (DCO) with a urine sample.

What remains a concern is the fact that she did not allow the officer to accompany her. The DCO said they would wait until after the weigh-in, at which time she would then be able to have a drink. But Jones left the hotel alone some 53 minutes later, having been reminded "approximately five times" of the consequences of a refused test and advised, by GB Taekwondo's performance director, Gary Hall, during a phone call, to comply.

The process that followed went on for months. At one stage her lawyer said she had been "stressed and panicked" about her weight. She also failed to understand the gravity of the situation, thinking it was no different from a

missed test: the first of three strikes.

Jones then changed her lawyer, at which point evidence of a medical condition, the details of which are redacted from the Ukad report, was presented in mitigation, based on the expert opinion of a consultant psychiatrist.

While the point has been made that Jones then passed a drugs test almost 12 hours later that day, it overlooks the fact that, by then, certain substances would be undetectable in that time window.

After the disciplinary process was made public last month, Jones accepted she had made a mistake in refusing to offer a sample, adding: "At the moment this started, I didn't grasp the situation was in and what could happen

So here we are, in Paris, with Jones about to compete and then face the media. As of yesterday, Team GB insist she won't be heading for any rear exit door.



# Bronze for the women - as GB coaches kick-start medal rush for other nations

Owen Slot Chief Sports Writer

A silver and a bronze in the velodrome yesterday represented a decent day's Olympic work for Team GB, but what we're not counting here is the number of medals that British coaches helped other nations to win.

The British quartet in the women's team pursuit made a magnificent comeback against Italy in the bronzemedal race. The silver, however, went to New Zealand and it was the first Olympic medal the Kiwis have ever won in the women's team pursuit. A breakthrough, a sign of things to come from a young team only beginning to realise their promise — who were guided there by none other than Paul Manning

Yes, that Paul Manning. The Paul Manning. The one who rode to gold alongside the likes of Bradley Wiggins and Geraint Thomas in 2008. The same Paul Manning who guided Laura Kenny's career and coached British women's pursuit teams to consecutive golds in 2012 and 2016. "We love him as a coach," Ally

Wollaston, a silver medal around her neck, said.

Well, yes, of course you would do. Because you were a team that finished eighth in the Tokyo Olympics three years ago. And then he joined you only two years before the Paris Games and now you're the second-best in the world.

So what, exactly, did he do for you? "More of a high-performance focus,"

Britain's coaching roll call

Paul Manning Won gold in team pursuit for Britain in 2008. Guided

Laura Kenny and many others to

Zealand, who took silver last night Mehdi Kordi Former Team GB coach

who now leads all-conquering Dutch

Matt Crampton Ex-GB sprinter who

Scott Gardner Vicky Pendleton's ex-

husband who also coaches Australia

Jamie Staff Won team sprint gold with Chris Hoy in 2008. Now coaching at USA BMX

**Craig MacLean** A sprint silver medallist who leads mixed group of

Ireland who worked for Britain for 21

Pendleton and Jason Kenny among

others before leaving for his native

Jan van Emden Coached Hov.

small nations in Switzerland

lain Dver (Ireland) High performance director of Cycling

gold and now in charge of New

men's sprint team

now coaches Australia

Wollaston explained. "He made changes that have been instrumental in our results. The way he leads us and gives us ownership and a responsibility that has really let us thrive. It's been

really awesome."

Don't forget, also, that everything in Manning's New Zealand role has been on a different scale from what he knew in British Cycling: smaller population, smaller athlete numbers, sn budget. Really, it's incomparable.

Yet Manning's story is by no means a one-off. Before yesterday evening there was only one other track cycling event that the British team hadn't won: the men's team sprint, in which the Netherlands team that nudged GB into silver were coached by Mehdi Kordi, who has been commuting to work for the last five years from his family home in Salford.

It is no great leap of faith to say that Kordi knows what he is doing. His team won the same gold in Tokyo; in the defence of their title this time round they broke the record.

For further evidence of how crucial he is to the success of this programme, we can turn to Harrie Lavreysen, whose CV now includes three Olympic golds and probably more by the end of the

How important is Kordi to your success, Harrie? He paused and provided a pleasing one-word answer: "Very.

Morris was part of team who won bronze in the team pursuit

Again, some perspective is required here: the Dutch track programme isn't just doing well, it is bringing about these successes on a budget that is a sixth of their British opposition's.

Yet it, too, is delivering largely thanks to British expertise. Mehdi spent seven years working and learning in the system at British Cycling and eventually left because of a lack of opportunity.

That is one of the problems that goes hand in hand with a decade of supremacy: there is an accumulation of talent and a bottleneck effect where there are not enough jobs.

Look at the first trio of sprinters with whom Chris Hoy first found success. Hoy, Craig McLean and Jamie Staff became world team sprint champions in 2002; in other words they were all in it together from the start of the journey and learnt everything about the transformation to world best. Hoy is now in the commentary booth; Staff and McLean wanted to transfer their knowledge to coaching but Staff is now head of BMX for the USA and McLean is coaching a group of "small nations riders in Switzerland.

Kordi would definitely count as "one who got away". However, there is really nothing to be done to prevent good old British know-how from being spread around the world.

You can see it all around the pits in the centre of the track here at the velodrome. The Australians who took bronze in the men's team sprint were coached by Matt Crampton, a former European keirin champion who spent a decade as an elite sprinter on the British team, and Scott Gardner, a former coach in British cycling, swimming and canoeing who is also the former husband of Victoria Pendleton.

Meanwhile, Iain Dyer, whose coaching career spanned 21 years and five Olympic Games with British Cycling, is now here as head of performance of Cycling Ireland. Jan van Eijden, the German who was a coach of the likes of Hoy, Pendleton and Kenny over a period of 15 years, is back here with his nation of origin.

There is something cyclical here. British Cycling took in Van Eijden from Germany as well as Gardner and Shane Sutton from Australia and squeezed them dry of all they knew. In time it was the National Cycling Centre in Man-chester that had the best world-beating knowledge under lock and key. Yes, you would like to keep it there, but

that just isn't possible. You can't keep it contained. Over all those years of being the No1 track nation, a lot of people come through the system and are the recipients of an elite education in high performance. You can neither then keep them all in employment nor prevent job offers arriving from elsewhere.

So these Ölympics may not quite exhibit the super-dominant track competition that British Cycling has experienced in the past — but that is because the rest of the world is reaping the fruits from British Cycling too.

# How the British got on at the Olympics on day twelve

# **Athletics**

Leading positions: Men: 400m: Final 1, Q Hall (US) 43.40sec; 2, M Hudson-Smith (GB) 43.44 (European record); 3, M Samukonga (Zam) 43.74, 800m: First round: Heat 41, D Sedjati (Alg) Imin 45.84sec; 2, E Giles (GB) 45.93; 3, H Kessler (US) 14615. Heat 51, B Pattison (GB) 1.45.56; 2, E du Plessis (SA) 45.73; 3, W Kiryamal (Ken) 145.86. Heat 61, M Attaoul (Sp) 1.44.81; 2, B Hoppel (US) 45.24; 3, M Burgin (GB) 145.36; 5,000m First round: Heat 11, N Gilje Nordas (Nor) 14.08.16; 2, H Gebrhiwet (Eth) 14.08.18; 3, J Heymans (Bel) 14.08.33; 13, P Dever (GB) 14.13.48; 18, G Mills (GB) 14.37.08, Heat 2, 1, Ingebrigtsen (Nor) 135.15; 2, B Mehary (Eth) 135.18.2; 3, I Kimeli (Bel) 13.52.18; Ils, S Atkin (GB) 14.02.46; 100m hurdles: Semi-final 21, R (GB)14:02.46.110m hurdles: Semi-final 21, R Broadbell (Jam) 13.21; 2, F Crittenden (US) 13.23;3, SZhoya (Fr)13.34;3, L Francois Mendy (Sen) 13.34; 7, T Ojora (GB) 13.47, 400m hurdles: Semi-final 3 1, R Benjamin (US) 47.85;2, R Clarke (Jam) 48.34;3, W Happio (Fr) 48.66; 8, A Chalmers (GB) 56.52. Women: 400m: Semi-final 11, S End Maser (Bah) 49.08; 2, R Adeleke (Ire) 49.95; 5, V Ohuruogu (GB) 51.4, Semi-final 21, M Paulino (Dom) 49.21; 2, A Holmes (US) 50.00; 3, L Nielsen (GB) 50.69, Semi-final 3 1, N Kaczmarek (Pol) 49.45; 2, A Anning (GB) 49.47, 1500m: Repechage 21, A Anning (GB) 49.47, 1500m: Repechage 21, Semi-final 3 to Naczmarek (Pol) 49.45; 2, A Anning (GB) 49.67; 2, R Walcott-Nolan (LG) 40.67; 3, A Marques (Sp) 4.07.05; 100m hurdles: First round: Heat 21, J Camacho-Quinn (P Rico) 12.42; 2, C Sember (GB) 12.72; 3, P Skrzyszowska (Pol) 12.82.

# Cycling - track

Leading positions: Men: Sprint: Qualifying 1, H Lavreysen (Neth) 9.088sec; 2, M

Richardson (Aus) 9.091; 3. M Yakovlev (Isr) 9152; 4. I. Hoffman (Aus) 9.242; 5. J Carlin (GB) 9.247; 6. J Hoogland (Neth) 9.293; 7. H Turnbull (GB) 9.346; 132 finals: Heat 5 Carlin bt T Rorke (Can). Heat 7 Turnbull bt Zhou Yu (China). 1/16 finals: Heat 5 Carlin bt C Ortega Fontalvo (Co). Heat 7 M Azizulhasni Awang (Malaysia) bt Turnbull. Repechage 2 Turnbull bt V Lendel (Lith). 1/8 finals: Heat 3 Turnbull bt V kalovlev. Heat 5 Carlin bt N Paul (Tir). Team pursuit: Gold medal race Australia 3-4.2067 bt Great Britain (E Hayter, O Wood. C Tanfield. E Vernon and D Bigham) 3-44.394. Women: Kelrin: First round: Heat 1, E Andrews (NZ); 2. M Gros (F) at 0.014sec behind; 3. K Marchant (GB) 0.021. Heat 51, E Finucane (GB); 2. L Friedrich (Ger) 0.032; 3, Divine Kounne (Fr) 0.637. Repechages: Heat 1 pursuit: First round: Heat 3 United States 4min 4.629sec bt Great Britain (E Barker,

Germany

J Knight, A Morris and J Roberts) 4:04.908. **Bronze medal race** Great Britain 4:06.382 bt Italy 4:08.961

# Diving

Leading positions: Men: 3m springboard: Semi-final 1, Wang Zongyuan (China) 537.85 yz. Xie Siyi (China) 505.85; 3, J Laugher (GB) 467.05; 4, O Olvera Ibarra (Mex) 463.75; 5, J Houlden (GB) 445.55; Women: 3m springboard: Preliminary I, Chen Yiwen (China) 356.40; 2, M Keeney (Aus) 337.35; 3, A Vazquez Montano (Mex) 321.75; 4, Chang Yani (China) 308.75; 5, G Reid (GB) 303.25; 9, Y Harper (GB) 295.75.

Women: Leading first-round scores: 65 C Boutier (Fr). 68 A Buhai (SA). 70 M Metraux (Switz), M Uribe (Col), L Vu (US), G López

(Mex). 71 D Dagar (India), Lee Min-jee (Aus), M Yamashita (Japan), A Sharp (Can), C Borge (Nor), Lin Xiyu, Cinia). 72 B Pagdanganan (Phil), A Valenzuela (Switz), A Thitikul (Tha), A Yang (S Kor), L Ko (NZ), M Stark (Swe), M De Roey (Be), A AShok (India), E Henseleit (Ger), R Zhang (US), N Korda (US), Yin Ruoning (China), A Lau (Malaysia). British: 74 G Hall. 81 C Hull.

# Sailing

Dinghy; Leading positions: Men: Medal race 1, M Wearn (Aus) 40pts; 2, P Kontides (Cyp) 56; 3, S Peschiera (Per) 80; 6, M Beckett (GB) 87. Women: Medal race 1, M Bouwmeester (Neth) 38; 2, A-M Rindom (Den) 61; 3, L Hoest (Nor) 75; 12, Snellgrove (GB) 108. Mixed (after eight races): 1, Austria 24; 2, Spain 31; 3, Japan 35; 11 Great Britain (V Heathcote and C Grube) 65.

Kite: Leading positions: Men (after seven races): 1, T Vodisek (Slove) 12pts; 2, M Maeder (Sin) 15; 3, V Bontus (Austria) 17; 8, C Bainbridge (GB) 29. Women (after six races): 1, L Nolot (Fr) 12; 2, E Aldridge (GB) 12; 3, D Moroz (US) 17. Mixed multihull: Leading positions (after 12 races): 1, Italy 27pts; 2, Argentina 41; 3, Great Britain (J Gimson and A Burnet) 47.

# Skateboarding

Leading positions: Men: Park: Preliminary 1, K Palmer (Aus) 93.78pts; 2, T Schaar (US) 92.05; 3, A Sorgente (It) 91.14; 18, A Macdonald (GB) 77.66.

# Sport climbing

Leading positions: Men: Boulder and Lead: Semi-final Lead 1, S Anraku (Japan) 137.0pts; 2, T Roberts (GB) 122.2; 3, A Ondra (Cz) 116.8; 8, H McArthur (GB) 79.3.

# **Sport Paris Olympics 2024**

# Hodgkinson didn't put a foot wrong – until she won gold

Olympic champion tells **Matt Lawton** about her rise to glory and getting medal while wearing the wrong shoes

t was the first foot Keely Hodgkinson had put wrong in Paris. There she was, just about to walk out for the ceremony to receive her Olympic gold medal on Tuesday night, when a British official spotted that she was not wearing the correct brand of trainers

wearing the correct oran of trainers. A sense of panic spread through the Team GB staff. Somebody sent for an emergency pair from the sponsor. A quick-thinking communications officer, Liz Birchall, realised that there simply was not enough time, so there was only one thing for it. She slipped off her own and gave them to the new 800m champion. "Uh oh," Birchall thought. "I'm not wearing any socks." She handed them over anyway with a "sorry" to the 22-year-old.

"I got my medal wearing Liz

"I got my medal wearing Liz Birchall's shoes," said Hodgkinson when asked what had been the most unusual thing to have happened to her since her quite brilliant victory on Monday evening. "They did at least fit me."

People tend to like helping Hodgkinson because she always appreciates their support. After setting off on her lap of honour, she of course made a point of finding her family, among them her sobbing dad, Dean. But those who were watching more closely on television might also have spotted a moment when she made a beeline for an elderly chap in the crowd and gave him a particularly warm hug.

That was Barrie Wells, an 84-yearold multimillionaire and athletics nut whose grandfather, Ernest Latimer Stones, was a world-record holder in the pole vault in 1888. For years, Wells has provided financial support to aspiring athletes. All he asks in return is a chance to join them on their sporting journey and give up some time for Box4Kids, the charity he founded to provide seriously ill children with an opportunity to attend high-profile sporting events.

attend high-profile sporting events. Wells has funded the athletic endeavours of Jessica Ennis-Hill and Katarina Johnson-Thompson, among many others, and took on Hodgkinson when he was contacted more than four years ago by her husband-and-wife coaching team, Trevor Painter and Jenny Meadows.

Having supported Meadows as well during her own athletics career, he trusted her judgment when she told him about this special teenager.

But Wells warmed to Hodgkinson immediately. He could see she was focused and liked her family too. When Covid first hit and athletes were having to contend with certain lockdown restrictions, Wells paid for a warm-weather training trip to Florida.

Perhaps the most important intervention, however, was when Wells discovered that UK Athletics (UKA) was not prepared to accredit Painter for the Tokyo Olympics. Indeed, had Hodgkinson not won the British Olympic trials as a 19-year-old, beating Laura Muir and Jemma Reekie to book her place on the flight, it is unlikely she would have been selected for the team.

Instead, they saw her more as one for the future. "I was still a junior," says Hodgkinson, and with that in mind the plan was to send her to the European Under-23 Championships in Estonia.

Even after she won what was her second British title in Manchester, it emerged that Painter would not be going with her. Wells urged UKA to reconsider. In the end, Painter got as far as the pre-Olympics camp but not to Tokyo itself, leaving Hodgkinson to

complete her final preparations alone. "Trevor was like, 'She's only 19,'" she recalls. "But it was Covid and there was a limited number of passes." It made the silver medal she

It made the silver medal she secured behind the USA's Athing Mu all the more impressive, and that victory in Manchester all the more critical. Tokyo, after all, was her launchpad, as well as a reason for Wells to treat her to a drive in James Bond's £3.2million Aston Martin DB5.

Today she no longer requires Wells's financial support but he remains "her friend Barrie" and, sitting here in Omega House in Paris on Wednesday, Hodgkinson reflects on a time when she could only dream of being an ambassador for a luxury watch brand.

"Until the other night I think that

"Until the other night I think that race in the British champs in 2021 was my favourite," she says.

my favourite," she says.

"It was so important. There were four or five of us who had the qualifying time. It was a really tough race, and I don't think anyone thought I could make the team

thought I could make the team.
"But I knew I could win it. I just knew. Training had gone well. Trevor is really good at knowing what kind of sheep. I am in."

of shape I am in."

Painter knew before this Games that she was in the shape of her life, based on one particular session he makes her endure before every major championship.

"It's a split 800m," she says. "I run

"It's a split 800m," she says. "I run one lap, stop, go back to the start and do another one, straight away. We've worked out the combined time is about half a second quicker than I can actually run. Before Tokyo my time, combined, was 1:55.3 and I ran 1:55.8 in the final. Before here I ran 1:52.89, starting with a 55.98. So that's about 1:53.4."

This week's Olympic final was not an especially fast race, with Hodgkinson demonstrating her ability to outkick a world champion, in Mary Moraa, off an opening lap of

"She wasn't coming past me," Hodgkinson says. "You have to work out in the 800m that if you go too soon, you pay for it later. Mary really pushed me on the back straight. If I was in her position I'd have done the same. But she was on the outside and if you slowly wind it up, control your rhythm and energy, you still have something left in that last 100m.

"I've always had that finish, natural

stronger in my core. It's down to fine margins, but I would now back myself in a home-straight kick with Mary." That time projection nevertheless

That time projection nevertheless remains potentially very significant. Hodgkinson is already the fastest woman in the world this year over two laps with a British record of 1:54.61. But the longest-surviving

speed. But we've maximised it. My

technique has changed. I'm a lot

# Sorry Coe, Ovett and Cram – but this is Britain's real golden

**Owen Slot** 

Chief Sports



Something pretty extraordinary happened out on the track on Tuesday evening because Josh Kerr won the silver in the 1,500m and left us attempting to gauge his level of joy versus disappointment.

Really? Put it another way. Kerr ran a personal best — and it wasn't just his own personal best, it was a personal best for the entire nation. The British record had stood for Il years. Mo Farah broke it in 2013 and when he took it, it had been in the possession of Steve Cram for 28 years. In breaking the record, Kerr immediately created a link with the golden generation of the past.

And there might be an element of isappointment?

The wording here is all wrong because, yes, we have for so long been clinging to the sepia-tinted memories of that golden past. We need a reset, though, because the golden generation is the one before us today.

A Keely Hodgkinson gold in the

A Keely Hodgkinson gold in the 800m on Monday followed by Kerr's silver; the great days of British middle-distance running are the ones being lived out on the track right now.

This isn't just a story about two people. Kerr won the world 1,500m title last year but the reigning champion until then was Jake Wightman, another Scot (who is out injured for these Olympics). Meanwhile, here in Paris, the men's 800m heats started yesterday featuring a 22-year-old Ben Pattison, who won bronze in the World Championships last year. Then, today, the women's 1,500m semi-finals include Hodgkinson's training partner, Georgia

Bell, and the Tokyo Olympic silver-medal winner, Laura Muir.

The men's 1,500m final had one other Briton who was frustrated that he was only able to play a bit part, way back in Kerr's slipstream. This was Neil Gourley, who has been watching these rising standards and who is desperate to get among it because he doesn't feel that a tenth place in the Olympic final is remotely where he wants to be.

"This era of British middle-distance

"This era of British middle-distance running is incredibly inspiring and important," the 29-year-old said. "Higher standards are breeding higher standards We're all feeding off it"

standards. We're all feeding off it."
This was a weird race, as beforehand the talk had all been about Kerr versus Jakob Ingebrigtsen, the brash Norwegian, but in their desperation to pound each other into the dirt, they failed to account for Cole Hocker, the American.

Ingebrigtsen didn't even get among the medals because another American, Yared Nuguse, squeezed him out. A third United States athlete, Hobbs Kessler, finished fifth and suggested afterwards that this trio told a story about their nation. As he put it: "Best

miling country in the world."
Hang on a sec, Hobbs. Not so fast.
Yes, Matthew Centrowitz won the
Olympic gold in 2016, but that was the
first time an American had stood atop
that particular podium for more than a
century. The US has a magnificent
history in track and field, but middle
distance? That has historically been the
weakness.

OK, there are three Americans among the top 15 fastest 1,500m runners in the world right now, but there are three Britons in there too. Meanwhile, in the women's 800m, the top three in the world are all British, one of them being the aforementioned Bell. That's before any mention of Phoebe Gill, who just missed out on the Olympic 800m final here — and she is 17.

Why this rise of the British middle-

distance runners? It would be nice to say it is the result of a clever campaign, a talent ID project selecting the best DNA in the country and then a decade hot-housing it ready for Paris. An individual sport like athletics hardly works like that, though.

Kerr believes it is no coincidence that a number of Scots feature in this new generation. He compliments the grassroots system in Scotland and the way that any half-decent young kid, who might be overlooked in England, gets properly looked after in Scotland.

It is hardly as if UK Athletics has the cash to throw at it. What the governing body does know very well is that the level of talent that has risen to the top has to be nurtured and treasured and used not only to push each other forward but to inspire those next in line.

This is how Gourley sees it: "A lot of it is pretty psychological. You see one person having huge success and when you see it right in front of you, you THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024



world record in the sport, Jarmila Kratochvilova's 1:53.28 from 1983, is starting to look vulnerable. "I would love to see how fast I can

go before the end of the season because I've got myself in this shape." she says. "I don't want to waste it.

"I'll have a couple of days in Marbella with my family but I'll still train. It will be a light week but then I'll get back home and refocus.

# generation

realise you can do it too. You realise you're from a similar background, you realise that what they're doing isn't a million miles away.

Two other points. One: it is harder to get to the top now than it was in the era of Cram, Steve Ovett and Seb Coe four decades ago. World competition is far deeper; those African nations that used be just long-distance kings are middle-distance experts too. Plus, those Americans now have a say in the story.

Two: the Coe-Ovett era was a time of dominance for British men in middle distance. Then came Kelly Holmes and, fleetingly, some very significant dominance for a British woman. Right now we have both men and women scrapping over the medals at the same time. That hasn't happened before.

So curtail any disappointment in Kerr's silver medal. Instead, treasure the good times. The real test is how well this momentum is utilised to ensure those good times don't just peter out.



received her gold medal in the on Tuesday, left, after her stunning 800m win, above, Her silver in Tokyo earned her a drive in an Aston Martin DB5, right, but the victory in Paris is deserving



# 400m hurdlers are chasing perfection in purest of duels

Rick Broadbent Paris

If you thought the men's 1,500m final was a brilliant tapestry of athletic drama, you may have seen nothing yet. Enter the one-lap faith-leapers and their quest for the perfect race. Three years ago they came close. This time they are better.

In Tokyo, the 400m hurdlers were astonishing, First up were the men. The self-styled Viking, Karsten Warholm, won. "I said it didn't exist," he said of perfection, "but this is the closest I've come." The runner-up, Rai Benjamin, called it "the greatest race in history

And one day later came the women. Sydney McLaughlin, all sculpted power and technique, won for the USA with a world record. She was so fast that her time would have been the world record on the flat until 1970. Her team-mate Dalilah Muhammad also went inside what had been the world record. In third, Femke Bol, a petite Dutch flyer, ran a time that would have got her the world record only a few weeks before

So even though Muhammad is now 34 and gone, McLaughlin-Levrone, as she is now called after her marriage to a former NFL player, and Bol are back for another duel. It is Josh Kerr v Jakob Ingebrigtsen bereft of bitterness. It will be one of the races of the Games

McLaughlin-Levrone, 25, first broke the world record in June 2021, when she ran 52.16sec. She scythed almost half a second off that in Tokyo. In the summer of 2022 she broke her record twice and then, at the US Olympic trials in June, she ran 50.65. To give you an idea of just how fast that is, there were women in the 400m

jump-less semi-finals in Paris who have never gone as

quickly. In the other corner is Bol, 24. She has gone viral this for a post-race interview in which her voice is likened to Mickey Mouse's. Anyone who has ever heard her speak knows that is not her normal octave, but whether it was adrenaline, helium

McLaughlin-Levrone set the current world record of 50.65 at

or social media engineering, she is becoming the voice of her sport. Her best hurdles time is also a European benchmark of 50.95, set only last month. She is the world champion, although McLaughlin-Levrone was missing last summer, and the world record holder over 400m indoors.

Anyone needing proof of her ability should watch the 4x400m mixed relay from these Olympics. The Netherlands were fourth and Bol had at least ten metres to make up on a US team that had broken the world record in the heats. The Dutch lead-off man was asked for an interview afterwards and said: "Two words — Femke Bol!"

The other seven women in the final

are at least two seconds slower. The 1,500m may provide a warning about ignoring fast-finishing dreamers, but this looks like the purest duel in Paris.

In 2016 McLaughlin-Levrone was the youngest American track prodigy to make the Olympics for the USA since Carl Lewis and she got to the semi-finals. Chasing perfection is an ordeal, though. "Anxiety and fear just came from my desire to be perfect in all things," she said. "The reality is that nobody can do that and, for me, it was a constant battle internally of, 'How do I

get as close to perfect as possible?'"

Bol has also had low points, sometimes literally. At last year's World Championships in Budapest she was anchoring a Dutch relay team in the mixed race. Metres from the line she tripped and the baton flew from her

grasp. "I would like my revenge," she said in the aftermath — and she got it with gold medals in the individual event and women's relay.

She has not been resting on her nas not been resting on her, either, in pursuit of McLaughlin-Levrone. She had always taken 15 strides between hurdles, but her coach came up with a plan to maximise her flowing speed by taking 14 between the first seven hurdles. As McLaugh-lin-Levrone also uses 14 strides it seemed the only way to

bridge the narrowing gap. Between them these two women have run the six fastest times in the event this year. They have also run 15 of the 16 fastest times in history. We should catch them while we can because Bol's coach, Laurent Meuwly, says she can move up to the 800m. Contests between star athletes at the peaks of their powers are rare. This is one of them. Buckle up and breathe in.

# Indian wrestler is barred from final for being 100g overweight, even after a haircut

Wrestling

Elgan Alderman Paris

Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from an Olympic wrestling final for missing her target weight despite starving herself and cutting off her hair, much to the de-

spair of India's prime minister. Phogat, 29, qualified for the final in the 50kg category, having weighed in successfully before yesterday's bouts. The run to the final included a victory over Japan's Yui Susaki, the defending champion. Her weight-loss routine involves eating no food, exercising and

spending hours in the sauna.
When it came to the final, however, Phogat, right, was 100g too heavy and was disqualified without a medal.

Dinshaw Paudiwala, the chief medical officer of the India team, said Phogat was set to shed 1.5kg. "Vinesh had three bouts, and hence, small amounts of water had to be given to prevent dehydration," he said.

"Her post-participation weight was found to be increased. The coach initiated the normal process of weight cut that he has always employed with Vinesh and felt confident that would achieved.

possible drastic measures, in-cluding cutting off her hair, were used. However she was not below her allowed weight of 50kg.

The Indian Olympic Association protested against the decision on the instructions of Narendra Modi, the

country's prime minister.

"Vinesh, you are a champion
among champions!" Modi posted on Twitter/X. "You are India's pride and an inspiration for each and every

Indian. "Today's setback hurts. I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experi-

encing. "At the same time, I know that you epitomise resilience. It has always been your nature to take challenges head on.

"Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you.'

# Beckett woe in dinghy finale

# Sailing

TCLAUCHLIN-LEUR

Team GB's sailors' disappointing regatta in Marseille continued yesterday. Michael Beckett was fourth going into the medal race of the men's dinghy and needed to put some distance between him and Peru's Stefano Peschiera.

It did not go as hoped and Beckett was last in the finale to finish sixth overall, with Peschiera content to mark him and finish just in front to take the bronze. Australia's Matt Wearn took gold ahead of Cyprus's Pavlos Kontides. Six of ten events have finished and

Britain only have a bronze. Even that wasn't as good as expected, with Emma Wilson dominating the opening series

of the foil but finishing last in the final. Elsewhere, Marit Bouwmeester of the Netherlands claimed dinghy gold to become the most decorated female sailor of all time with four medals.

# **Sport Paris Olympics 2024**

# Hudson-Smith's silver lining is

### Matt Lawton Paris

When Matthew Hudson-Smith was removed from lottery funding by his national federation after missing the Tokyo Olympics, the decision was taken with the view that he was unlikely to win a medal at the next Games in Paris.

It is a detail that does not even begin to tell the remarkable story of this 29year-old's resurgence. At times during his career he has considered quitting the sport to join the army and, more

recently, become an electrician.

But seeing him here yesterday evening, blasting around a circuit of this purple track in a European record to claim an Olympic silver medal, should serve as an important reminder of just how critical such

financial decisions can be.
Thankfully there were enough people around who continued to believe in Hudson-Smith, including close family who surprised him after the race by actually being here, as well as friends and one or two people within UK Athletics. For them, seeing him make a global championship podium for the third time in as many years, on this occasion with the performance of his sometimes troubled life, must have been wonderfully rewarding.

Having led this astonishing race until the final few strides, Hudson-Smith was not quite so ecstatic to begin with. He cursed after realising that a rapidly closing Quincy Hall, an American he had beaten to silver at last year's World Championships in Budapest, had so narrowly snatched gold from him; a winning margin of only four hundredths of a second.

However, a glance at the final result on the big screen and Hudson-Smith must have recognised just how superbly he had run, reducing his personal best from 43.74sec to 43.44 in what amounted to the strongest 400m field ever assembled.

Never have we seen five men break 44 seconds in a single race, with a former world and Olympic champion, Kirani James, having to be content with fifth after clocking 43.87. He was seven hundredths of a second slower when he

claimed gold in London 12 years ago. Hudson-Smith attacked this race as he had done for the first 300m of his semi-final, before pulling the cord of his parachute and jogging across the line, looking every inch the fastest man on the planet over one lap this season.

Arriving here in such extraordinary shape was a triumph in itself after so many terrible injuries, including a gangrenous ulcer that once almost cost him one of his legs. And he was confi-



Left: Britain's **Hudson-Smith** embraces his mother after he was beaten by Hall, inset below, to the gold medal by a margin of just 0.04secs. His time of 43.44 makes him the fifth-fastest man in history in the event, which he described as "iust the start"

dent too, those previous two World Championship performances convinced him he could excel in this

On this occasion he looked magnificent, advancing down the back straight with that long, flowing stride before leaning into the top bend like a motorcycle race and coming out of it more than a metre clear.

There was no mistiming his effort.

No sudden encounter with the wall that sometimes stops these one-lap masochists in their tracks. It was just that Hall, who came into this race with a best of 43.80, may have judged his race slightly better, still trailing in fourth with 50m to go but finishing like a locomotive.

His winning time was the fifth-fastest in history; Hudson-Smith's joint sixth alongside a certain Michael Johnson, even if that did amount to only the third-best performance of the American's all-conquering career.

Even so, it amounted to some achievement for Hudson-Smith given

the obstacles he has had to overcome.

In his darkest hour, when his injury battles were compounded by the serious financial problems he encountered while living in the US, he attempted to take his own life. He revealed as much after that World Championship bronze in 2022, reflecting on his personal nadir

G S B Total

32 **94** 17 **65** 

41 51

49 27 31

27 20 18

11 21

20

35

12 17

8 6 7 13

10 5 5 8 6 5

12 12

Medals table

China

Australia

France

Japan

6 7

**United States** 

Great Britain

South Korea

Netherlands

the previous year. He lost sponsorship income as well as the financial support of UKA, and for the second time in his career so nearly stopped sprinting alto-gether. He had struggled with isolation during Covid, not to mention the death of Lloyd Cowan, his coach at the time.

"Honestly, sometimes the journey is better than the outcome and it has been a hell of a journey," he said. "I'm just grateful. I came away

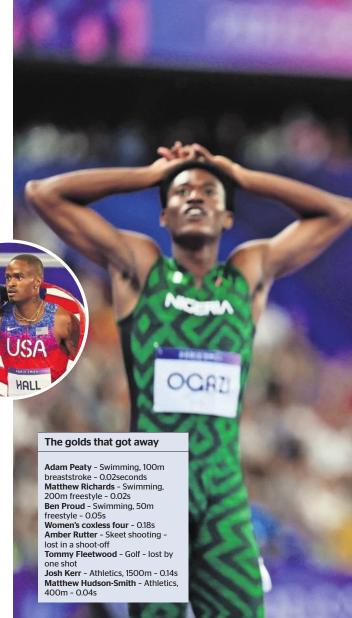
with an Olympic silver. Not many people in the world can say that.

"I saw my family. I didn't even know they were here. It was a bit of a shock, really. I hate them watching me. My mum and my dad hate watching me just as much. It's crazy that they came."

The race, he said, went pretty much to plan. "I set it up to," he said. "I genuinely thought I had it, but he [Hall] had another gear."

In the women's 400m, an excellent season for Amber Anning continued with a personal best of 49.47 that earned her place in tomorrow's final. Having already run a superb anchor leg in the mixed relay, she is looking impressive here.

For Laviai Nielsen and Victoria Ohuruogu, however, this marked the end of their individual campaigns. Ohuruogu's time of 51.14 was only good enough for fifth in a heat won, rather ominously, by Salwa Eid Naser in 49.08. The former world champion from Bahrain missed the Tokyo Olympics because of a doping ban, returning last year. Nielsen, having received a yellow card for "disturbing the start", clocked 50.69 to finish third in her heat but the time was not quick enough to secure one of the two fastest-loser places.



# Son of Danny Mills fumes at French rival after falling in 5,000m

# Rick Broadbent Paris

The son of the former England footballer Danny Mills was involved in a postrace dust-up at the Paris Olympics after blaming a French rival for tripping him during their 5,000m heat.

George Mills had athletics' version of VAR to thank after he emerged from the recriminations with a place in the final, alongside three other athletes who fell in the incident, while in a later heat there was more chaos when a camera-man ambled across the track unwittingly just as the runners approached.

Mills, the son of the former Leeds United and Manchester City defender Danny, was involved in a fall on the home straight that took three others down. Mills clearly felt he had been pushed by France's Hugo Hay and was involved in an angry exchange.

He shoved Hay and pointed a finger in his face. He later explained: "I think it's pretty clear. I was about to kick in the home straight and boom, the French lad took me down." Asked what he had said to Hay, he added: "I'm prob-

ably not allowed to say on TV."

Hay, who qualified for Saturday's final, took a very different view. "They pushed me. The Englishman came up to me and was very angry. Everybody was pushing each other and I didn't think that I put my shoulder into him."
The referee did not apportion blame,

but advanced Mills and the other fallers to the final based on the "level to which they were disadvantaged".

Mills can consider himself fortunate, given that he had got himself into a terrible position, but he defended his tactics. "I was tucked in on the inside, where I wanted to be, because I knew



Ingebrigtsen, right, was left furious by a cameraman ambling across the track

some gap would open up," he said. "It did and all of a sudden I hit the deck." Mike Foppen, of the Netherlands, Spain's Thierry Ndikumwenayo and

Dominic Lobalu, of the Refugee Olympic Team, were also given a pass to the final. Their inclusion means there will

The drama did not end there. In the second heat Jakob Ingebrigtsen returned from his 1,500m disappointment the previous night to win, but he struck an angry tone in his post-race interviews after a cameraman ambled across the track in front of the field.

"It's amateurish and should not happen at the Olympics," he told Norwegian media. "I guess he realised it quickly, but the damage was already done

Mills tackles rival like his father, News

# easy to find

GREAT RRITAL

HUDSON-SMIT





### Rick Broadbent

Katarina Johnson-Thompson has been sticking to her pre-championship routine of watching the martial arts film *Kill Bill* in preparation for what is likely to be her final Olympic Games.

The two-times world champion, 31, has been troubled by injury this summer and will be hoping the timing is right after the disaster of Tokyo. On that occasion she had fought back from a ruptured achilles only to tear her other calf during the 200m on the first day of the heptathlon. She rolled out of her lane and was disqualified, but then debunked any criticism about her toughness when she shunned a wheelchair and hobbled to the line in an gesture that was reminiscent of Derek Redmond's painful hop home in the 400m at the 1992 Olympics. Johnson-Thompson, right, said she

had started watching Kill Bill while laid low by her achilles issue before the last Olympics. "When she comes out of the coma and tries to wiggle her big toe, that was literally what I was trying to do leading up to the Olympics," she said. "Then she goes to Tokyo and gets on the plane. It resonated with me so much. Kill Bill 1 and Kill Bill 2 have a lot of motivational, inspiring lines. I watch both each time."

She is the reigning world champion, but faces the toughest opposition from Nafi Thiam, Belgium's double Olympic champion. It was Thiam who won the European title in June when Johnson-Thompson withdrew after only three events. She has barely competed since but ran a fast 200m and threw a decent

javelin at the Olympic trials. She admits it has been an "up and down year" and it is a tall or-der to go up against Thi-am and the USA's Anna Hall if not close to peak fitness.

In her favour is the fact that she is the reigning world champion.

Day one comprises the 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200m. We will have a good gauge of her

# More protests after Lin's victory puts both

# Boxing

Lin Yu-ting was faced with another LIN TU-LING WAS JACCU WILL ADDITED

"XX" protest by her opponent as a dominant victory ensured both boxers at the heart of the Olympics' gender controversy will fight for gold medals.

Esra Yildiz emulated Svetlana Staneva by making the symbol in the centre of the ring in reference to the Taipei boxer's chromosomes and her alleged failed gender test in March last year.

Lin's victory meant she joined Imane Khelif in reaching the final at their respective weights after the Algerian thrashed Thailand's Janjaem Suwanna-pheng on Tuesday in the -66kg

The nature of this victory was

emphatic too, with Lin, the No1 seed, sweeping the three rounds on all five of the judges' scorecards on Court Philippe-Chatrier at Roland Garros.

The strength difference was not as stark here as in Khelif's bout, with Yildiz the aggressor throughout. But her attacks were wild and her defence was vulnerable, with Lin consistently piercing Yildiz's guard with sharp counters off the ropes. Yildiz remained undeterred and they

exchanged gung-ho punches in the centre of the ring early in the second. Lin's work was cleaner, although she was caught by a lead right hand that elicited gasps from the crowd. When Lin responded by landing a punch on the back of her opponent's head, those briefly turned to boos.

It had little influence on the outcome, though, with Lin superior in all facets. Yildiz appeared to lower the ropes in the Taipei corner in a gesture of respect to her opponent after the verdict was announced but then made the XX gesture in protest in the centre of the ring.

The International Boxing Association (IBA) on Monday repeated allega-tions that Lin and Khelif both failed a gender eligibility test because of the presence of certain chromosomes at the World Boxing Championships in March last year, but the IOC has described the process as "wholly flawed".

Khelif is undefeated in 12 bouts since her results at those World Champion-ships were annulled. Lin has lost only in eight bouts. Both are overwhelming favourites to take gold.

# Guide to the best of day 13

## GOLDS UP FOR **GRABS TODAY 25**



### WITH YOUR **BREAKFAST**

The women's 10km marathon swimming kicks off day 13 from 6.30am in the River Seine, while world champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson will be in heptathlon action in the 100m hurdles and high jump from 9am. The 4x100m relay first rounds begin immediately after, with Team GB's men looking to avenge their silver disqualification at Tokyo 2020 after CJ Uiah failed a doping test The second round of the women's golf tees off from 8am at Le Golf National and the men's canoe doubles semifinals get underway from 10.20am. The modern pentathlon fencing begins at 10am, with Britons Joe Choong, above, and Kate French involved.

### WITH YOUR LUNCH

The men's 3m springboard final is the biggest lunchtime draw as Jack Laugher and Jordan Houlden will be looking for their shot at gold from 2pm. Ellie Aldridge lies second in the sailing kite discipline and will be in the final to confirm the medals. The men's hockey medals are also to be decided. The men's football bronze medal match is at 4pm.



### INTO THE EVENING Johnson-Thompson is back on heptathlon duty in the shot put and 200m, and that begins shortly after 6.30pm at the Stade de France. The women's 1,500m semi-finals take place with Laura Muir bidding for a place in the final, while the women's long jump and men's javelin medals are to be decided from 7pm. The men's 200m final is the

standout event of the

evening at 7.30pm. The

evening rounds off with

hurdles action, with the

women's 400m final

and the men's 110m. Jade Jones is Britain's biggest hope in the taekwondo having claimed two golds at London 2012 and Rio 2016. The women's -57kg medal contests begin at 7.35pm at the

The men's basketball reaches the last four from 4.30pm, while the scratch race of the

men's omnium starts just half an hour earlier in the velodrome. before the women's keirin's final stages. The latter begins at 6.10pm. before the omnium ends with the points race at 630nm

Ethan Hayter won back-to-back omnium world titles in 2021 and 2022, and also won silver in the madison with Matt Walls in Tokyo, while Emma Finucane could challenge in the women's keirin after she landed her third gold of the Track Nations Cup in the event. Bradly Sinden, silver medallist in Tokyo, is much fancied to go one better in the men's 68kg taekwondo class.

# **GLOBAL STARS**

Noah Lyles and his fellow Americans Erriyon Knighton and Kenneth Bednarek, the world leader, are all in the 200m final

# **TODAY'S ACTION IN FULL (TEAM GB INVOLVEMENT IN BLUE)**

**Grand Palais** 

Athletics
9.05am Women's heptathlon
100m hurdles. 9.25 Women's
shot put qualification.
9.35 Women's 100m hurdles
repechage. 10.05 Women's
heptathlon high jump.
10.10 Women's 4.100m
relay first round.
11.0 Men's 800m repechage.
6.35pm Women's 1,500m
semi-final. 6.35 Women's
heptathlon shot put. 7.0
Women's long jump final. 7.25
Men's javelin final. 7.30 Men's
200m final. 7.55 Women's
heptathlon 200m. 8.25
Women's 400m hurdles final.
8.45 Men's 110m hurdles final.
8.45 Men's 110m hurdles final.

Basketball Men's semi-finals, 4.30pm, 8.0.

Beach volleyball Men's or women's semi-finals, 4pm, 5.0, 8.0, 9.0.

4pm, 5.0, 8.0, 9.0.
Boxing
8.30pm Men's 57kg semifinal. 8.46 Men's 57kg semifinal. 9.02 Women's 75kg
semi-final. 9.18 Women's 75kg
semi-final. 9.18 When's 51kg
final. 9.51 Women's 54kg final.

final. 9.51 Women's 54kg final.
Canoeing – sprint
9,30am Women's canoe
single 200m heats 10.20
Men's canoe double 500m
semi-final 1.10.30 Men's
canoe double 500m semifinal 2.10.40 Women's kayak
four 500m semi-final 1.
10.50 Men's kayak four 500m
semi-final 1.11.0 Men's kayak
four 500m semi-final 2.
11.40 Women's canoe single
200m quarter-finals 1.2.20
Men's canoe double 500m
final 8.12.30 Men's canoe final B. 12.30 Men's canoe double 500m final A. 12.40 Women's kayak four 500m final A. 12.50 Men's kayak four 500m final A.

Cycling — track
4pm Men's omnium scratch
race 1/4. 4.18 Women's keirin
quarter-finals. 4.38 Men's
omnium tempo race 2/4.
5.01 Men's sprint quarterfinals race 1. 5.15 Women's
keirin semi-finals. 5.25 Men's
omnium elimination race 3/4.
5.47 Men's sprint quarterfinals race 2. 6.01 Women's
keirin final for places 7-12.
6.11 Women's keirin final for
gold. 6.18 Men's sprint
quarter-finals decider.
6.27 Men's omnium points
race 4/4. 7.04 Men's sprint
final for 5th-8th places.
Diving

Diving 9am Women's 3m springboard semi-final.

2pm Men's 3m springboard final.

Football 4pm Men's bronze medal match.

Golf 8am Women's second round. Gymnastics — rhythmic individual all-around qualifying, 9am, 2pm.

Handball Women's semi-finals, 3.30pm, 8.30.

Hockey 1pm Men's bronze medal match. 6.0 Gold medal match.

Modern pentathlon Fencing ranking round 10am Men. 1.30pm Women. Sailing Men's and women's kite

sport climbing

9am Women's boulder and
lead semi-final. 11.28 Men's
speed quarter-finals. 11.46
semi-finals. 11.55 final.

Swimming — open water

Table tennis Team semi-finals 9am Men's. 2pm, 7.0 Women's.

Taekwondo 8am Men -68kg round of 16. 8am Men -68kg round of 16 8.10 Women -57kg round of 16. 1.30pm Men -68kg quarter-finals. 1.40 Women -57kg quarter-finals. 3.11 Men -68kg semi-finals. 3.24 Women -57kg semi-finals. 6.30 Men -68kg repechage. 6.40 Women -57kg repechage. 719 Men -68kg bronze medal contests. 735 Women -57kg hronze 7.35 Women -57kg bronze medal contests. 7.51 Men 68kg bronze medal contests 8.07 Women -57kg bronze medal contests. 8.23 Men -68kg gold medal contest 8.39 Women -57kg gold medal contest.

Volleyball Women's semi-finals, 3pm, 7.0.

Water polo Women's classification 5th-8th, midday, 5.0. Semi-finals, 1.35, 6.35.

Weightlifting 2pm Women's 59kg. 6.30 Men's 73kg.

6.30 Men's 73kg.
Wrestling
10am repechages: Men's
Greco-Roman 67kg:
women's freestyle 53kg:
MGR 87kg. 10.30 1/8 finals:
MFS 57kg: WFS 57kg: MFS 86kg. 11.50 1/4 finals: MFS
57kg: WFS 57kg: MFS 86kg
1/4 final. 5.15 MFS 57kg
semi-final. 5.35 MFS 58kg
semi-final. 5.55 WFS 57kg
semi-final. 6.30 MGR 67kg
bronze medal contest. semi-final. **6.30** MGR 67kg bronze medal contest. **6.55** MGR 67kg final. **7.05** MGR 87kg bronze medal contest. **7.30** MGR 87kg final. **7.50** WFS 53kg bronze medal contest. **8.15** WFS 53kg final.

# boxers in gender dispute one step from gold

Thursday August 8 2024 | THE TIMES THE TIMES

# 'I still want to go faster'

Exclusive interview with Team GB's golden girl Keely Hodgkinson Pages 60-61





American Quincy Hall came from nowhere, storming down the home straight to pass Hudson-Smith in the final stretch for the line and claiming Olympic 400m gold

# Liverpool eye Spanish star Zubimendi

# Paul Joyce

Liverpool are confident of securing a move for Martín Zubimendi, the Real Sociedad midfielder, who has a release clause of £51 million.

Arne Slot, the head coach, wants to

bolster his engine room and believes the 25-year-old is the type of player who can bring even more control to matches. Liverpool hope the midfielder will now push for a move to Anfield. Zubimendi, a Spain international,

replaced Rodri at half-time of the European Championship final against England last month and was influential in inflicting a 2-1 defeat upon Gareth Southgate's side.

Southgate conceded that England could not gain enough possession and Zubimendi was instrumental in ensuring the loss of Rodri, the Manchester City star, due to injury did not impact negatively on Spain.

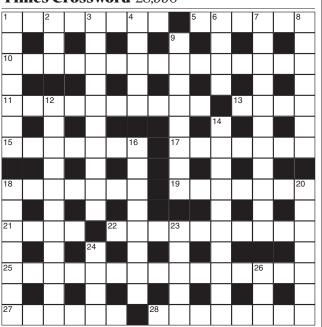
Slot wants Liverpool to play a more possession based game under his tenure and strengthening at No6 with a technical player has been a priority. It seems he wants to move away from Wataru Endo, who was signed last summer from Stuttgart after Liverpool failed with bids for Moisés Caicedo and Roméo Lavia, both of whom eventually signed for Chelsea.

There has been interest from a number of clubs in Zubimendi in the past — including Barcelona, whose former coach Xavi described him as someone who dominates "with and without the ball."

He has previously opted to remain at his boyhood club, but Sociedad, unlike Liverpool, will not be playing in the

Champions League this coming season.
Zubimendi shares the same agent,
Iñaki Ibañez, as Xabi Alonso and
Andoni Iraola and he is well known to
the Liverpool sporting director Richard Hughes, who brought Iraola to English football when appointing him as Continued on page 53

Times Crossword 28,990



# ACROSS

- 1 Dessert that's cold and wet I care about (5.3)
- 5 Pupil primarily in uniform perhaps
- to be examined (6)

  10 To try something new was depressing? No, oddly (6,4,5) 11 Bit of a lump, very soft, in water
- 13 Collection of myths, each with divine content (4)

  15 Fulfil our destiny to some extent in
- place of pilgrimage (7)

  17 Minimal growth number of workers reduced? (4,3)
- 18 More stupid old boy given boot finally by employer (7)
- 19 Welshman's penning false account
- in papers (7)
  21 Novice politician cycling backwards (4)
- 22 Control furore, cut short during a social event (10)
- 25 Start to retreat to the cricket pavilion? (3,3,3,6)
  27 No fellow crossing river crosser
- of Channel! (6)
- 28 Learners in capers collecting low grades (8)

# DOWN

- 1 Song rendered by idiot in yell (7)
- 2 Black stuff in bottomless lake (3)
- Exceptionally sharp poet, one waxing enthusiastic (10)
   Noise made by the greedy
   Conservative politician enthralling
- House (5) 6 Girl, it's said, is one of eight on river
- maybe (4)

  7 Blessing has been taken amiss a feature of speech (II)
- 8 Some French jargon that is sung (7) 9 Agent left, someone very good having had to be substituted (8)
- 12 Spiker of drink? Grown-up needs time to recover finally (11) 14 Perplexed American playwright needing surprise ultimately in plot
- 16 US city artist turning up, a drunkard grabbed by Salvationists
- 18 Figure month will finish with
- endless pain (7) 20 Instruments sending sound up in
- urgent message (7) 23 Discharge for one set astray (5) 24 Old king is tender, as some might
- say (4) 26 In auditorium win a cricket trophy?

Yesterday's solution 28.989



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 O141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

# **Newspapers** support recycling









Male body envy — the Olympics are making me feel inadequate

Ben Machell on the hot, fit men of Paris 2024

# Caitlin Moran's Celebrity Watch

6

# Ben Affleck

Good day, dearest Times reader! And welcome to the week where, no matter how fraught things got on the streets of Britain, no matter how much the situation escalated in the Middle East, no matter how many times Donald Trump assumed his weird, sing-song voice and started his powerfully bizarre riff on how he would take electrocution over death by shark, some people were still only talking about one thing: are Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck divorcing?

Yes, the rumours are that "Bennifer"—the most famous celebrity couple of the early 21st century, who almost married, didn't, married other people, divorced them, then got "Bennifer" back together again, at a multimilliondollar wedding in 2022—are to, once again, go their separate ways.

Affleck has been seen looking "miserable", while Lopez has removed her wedding ring. Affleck has bought a \$20.5 million "bachelor pad" in Pacific Palisades in Los Angeles, which sounds pretty "not being married-y".

"HAVE THEY SPLIT?" all the headlines ask, but, frustratingly, without any official statement from either. Then on Sunday there was an "important" development encapsulated in MailOnline as: "Ben has revealed his own jaw-dropping new look, complete with a tiny faux-hawk and a Red Hot Chili Peppers T-shirt. He rounded off the outfit with skinny jeans, aviators and black leather jacket that appeared undersized — but went noticeably without his wedding ring."

Does this, the piece speculated, mean the couple are divorcing? To which I can only reply — calling on all the wisdom of my 49 years — YES. YES IT DOES. When a 51-year-old multimillionaire father of three suddenly starts dressing like he's just bought his first electric guitar from Argos then, yes, he is getting divorced. That is the exact make-over men give themselves when they are separating from their wives. I would imagine there's also a new tattoo under that undersized leather jacket. And that, additionally, he's shaved his pubes.

Sometimes you don't need to make an official statement. If you dress in a manner best described as "about to go to a bar called Honky Tonk Mick's and start chatting up much younger women in tiny denim shorts", it does all the work for you.



was a guitar and [my sister] turned it round so that I was holding it righthanded — she said that was the way you play it."

Knopfler then explained that as he was a left-handed man playing a right-handed tennis racket this meant his stronger hand was forming the notes, allowing him, once he got a guitar, to do vibrato on "two or three strings at the same time". Hey presto, 20 years later: Money for Nothing!

I love this origin story for Knopfler's musical journey as it explains something that had puzzled me for years. Knopfler's iconic wearing of towelling headbands and wristbands. While other rock stars of the Eighties were wearing leather waistcoats and smart lounge suits à la Bryan Ferry, Knopfler was a lone pioneer in dressing like, I realise now, a tennis player. Everyone else was channelling Robert Plant, Knopfler was channelling Bjorn Borg.

One presumes that whenever Knopfler came off stage after a gig he was handed a towel by a kid from Barnardo's and a paper cup of binsons Barley Water. He's the

Robinsons Barley Water. He's the Sultan of ... Forehand Swing. Thank you. Thank you for listening to my joke.

3

# **Ryan Gosling**

Hot Hollywood house-move news: it seems that Ryan Gosling — the manstar of *Barbie* — is planning to follow in the footsteps of his fellow stars Ryan Reynolds, Zendaya and Stanley Tucci in moving to London.

Gosling and his partner, Eva Mendes, are looking at properties in southwest London and are thought to have a budget of £10 million, reports excitedly informed us. £10 million? So only a semi, then. Shame.



2

# **Liz Truss**

This week a photo was published that revealed an intriguing backstory. At the Edinburgh festival, Britain's worst prime minister, Liz Truss, did a photocall in which she wore a very notable pair of jeans.

To those wholly unversed in style

To those wholly unversed in style these jeans might have passed them by. "It's just some jeans," they might say. "I can't see anything particularly narratively revealing about them." But to those who have any sense of fashion — or even of what is flattering — these jeans told a whole other story. A story of an individual who, say, saw their mortgage under Truss go up by many hundreds of pounds a month. A person who has since found their finances teetering on unworkable. Someone who has cancelled holidays or sold their car. Someone who has struggled.

But then, one day, this person was able to wreak their perfect revenge. Maybe they were a freelance stylist. Maybe they were an assistant in a clothes shop. But when Liz Truss tried on these jeans and said, "What do you think?" this person seized their moment and said, "Liz, honestly, you look amazing. You look amazing in a pair of jeans too tight at the waist and too baggy at the knee. The fact they're theoretically far too short? Well, who are you to abide by society's petty rules? And that weird kind of ruching on the thigh where it looks like a cat has clawed at them? It's just so you. If anyone says these are the worst jeans they've ever seen, they're just jealous of how amazing you look. Slay, queen! The world is your catwalk!"

I see you, Revenge Jeans Person. And I admire your evil.

# The Queen Mother

One of the great strengths of having a monarchy whose history stretches back more than a thousand years is they never stop being newsworthy. Look at all the column inches Richard III got when they found him in that car park in Leicester. In the same week there would have been dozens of living reality TV stars all vying for our attention, but we were like, "No! We're catching up on the 500-year-old gossip! The king was in Leicester. OMG."

This week I greatly enjoyed a MailOnline story that randomly commemorated the 124th anniversary of the Queen Mother's birth. Its primary focus was what a jolly gal she was. The headline? "The Queen Mother's favourite drink was a gin and Dubonnet but she wasn't an alcoholic, just a 'devoted drinker'."

Future historians will enjoy this headline as it works as a key to the British class system, in the manner of the classic "I am, you are, she is" formula: the Queen Mother is a "devoted drinker"; I "enjoy a good time"; you "need rehab". If you do it in a castle, it's just different.



# Mark Knopfler

We're all by now versed in the various inspirations our rock heroes have had over the decades. The early British R'n'B stars who loved American blues artists such as Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters. The 1970s punks rebelling against the ponderous, stoned hippies. Britpop rediscovering the Beatles and the Kinks.

the Beatles and the Kinks.

Given these examples, then, a recent interview by the Dire Straits frontman Mark Knopfler is remarkable for highlighting an outlying influence. On Desert Island Discs, the Sultan of Swing revealed that he developed his trademark guitarplaying style by ... using a tennis racket

"We had these dodgy little tennis rackets that you could get for not very much money and we used them as a guitar," he told Lauren Laverne. "I was pretending it

THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

# times2



# The summer riots

At first glance it seems dangerously disingenuous to review this week's riots in the way one would review, say, a festival or new fashion. Violent. racist thuggery which has caused undeniable terror isn't to be met with whimsy or treated as a cultural event.

But then, on the other hand, maybe this is a cultural event. A very dark cultural event. Because the riots are being advertised online by right-wing accounts and in WhatsApp groups, with suggested venues for people to rock up and smash things. In the same way that in happier times people used to spread the word about raves. Not a Summer of Love, then, but a Summer of Hate and Pillaging Greggs.

A pivotal figure such as Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, aka Tommy Robinson, has his own website and can publish his autobiography, allowing him to depict himself as a heroic figure. Like some superstar DJ of racism with a similar income.

The millionaire MP Nigel Farage has stoked the flames by slyly suggesting people "aren't being told the truth" about the murders in Southport. Which is guite the pivot from his recent "loveable, fuddy-duddy, bum-flashing old Nigel" personality on

I'm a Celebrity

... Get Me Out

of Here!.

The billionaire Elon Musk has repeatedly posted about the riots on Twitter/X, replying to one video with "civil war is inevitable". Again, quite the pivot for a platform that, ten years ago, was all about people posting pictures of their brunches and cats.

And as a result of all this household names giving publicity to misinformation, violence and hatred when you look at the videos of those riots, the most notable thing is how many of those taking part are filming it. Every news clip shows hundreds of arms in the air, holding up iPhones, a sea of blue screens.

Look closer and you can see thugs waiting until their mates have started filming before they perform a set piece like hurling a brick at police or performing a Nazi salute. They're as calculated in the art of "looking good" on social media as young women pouting and throwing a peace sign but to a much more horrifying effect. Madly, the video also shows that some people brought their children along. To a riot. Guys, we all know it is hard to find stuff to do with the kids but surely you'd put "buying a Swingball set" above "going to witness some local terrorism".

Young women recently declared 2024 to be a brat summer, cheerfully and benignly attempting to party through economic instability. But men, for it is mainly men, have staged their

own response: bad summer. The classic "violence and terror" outfit is a tracksuit or shorts and a polo shirt. Rather than "sports casual", we might term it "sports violence". Balaclavas are worn to disguise the criminals, who seem unaware that their vest tops reveal identifiable tattoos of their children's names and dates of birth.

The accessory of choice, meanwhile, is a wheelie bin: a bathetic piece of patriotism, given the British obsession with bins. In countless clips we see the bins being used as battering rams against the police or, in the case of the Holiday Inn in Rotherham, being wedged against the building and set alight. This use of The People's Municipal Weapon is going to play hell with the recycling come Monday. People are going to be furious.

"A lot of it's down to hot weather, and cocaine being really cheap," one online account noted. "Look how many people are treating it like a fun day out. A couple of hundred arrests and a rainstorm, and this will be over.'

Clips, memes, accessories, dress codes, behaviours, hashtags, slogans, a drug of choice. This has the hallmarks of a cultural event and, as with any trend, in the end you have to ask three questions: who's selling this, what are they selling and who's buying it?

We can see, of course, who's selling and who's buying. We, and the police, have all the tweets and video clips.

But it is what's being bought that is the interesting question. It's easy to sell a couple of days of

getting pissed, graffitiing hotels with racist slogans and smashing things

up. The teenage boy in Hull running out of Greggs with a crate of sausage rolls he was an easy customer. But if Musk is trying to sell the idea of "civil war",

selling Teslas. Civil wars involve the army being called out, the fall of a government, a new leader found - where? Yaxley Lennon has been tweeting from a lilo

he'd better stick to

at a five-star all-inclusive in Ayia Napa. It's scarcely Henry V at Agincourt. Ultimately, as a cultural event, this

doesn't have the numbers. There are simply not enough fans of violence and prolonged chaos and fear. For every thug setting fire to a hotel, a Citizens Advice centre, a mosque, there were ten people the next day sweeping up the ashes, scrubbing off the graffiti and checking in on their neighbours. The most recent polls showed 85 per cent of the public had no sympathy with the rioters and 86 per cent believed social media had driven the violence. If the British people are "rising up", it's against all the people who say they're rising up"

Like the Ice Bucket Challenge and the Harlem Shake before it, this Summer of Being an Awful Human Being will pass. As a cultural event, it's gained far fewer participants than a single Adele concert. Anyone reviewing it would conclude that, despite all the big-name advertising, it just hasn't found a mass market. This Fyre Festival, the one with real fires, has failed.

# Twelve reasons you will never make a good trad wife

# **Deborah Ross**

he trad-wife movement, which has exploded on TikTok and Instagram - see, most notably: Ballerina Farm is composed of young women who take a "traditional" view of their roles as homemakers within a patriarchal marriage, and I get it. I sincerely do.

Do people assume feminism hasn't been tiring? When it's been such a long slog and we've had to fight for every single thing? Had to fight for reproductive rights, equal pay, to vote, have a mortgage, not to be groped? No one has handed us any of this on a plate and I'm on my knees here, I truly am. It's exhausting. I'm worn out. Do you imagine I've never wished for a different kind of life? Do you imagine I've never thought: "I wish I could simply be churning my own butter?" Or: "I wish I could be holding up a wooden spoon and smiling like I've had a lobotomy?" Or, even: "As I do everything round here anyway, I might as well get a brand out of it and also a book while giving the impression I don't work for a living?" I get it. And I'm tempted.

But ... If I were a trad wife, I'd want to be a super-trad wife, the best trad wife. There is no point doing things by halves. If you churn butter by halves you're just going to get lumpy milk, says the well-known proverb I just made up. But do I have it in me? Tempted as you are, do you have it in you? Before you embark on this journey here are the signs that you may not:

 You farted just last night when reaching for the remote control



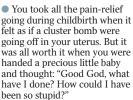
and no one reacted as if this was in any way unusual or out of character.

 You once so lacked the enthusiasm or energy to tackle the oven dish the household had been circling for days that you buried it in the garden.

 You have, in your time, prepared meals bad-humouredly and served them with a "Happy now?" and an icy glare. (If glare not sufficiently icy, put back in freezer, try again in an hour). You would sit on your university degree but it's kind of

pointy? And it would hurt? As you are creating the perfect tablescape with real napkins, wouldn't it stab away at you?





 You once submitted to your husband, but honestly? It didn't work out too well. (There wasn't enough petrol in the car and we did not make it).

You stayed up until 4am making a (lopsided, flat) football birthday cake for your child who then burst into tears and said: "But I wanted a Power Rangers one from Tesco.'

You have been known to leave laundry in the washing machine until it smells and has to be washed again. And what is a tumble dryer if not an extra cupboard?

 You have this feeling you are not going to be able to give 100 per cent to Cath Kidston still being a thing.

 You tried internalising misogyny but it made you come over all funny.

 You have given serenity a go in the kitchen, but it falls apart when the clingfilm sticks to everything except that which you want it to stick to and you know how it is with tinfoil. when it comes off in little slivers? (Here's something I can teach you: don't keep clingfilm and tinfoil in the same drawer; they're only egging each other on in there.)

You just can't find it in your heart to take the women's movement back to a random point in history when things were done a particular way so that must make them right

# **Keep your** hands off Tim Walz

A big announcement to make this week and it's this: I'm in love. Who with, who with, who with? I don't know if I should say, in case you muscle in. I know what you're like. Also, I've worked hard for these creamy, milk-fed, trad-wife cheeks and they may go all red and blotchy and embarrassed.

But, OK, it's Kamala Harris's running mate, Tim Walz, the governor of Minnesota. Don't move in. There's Trump's running mate, JD Vance. You can have Vance, I don't know how best to sell Vance to you. There's no finer weirdo currently doing the rounds? Apart from Elon Musk, perhaps. Leave off Nigel Farage, by the way. He was only repeating what Andrew Tate had said, as can happen to anyone when they are sure they have a reliable source.

But Walz. Check him out. Even the most cursory investigation will warm your usually stone-cold heart. He has a dog, Scout. I know, Biden had a dog, but that dog bit people. Scout, who is a rescue and looks half black labrador and half Staffie, has not bitten anyone, but did once lock himself in an upstairs bedroom at the Walz home. The mission to free him involved climbing through a top window via a ladder. It's just so adorable and touching and wholesome.

Or check out Walz's attendance at last year's Minnesota State Fair, when his daughter convinced him to go on the slingshot ride. He totally screams, but with delight, then says to her afterwards: "Good call, worth it."

I know I should find out more about his track record, but for the moment I'm just happy with all the good-egg vibes coming off this fella. But leave well alone, remember. Or I'll be livid. And that look is just so unbecoming.



# times2

# Shhh! Why talking about sex at the office is strictly off limits

# What's wrong with oversharing about vour private life? Where do I start, asks Simon Mills

n the late 1980s I was editing a teen glossy called Sky Magazine. Its pages were full of shirtless images of Michael Hutchence, Prince, Johnny Depp, Keanu Reeves, Kiefer Sutherland and the ubiquitous Brat Pack. Men who took their tops off would be more likely to get on the cover. Hollywood starlets who talked dirty about their sex lives grabbed the headlines. Sex was an issues-shifting

office gossip. One day, a young freelance film writer — Karen Krizanovich, from Big Rock, Illinois — walked into our unit in King's Cross, London, and began to regale the young typing pool with stories of the loud and multiple carnal adventures she'd enjoyed the

seller, an editorial theme and regular

In a routine that ran the pottymouthed gamut of stand-up material by Bette Midler, Joan Rivers and Sarah Silverman, there was ribald anecdotage of broken bedroom furniture and angry complaints from neighbours about the feral noisemaking. Karen's related injuries included carpet burns, stubble chafes and a pronounced perambulatory complication experienced the following morning.

Were we appalled? Not a bit. We were entertained. As editor-in-chief, did I report Karen to the HR department before escalating the incident to tribunal status? No. I gave

Based on Karen's impromptu office audition, I awarded her a monthly sex column and she was a natura frank, filthy but also very, very funny. "Dear Karen" ran on Sky Magazine's inside back page for the duration of the publication's shelf-life until 2001. Karen went on to be a successful writer, film critic, journalist, author and broadcaster, and a "concept researcher" for feature film, film production design and, somewhat appropriately, "graphic content".

Of course, had all this happened in 2024 I would have been fired, my nether regions paraded through the streets on spikes, the magazine office immediately closed down and Karen's nascent career left in tatters (a bit like her bed sheets, probably).

This is what just happened to recruitment consultant Charlotte Tilley who, according to her fellow workers, caused "significant offence" by, variously, referring to her boyfriend as a "Johnny Depp", showing off a sex tape, editing photos of naked male

Simon Mills

torsos on her laptop at work and kissing another woman at the office Christmas party.

When asked about her relationship with a fellow (male) company development trainer (that had begun during the firm's AGM) Tilley was said to have boasted to the office about her and his bedroom performances. "What do you think the gold stars are for?' a reference to a row of gold star stickers on her computer. This Tilley

lass sounds like a proper scream to me. That said, perhaps Tilley went a teensy bit far if, as the tribunal hearing reported, when one night in the pub she showed a group of staffers "a video on her phone of [her] having sex with an ex-boyfriend". But it was after work. And I feel sure she would have muted the phone's sound for good manners.

Anyway, Tilley lost her case and had to resign from her job. She and her office beau are still together and now expecting a baby. And because it's the 2020s, and I am a flawed but always evolving modern man, I have just this to say to young Tilley: NSFW (Not Safe For Work).

You cannot talk about sex in the office. You cannot allude to a sex life in the office or away from it. You must not even flirt with the idea of flirting. Except for the occasional handshake or high five, there should be no physical contact between any members of staff.

There is no competitive birdpulling bantz between the Tim Canterburys and Gareth Keenans of the modern office any more. No casual chat-ups with the Dawn Tinsleys on reception and any lairy, sweary, touchy-feely Chris Finch types won't even get

past security.

In my 12 years of hot-desking in a cleaned-up, white-collar working environment, I have never learnt of an office romance, never heard tales of snogging in the bathroom or shagging at Christmas parties and country house conferences. I remain the only male in an office of twenty or so men who ever dares to comment on a female colleague's nice new haircut or pretty summer frock. Sometimes I hear quiet gasps of disapproval when I do this.

After travelling into work on a Tube train that bears a sign warning against "INTRUSIVE STARING OF A SEXUAL NATURE" and redefining "looking" as "SEXUAL HARASSMENT", actual eye contact with colleagues, one eventually decides, isn't a good idea either.

In the new workplace, it is as if the sexual part of a man simply doesn't exist or is effectively chemically

castrated from his mind and body as soon as he enters the building. The hotdeskers all seem to be down with this idea.

According to a recent US survey, one's sex life is the number one topic that people perceive as inappropriate to discuss at work — 71 per cent of workers say that is a no-no. (Personal drug use coming in at 69 per cent, office gossip about a co-worker, 57 per

cent, and talk of salaries and income, 42 per cent, as the most off-limits topics on the job.)

Male sex talk of any kind is considered objectifying, inappropriate,

invasive, disruptive and offensive to

fellow workers.

It is, I have to say, slightly different for women. And this is where Tilley may have overdone it a tad. Women, in the office and at the pub after work, get a free pass in objectifying men. They might not be as naughty and randy as Tilley, but they do transgress modern rules via torn-out, topless, often teenage hunks stuck to their computer terminals and outspoken fantasy passions with movie stars.

Recently, I made a casual worktime reference to Brad Pitt's rooftop cigarette break in that scene from Tarantino's Once Upon a Time in Hollywood. A bunch of women in my office (mainly in their thirties and forties and fans of buff Brad's bod) overheard and began a barrage of bawdy phwoaring, wolf-whistling, cat-calling and detailed sexual intent that seemed to belong in a different decade. The females in the office thought this banter — what tribunal Judge Liz Ord decried as "a high tolerance of matters of a sexual nature" — most amusing.

The message? Men talking sex is disgusting. Unsafe, unsavoury and uncomfortable.

In the 21st century a man saying out loud — that a women, any woman, is attractive/beautiful/well dressed even, during office hours, is tantamount to sexual assault.

If he wants to stay out of trouble, a middle-aged man (like me) must turn his gaze to the floor, his book or computer screen and act like a monk. Had I drooled and simpered in a similar vulpine fashion over, say, Eva Mendes or Scarlett Johansson, in my office, I would have been marched to HR.

It's different for the girls ... who are really just having a right laff. The truth, of course, is more subtle, nuanced and conflicted. Reformed "new lad" David Baddiel recently gave an interview to The Times setting out a thesis on the subject of his sexual arousal.

It was simple; he likes women. He finds women attractive. He also keeps the information pretty much to himself. And most men feel and behave the same way, which doesn't stop us being made to feel very bad about it. (And yes I know Baddiel has never worked a day in an office, but hear him out.)

Despite the London Underground's warning, men don't stare. On the trains or in the office. We don't "undress with our eyes". We know that we would be harshly judged if we were caught doing so. Yes, our internal monologue is constant, but being civilised, developed, mature and reconstructed men, we know not to articulate our thoughts on the matter. This makes for a happier, more productive and efficient working environment. Of course it does

In the meantime, Miss Charlotte Tilley, do call if you ever fancy a new career as a sex columnist.



# Waxed, toned, perfect I have Olympic body envy

# The male athletes in Paris are fit, and don't I know it, says Ben Machell

Jules Bouyer and

Ben Machell

s it weird, as a man, to watch the Olympics and find that you are increasingly envious of - and maybe even a little threatened by — the incredible physiques of the various athletes? The answer, of course, is "yes". It's very weird. Ridiculous. Pathetic. Delusional. How can you, a — to pick an example entirely at random — 42-year-old deskbound writer with a crunchy left knee and a shameful predilection for children's chocolate cereal, even consider yourself to be in aesthetic-slashsexual competition with some of the finest physical specimens humanity has produced? You're barely the same species. It's a strange and unseemly insecurity. So what if that French guy lost in the pole vault because his penis was too big to clear the bar? So what if every single synchronised diving pair look like they could retire as millionaires after a single summer of catering for hen nights? As an average bloke you have to be pleased for them.

But still, you're only human. Seeing so many attractive men in Paris may still leave you feeling vaguely anxious and inadequate. Not that I've thought about this much at all, but what I've found really helps is not to shy away from the guys on the screen and instead do your best to analyse what it is about them that makes you feel so uncomfortable and everybody else so flustered. It's basically exposure therapy for men who need three goes to pick things up off the floor and who get lots of targeted adverts on social media for discreet girdles. Honestly, the sooner you're able to break down what makes these competitors so hot, the happier you'll be. For example ..

Florent Manaudou (see cover image) Saying that the French swimmer has a "nice body" is like saying the centre of the sun is "relatively warm" or that things "could be worse" after winning the EuroMillions. I've always taken solace from the fact that top swimmers look a bit physiologically freaky. presumably from all that swimming, but Manaudou is perfect, which is perhaps why he only took bronze in the 50m freestyle. The Greek gods of Mount Olympus would see him and find themselves sucking in their bellies. Has your wife suddenly gone quiet? That's because she's fantasising about being a swimming pool.



Armand Duplantis The gold medalwinning Swedish pole-vaulter is a perfect reminder that "Olympian" doesn't necessarily equate to "beefcake". OK, yes, fair enough he is probably more muscular than 99 per cent of men, but his appeal is about so much more than that. Everything about him — his tousled hair, his high cheekbones, his amazing name screams "ambitious Renaissance prince". If he showed up at your door and offered to marry your daughter to unite your dynasties, you wouldn't even need to think about your response. Plus you know he would be great at bypassing his enemies fortifications in a siege scenario. What's not to love?

Noah Lyles If I was as good looking as the American sprinter, I would make sure I ran much more slowly. The fastest man in the world is not in bad shape, plus he can do that (admittedly very cool) thing of ripping his jersey apart in ecstatic celebration when he wins a race, which is a lot harder than it looks and you cannot tell me he hasn't practised in private.

Thomas Ceccon He was accused of "flaunting" his abs by one British newspaper recently, which seems a bit harsh given he's a swimmer. I suppose they do draw the eye though, if, for whatever reason, you have a thing for tall 23-year-old Italians with minus 10 per cent body fat. Seeing him fills me with bittersweet nostalgia for my twenties, because he reminds me so much of me back then, apart from all the swimming stuff, which I've always been useless at. But my metabolism

was, if not Olympic level, then at least Commonwealth Games standard. Now, though, I only have to visualise a pint of Guinness for a button to go pinging across the room and take someone's eye out. Ceccon will understand one day. And I'm here for him when the time comes

Kishane Thompson Sometimes, as a completely heterosexual man, you can instinctively know that a male Olympian is hot without quite knowing why. The Jamaican sprinter is a perfect example. I mean, it's obvious that he is, but how do you show your working? In these situations it's always best to consult with analysts, ie female colleagues and male-attracted friends and family members. Anyway, I've run Thompson through this supercomputer and it's all about his arms. Of course it's his arms! Long and strong and contoured like a 1:25,000scale Ordnance Survey Explorer map of the Lake District. The kind of arms that make sleeves seem like the Devil's work. The kind of arms that could squeeze and pop you like a stubborn jam jar lid. I don't have arms like that, but there you go.

Gabriel Medina Who would have thought that a Brazilian Olympic surfer would be so attractive? Anyway, I don't feel remotely threatened by his laid-back personality, bright-white smile, wave-toned torso and implicit promise of a freewheeling life of long nights under the stars. I may not know how to surf, but I've got other strings to my bow. I make a nice shepherd's pie and I'm good at Mario Kart. See? He doesn't worry me at all.

Jules Bouyer A friend of mine booked a camping holiday in France and the campsite emailed him no fewer than five times to remind him that they enforced a "SPEEDOS ONLY" policy in their swimming pool. It's only when you understand this deep French cultural commitment to tiny, tight swimming trunks that you understand how Bouyer can exist in such a perfect state of symbiotic unison with his own scrotum-compacting, tricolour cossie. It's as though he's wearing nothing at all. Which, if we're being honest, he may as well be.

# times2

# Have you got summer sadness

As with seasonal affective disorder in winter, warm weather may alter your mood, say experts. But there are ways to ease the summertime blues. By Peta Bee

eeling frazzled? Dealing with school holidays, hay fever and the possibility of travel chaos and jet lag spoiling summer trips can be overwhelming in itself, but scientists suspect there's another reason so many of us feel whacked at this time of year: the weather.

The short, dark days of winter are commonly associated with causing low mood and seasonal affective disorder (SAD), but emerging research suggests that summer days with warmer temperatures can send others into the doldrums. And while it may not have seemed like much of a summer so far, even the little warmth that we have experienced could affect mood in unexpected ways.

Dr Emma Lawrance, a mental health innovations fellow at Imperial College London's institute of global health innovation, says that both hot and cold weather affect how we feel, and that while we generally feel brighter with more hours of daylight in spring and summer, that may be offset by the heat.

"Daylight and heat are separate variables," Lawrance says. "A lot of people do start to feel low in the summer months and don't realise why." It doesn't have to be a blistering heatwave; even mildly warm temperatures can be a cause of anxiety. "It depends on what is normal for where you are living," she says. "When temperatures rise rapidly or vary from the norm by even a couple of degrees, they can affect mood.

"Analyses of social media posts show that there is lower positive sentiment and higher negative sentiment overall when the weather gets warmer. And when people with diagnosed mental issues are asked to record their mental health status, their symptoms are often worse when it is hotter."

How temperature affects our minds is a complex issue. Biologically there are changes to blood flow and cognition when people are exposed to higher temperatures. "We have to factor in disrupted sleep due to warmer nights and increased alcohol intake in summer, which negatively impact mental health," Lawrance says. "But there might also be some underlying issues with temperature regulation for some people prone to summer depression."

Searing summer temperatures are known to drive up the number of people suffering serious mental health problems — and in rare cases, even suicidal behaviours — and studies have shown that hospital visits for related disorders spike during the warmer months.

In a Lancet review, Lawrance and her colleagues looked at the effects of temperature on mental health and

found evidence for increased hospital admissions for mental illness and a drop in general mental wellbeing with changes in daily temperature.

Even the slight thermometer rises at this time of year can have an effect on anxiety levels. In February researchers from the University of California San Francisco analysed data obtained from more than 20,000 people from 106 countries who had recorded measurements of body temperature, using both standard thermometers to assess core body temperature, and Oura rings, 24-hour tracking devices that monitor distal skin temperatures (at the furthest extent of limbs) among other measures, for seven months. That data was matched with mood status, categorised as "non-depressed", "mild", "moderate", or "severe" levels of depressive symptoms. The results, published in the journal Scientific Reports, showed that even small increases in body temperature during



# Some people feel improved mood after using cold water plunges

waking hours was associated with increased depression, and that for every increase in mood symptom severity, participants had recorded higher body temperatures. People with severe depression were hotter than other groups at all times.

Ashley Mason, an associate professor of psychiatry at the UCSF Weill institute for neurosciences and the lead author of the paper, says that what he describes as "the largest study to date to examine the association between body temperature" might indicate that people with depression have an impaired ability to self-cool, or that they experience greater generation of heat from metabolic processes. What is clear, Mason says, is that manipulating body temperature to stay cool could be a potent therapy for some people, and might lead to heat-based treatments for anxiety and depression in the future

Here's how to cool down to boost your mood.

# Change your bedding

Mason says that our skin temperature and core body temperature are different things. "When we sleep, our core body temperature drops but our skin body temperature increases," he says. This is a result of the body's thermoregulation processes working to keep the core temperature cool at night by moving heat to the hands, feet and extremities, which means



distal skin temperature tends to rise. This increase in skin temperature can disrupt sleep. "And we know that poor or interrupted sleep is implicated in low mood, anxiety and depression," Lawrance says.

It pays to stay cool at night. Too much bedding and clothing on warm nights "increases wakefulness and decreases slow-wave and rapid eye movement sleep" found one study published in the Journal of Physiological Anthropology. So switch your duvet to a lighter tog, and opt for non-synthetic materials such as wool or cashmere.

Sleeping on cotton rather than polyester mix sheets was shown to improve sleep quality on summer nights by researchers reporting in the Journal of Sleep Research this year. In the journal Science of the Total Environment, scientists tracking room temperatures and sleeping patterns of older adults for a study found that sleep "was most efficient and restful when night-time ambient temperature ranged between 20-25C", but that on warmer nights there was as much as a 10 per cent drop in sleep efficiency as the heat made people restless.

# Take a sauna, a hot shower — or try hot yoga

It's counterintuitive to think that getting hotter will make you cooler, but short bouts of extreme heat could help your mood.

"Exposure to the warmth triggers our body's self-cooling mechanisms that can lead to rebound body-temperature lowering that lasts longer than something like an ice bath," Mason says. "So, ironically, when you go into a hot shower, your body starts working on cooling itself down, and after you get out of the shower, your core body temperature has likely dropped, even though your skin temperature is warmer."

A sauna, hot tub or hot yoga could do the trick. In a 2021 study Mason and his team showed that combining heat treatment, such as that in an infrared sauna, with cognitive behavioural therapy for depression was helpful, with symptoms reducing one week after a single sauna session and benefits lasting for up to six weeks.

"Eleven of the twelve people who finished the heat treatment no longer met criteria for clinical depression by the end of the trial," he says. THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

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# disorder?

# Have a cold shower or go for an outdoor dip

If you can't face getting more flustered in the heat, then lowering your body temperature by immersing yourself in cool temperatures is worth a shot, although Mason says that there is surprisingly less evidence for the cold-dunk approach. "Some people have reported feelings of improved mood after using cold water plunges," he says. "Outdoor swimming is more challenging as, although it takes place in a cool environment, you are exercising, which increases body



# Spending time in nature is a known boost for mental health

temperature, so it might not have the same effects on mood."

If you feel yourself getting flustered, plunging your hands into a bowl of cold water, making sure your wrists are submerged for a few seconds, is a simple option, Lawrance says. "Or place an ice pack or cold flannel on the back of your neck to lower body heat and calm yourself," she suggests.

# Save your walk for later

Walking is good for the body and mind but taking a stroll at the hottest time of the day is unlikely to offer much of a brain boost when you are flagging. In fact, researchers from the University of Tsukuba found that an outdoor walk at lunchtime on a hot day impaired cognitive performance that afternoon.

Almost 100 students took part in a trial in which they completed mental arithmetic tests in an air-conditioned room, simulating an office environment, before either staying put or heading outside into the summer heat for either a 15-minute rest or walk. They returned to complete more maths questions and researchers assessed their responses. The results showed that walking outdoors in heat significantly impaired cognitive performance, and that the effect was particularly pronounced in men who were considered poor sleepers (those getting five hours or less a night).

# **Head for the trees**

In April a study in the journal Environmental Research looked at temperatures during the 2022 heatwaves in London and found that areas with the top 10 per cent of tree canopy coverage were on average 1.2C cooler then those in the bottom 10 per cent. "Trees have a massive impact on lowering temperature, and spending time in nature is a known boost for mental health, so if you can head to woods or a forest it's a winner for cooling down," Lawrance says. 'Research at the University of Hull's school of biological, biomedical and environmental sciences describes how trees cool people and buildings largely by shading them, reducing temperatures by 7-15C."

# Men, here's what to do about the season's ugly toe show

Easy-on-the-eye espadrilles, socks with sandals (à la Becks) and other footwear tips. By Jeremy Langmead

> If I were writing a truly honest do's and don'ts guide for the footwear choices men should make when packing for their summer holiday, it would be one big don't: don't let anyone see your feet.

Most feet, belonging to any gender, are not pretty. Five stubby lumps of bone and tissue that stick out from a piece of anatomy shaped like a Dairylea Triangle is not a particularly appetising sight. It is for aesthetic, not just practical, reasons that socks and shoes were invented.

And it was with sympathy, not style, in mind that the ancient Romans and last summer David Beckham pushed the trend for wearing socks with sandals or slides. They give your feet a sense of freedom and everyone else relief.

But some refuse to say no to the toe. This week The New York Times observed the number of men wearing sandals in Manhattan this summer was dramatically on the rise. Extremities were unabashedly on show over there, the paper reported.

Even the leader of the opposition, Rishi Sunak, has expressed a predilection for rubber slides by the Californian brand Palm Angels. And the recent release of the trailer for the *Gladiator* sequel may well inspire men to brave a strappy sandal or two.

I understand, however, that solid footwear with a sock isn't always a practical choice for the beach or pool. You need something that can get wet and sandy, and slide on and off your feet easily.

I've just returned from a week's holiday in Ibiza and paid particular attention to how men were dealing with this conundrum. To my relief, espadrilles with cork soles were prevalent (the Spanish label Castaner does good canvas ones, while the British brand Mulo has linen ones with rubber soles).

Elsewhere the trusty Birkenstock — a popular choice for both home and holiday — was still happily doing the rounds too. And at least the bulky buckles will help to distract from any corns or calluses.

For those who recognised the torture that their toes can inflict on others, the company's clog sandal was a thoughtful option (although sea water will stain the leather). Otherwise, Birkenstock's white Arizona EVA sandals (in a waterproof rubber-like fabric that is easy to recycle) seemed the fashionable one to sport for those going straight from boat to beach bar (via tender) on the nearby island of Formentera.







Espadrilles, £75, castaner.com



Slides, £44.99, nike.com

Otherwise, Sunak was, in this case, reaching a majority with his choice of slides. Usually made of rubber, these are a practical (if revealing) option. Go for an easy, simple pair by Nike, or if you prefer something more fancy, everyone from Manolo Blahnik to Tom Ford has designed snazzy and expensive versions.

Finally, the water shoe (try those by Salomon or Speedo) seems to be a practical alternative. While not especially pretty, these have gained popularity alongside the trend for wild swimming. Whether you're holidaying in Cornwall or Crete, they not only make navigating rocky coves and pebble beaches more comfortable but will also hide most of your foot.

Needless to say, whatever you wear, make sure your feet are as presentable as possible. I'd damaged the nail on my big toe taking part in a half-marathon a couple of months ago and, just in time for Ibiza, the nail went completely black and started to peel off.

When I was swimming I could feel the toenail flap open and close like a clamshell. On the beach I hid my feet in espadrilles, but for boat trips I had to resort to subterfuge to avoid putting everyone off their lunch: a girlfriend kindly lent me some beige nail polish to paint over the blackened nail and it worked a treat. So ignore the reckless trend for sandals all over Manhattan and spare a thought, not your feet, for those around you this summer.

# arts









# Banksy's art is charming — we

Best known for his bleak satire, the artist has unveiled a lighter side. What a relief, says Laura Freeman wo elephants lean out of bricked-up windows trumpeting an enthusiastic greeting. A goat, balanced precariously on a parapet, peers down at the collapsing scree. A troop of monkeys swing from a bridge. It's Banksy, but not as we know him.

The three Banksy murals unveiled this week in London on the side of a residential building in Chelsea (the elephants), overlooking Kew Bridge (the goat) and across Brick Lane (the monkeys) are, by Banksy standards,

charming. No monstrous rats, no obvious, angry, sprayed-on message. They are certainly a far cry from the mocked-up inflatable migrant boat that Banksy sent crowd-surfing over the Glastonbury festival a month ago.

Has Banksy gone soft or has he just read the mood? It's August, it's the summer holidays, the nation is reeling from the violence of the past ten days. Did Banksy say, enough with the agitprop, let's give them a giggle?

Can art cheer you up? On a sunny morning with a postcard of the painter Hayley Barker's California garden propped up on my desk, I'd say a Above: Banksy's latest London murals in, clockwise from top, Brick Lane, Chelsea and Richmond. Above left: Jim Lambie's kaleidoscopic steps at the Royal Academy in 2015. Above right: Gateway by Joana Vasconcelos at Jupiter Artland. Right: Bronze Stack 9, Viridian Green by Annie Morris in Wakefield

resounding: yes. Not that you get much chance to be cheerful in my line of work. Press releases pour into my inbox for exhibitions that offer "a searing indictment of ...", "an unflinching exploration of ...", "a visceral examination of ..." followed by a litany of all the ills of the world.

I wrote recently that we tend to glorify the tortured soul while taking for granted, even denigrating, the cheerful, can-do sort. As with artists, so with art. Bleak art is powerful and profound, uplifting art a bit, well ... basic. Greetings card fodder. While I could gaze at Barker's gardens all day

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# need more like it

— see them at the Ingleby Gallery in Edinburgh until August 31 — I admit I have relatively little enthusiasm for jaunty paintings of other people's cats, dogs or babies. Happy-making needn't mean mawkish

Perhaps art that boosts the mood depends in part on the element of surprise: the unexpected parting of the clouds on an otherwise gloomy day. I never fail to feel cheered by Eduardo Paolozzi's mosaics on the platform at Tottenham Court Road Underground, or by Annabel Grey's 17 takes on a marble arch, each more exuberant than the last, at Marble Arch station.

Anyone walking through Wakefield in West Yorkshire on an overcast morning would be pleased to come across Annie Morris's sculpture of balancing bronze orbs. As it happens, Morris's Stack series came from her grief at the loss of her first child to stillbirth. "My sculptures," she said, "are about holding onto something that's fallen, and to express the hope and defiance of life." Her work is buoyant and beautiful - and in Wakefield goes a long way to cheering up the (grey) square outside the (grey) West Yorkshire History Centre. Elsewhere Yayoi Kusama has turned the mental collapses she has suffered since childhood into works of art that bring joy and wonder to many.

Too much public art is ponderous.

Of course we need cenotaphs and memorials but also sculptural moodboosts under a blue sky. The Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square is often one of the worst offenders when it comes to overworked and underwhelming sculptures. The nearby Serpentine Pavilion often feels more "last resting place" than "picnic in the park"

It is a shame that Chila Kumari Burman's ice-cream van with a leaping tiger didn't get the next Fourth Plinth spot — it is instead going to a monument made up of the faces of hundreds of trans people arranged in the form of a Mesoamerican skull rack. Over the wretched

winter lockdown of 2020, Burman's light installation Remembering a Brave New World lit up the front of Tate Britain. Many Londoners made the pilgrimage to see it in the gloaming. It was hectic and hopeful when so many of us were apart and despairing.

Excess is cheering. Just as cold potatoes and waferthin ham would be a mean Sunday lunch and a roast with all the trimmings a hospitable one, so, too, can bounty in art lift the spirits. Think of Jupiter Artland, that Mad Hatter's tea party of a sculpture park outside Edinburgh with its wonderland landscape sprouting follies, sculptural caprices and an orchid by Marc Quinn. There's even a mosaiced splash pool by the artist Joana Vasconcelos.

If you're ever in southern Tuscany, make a beeline for the Tarot Garden, a blissfully bonkers 14-acre sculpture park designed by the French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle and built above Etruscan mirror balls, climb glittering turrets and

ruins. Lose yourself in immersive cool your wrists in voluptuous bathing beauty fountains.

Closer to home the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne played a blinder when it asked the artist Lothar Götz to wrap its building in Dance Diagonal, a dazzling, fractured rainbow mural. Pallant House in Chichester has just installed a soaring mesh sculpture by

Rana Begum above its staircase feel your mood rise with it. I still have fond memories of Jim Lambie's kaleidoscopic steps for the Royal Academy's 2015 summer exhibition — an august institution impertinently pepped up by a Brighton-rock-striped stair-runner.

Science is on my side: art really can make you happier. A study led by Semir Zeki, a professor of neurobiology at University

College London, found that when volunteers were shown reproductions of 28 paintings including Botticelli's *The Birth of* Venus, Monet's Bathers at La Grenouillère and Constable's Salisbury Cathedral, their brains released dopamine, the "feelgood" neurotransmitter. Whether you'd see the same positive effects if you showed volunteers the

searing topical installations that litter my inbox will require further tests. There is a place for Goya's Disasters of War,

Picasso's Weeping Woman, John Nash's paintings of the Western Front and even Banksy's advancing tanks. But there's room, too, for art that dispels the gloom. With the news as grim as it is, I'll gladly raise a trumpeting

cheer to Banksy's spray-painted Nellies.

#### Amen! I'm hooked on Gnostic gospels

By James Marriott



podcasts **Misquoting** Jesus with Bart Ehrman

t is good to challenge yourself as a podcast reviewer, so this week I have set myself the task of persuading you to listen to a podcast about Biblical scholarship. Come on, don't stop reading! I promise this is a good one. Misquoting Jesus with Bart Ehrman was mentioned to me by a friend who was raised an evangelical Christian and lost his faith in his late teens. The Bible is naturally more interesting to him than it ever will be to me, but rather against my expectations I have been hooked on this for a few days.

Ehrman is one of the world's most famous New Testament scholars. He began studying Scripture as a conservative evangelical (he says there was a period when he thought the world was going to end in the 1980s) but the more he read, the more he began to doubt his faith. The conviction that the Bible is God's word is hard to square with the realisation that we don't know "what the words are". Early texts of the Gospels diverge dramatically. There are "probably something like 500,000 differences". "I didn't realise that when I was an evangelical," Ehrman says drily.

Fascinatingly, some famous passages were added much later. The story of the woman taken in adultery (when Jesus says, "let he who is without sin cast the first stone") is "not in any of the old manuscripts of the Gospel of John". It doesn't turn up in the Bible until the fourth century.

Most interesting to me is Ehrman's explanation of what we can reasonably reconstruct about Jesus's life. Almost all scholars accept that Jesus existed. Ehrman says the best evidence suggests that Jesus was an apocalyptic preacher who believed the world would end in his lifetime. He was probably illiterate. Nazareth, where he was raised (and probably born), was little more than a hamlet of four or five hundred people and Jesus was unlikely to have drawn large crowds because there weren't that many people to preach to in rural Galilee.

You'll be hooked on more questions. Did Judas exist? Where does the idea of Mary's virginity come from? I ended up down a rabbit hole of episodes about Gnostic gospels, early Christian sects and St Paul's relationship with other early Christians This is all knowledge I never knew I wanted. I have no idea what I'm going to do with it. But Ehrman's genius is to pull

you in anyway.

It should be said that the show is not without its flaws. Each episode takes the form of an interview with Ehrman carried out by Megan Lewis, a scholar of ancient languages and the author of a guide to learning ancient Sumerian. This deferential relationship feels odd in a time when almost all similar podcasts take the form of conversations. Some listeners will find the tone a bit self-congratulatory and American. Plus you have to endure "Bart's life updates". I've found myself interested in the early church, but even Ehrman can't make me want to know about his teaching schedule, writing projects and holidays. They should probably be hived off in bonus episodes. But the rest is great. Now to get back to those Gnostic gospels ..

#### times2

# Your weekday brain boost



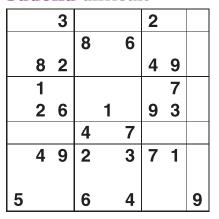
Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

#### Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

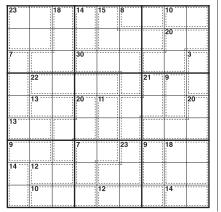
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•	Solve Times puzzles interactively with																			

#### Sudoku difficult



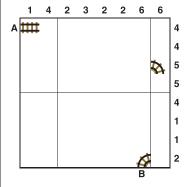
#### Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



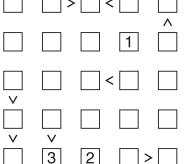
#### Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

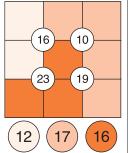


#### Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



#### Suko

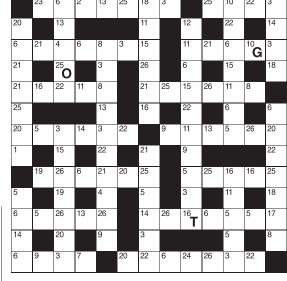


Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

same-day solutions at thetimes.com

#### Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



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#### Yesterday's solutions

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FUTOSHIKI

TRAIN TRACKS

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## Mini

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

Monday's Times2

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THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

#### television & radio

### Dating show that's not about looks is ... about looks

#### **Carol** Midgley TV review



**Love Is Blind** Netflix

imagine many readers haven't watched Love Is Blind, Netflix's new UK dating show, because you have better things to do with your lives, such as plucking your chin hairs. And because, well, it is dreadful.

Thirty young single people are put in one of those Big Brother/Play School type houses but the men and women are separated, their daily "dates" taking place in pods where they can't see what each other looks like. If they "fall in love" they get "engaged" through a screen without having laid eyes on each other, with all the attendant awful, melodramatic music. Then they go on holiday, meet

the in-laws and decide if they really do want to get married in a few weeks time. So a cross between Cilla's Blind Date and Married at First Sight, but with all humour surgically removed.

My, these people take themselves seriously: there's a tsunami of deathly inspirational quotes such as "I'm here for conscious living" and "I want to be the best version of myself" and "If you look after your mental capacity it will impact your emotional capacity" (still deciphering that one).

But there's also a lot of "Do you meditate?" and "How often do you train?" (some of these people go to the gym TWICE a day! Is this "conscious living"? Discuss). And there's gratitude journaling, the new opium of the live, laugh, love brigade.

Where is all the self-deprecating British banter that was promised? These people all seemed to be picked from the same reality TV clone farm. And I must say this show, hosted by married couple Emma and Matt Willis, of whom we saw for what felt like less than five minutes in the first four episodes available, is basically hypocritical.

It pretends to be a sort of anti-Love Island in that it is about overlooking the superficial (ie physical looks) and falling for a person's personality and soul ... but then it has chosen 30 very attractive people. No ugly bugs here! So it is about looks after all.



Matt and Emma Willis are, fleetingly, the hosts of Love Is Blind

A version of the very successful US show of the same name, it is billed as that old chestnut, a "social experiment", which is usually a fig leaf for highly staged, exploitative TV

While there are, to be absolutely fair, decent, quite sweet moments when a couple has genuinely fallen for each other such as Sabrina and Steve, the other money shots are about pain and humiliation as people are dumped in favour of a better match. Or a better "connection" as they keep saying. Someone proposed within the first 50 minutes. The answer was yes.

Every reality TV series needs its "villain" and here it is Sam, a product design manager who gives me strong Matt Hancock energy. Sam doesn't even do anything that terrible, he's just a bit of a smooth-talking doubledealer who at one point worries aloud that his girlfriend might be fat. But I was grateful for him at least injecting some energy into the yakking about "life goals" and trusting one's "gut".

Because perhaps the most surprising thing about Love Is Blind is that so far, it is dull. The second part, not out until this Wednesday, looks tastier, if this is your sort of thing, with the couples now abroad together (or not) and, judging by the trailer, some of them starting to realise that talking through a wall in a TV pod is perhaps not the best basis to agree to marriage. Honestly, who'dathoughtit?

#### Radio choice Ben Dowell



The Documentary World Service, 9.30am

The historian Paul French, above, examines how the history of Hong Kong is being revised and erased under Chinese control. This is being enforced in schools. universities, libraries, the local media and online, he finds. It results in library shelves being raided, museums closed for "review", art galleries censored, media archives wiped and commemorations and memorials banned. Library users are asked to scour the shelves for banned books and any material that contains "anti-China elements" or references to

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the 1989 Tiananmen Square

strictures can lead to a long

massacre. Flouting the

prison sentence or exile.

#### Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app **5.00am** Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast 6.00 Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00pm** Ayesha Hazarika **2.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion on the day's news 4.00 John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. Conversation with political and economic guests **7.00** The Evening Edition. Engaging conversation 10.00 Henry Bonsu 1.00am The Story 1.30 The Best of Times Radio

#### Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay. Sheryl Crow chooses her Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris. A personal selection of music from across the generations **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Trevor kicks off the show with his Olympic Gamesthemed Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** Ellie Brennan **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

#### Radio 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz 6.30am Breakfast Kate Molleson presents Radio 3's awardwinning classical breakfast show with music that captures the mood of the morning 9.30 Essential Classics

Georgia Mann presents a selection of music and features with discoveries and surprises rubbing shoulders with familiar favourites 1.00pm Classical Live

Tom McKinney presents another chance to hear Monday night's Prom featuring the pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, the Rodolfus Choir, the London Philharmonic Choir and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Edward Gardner. Edinburgh International Festival Lunchtime Concert (recorded on 5th August 2024). Dvorák (Piano Trio No.3 in F minor Op.65, 42'00); Jake Runestad (Alleluia, 2'30): Guastavino (Se equivocó la paloma); Castellanos (Al Mar anochecido); BBC Prom 23 — Busoni (Piano Concerto - first broadcast live on 5th August 2024); Rachmaninov (*Symphonic Dances*); and Busoni (Piano Concerto)

4.00 Composer of the Week:

A.ou Composer of the week:

Musical Olympians —

Joseph Bologne (1745-1799)

Donald Macleod follows Joseph Bologne,
Chevalier de Saint-Georges on the cusp of the French Revolution as he loses his biggest supporter, and is sent to London to exert his soft power over the Prince of Wales. Donald is joined by Olivette Otele, distinguished Professor of the Legacies and Memory of Slavery at SOAS, the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London Bologne (Quartetto concertans No 3 in C major — 2nd mvt, Rondeau: Moderato; Symphonie Concertante, Op 6 No 2 in B-flat major, G 038. I. Allegro poco moderato. II. Andante amoroso; Violin Concerto in C major, Op 5 No 1 — 2nd & 3rd mvts; String Quartet in G minor, Op 14 No 6 — 1st & 2nd mvts); and Haydn (Symphony No 85 in B-flat major, Hob I:85, "La reine" — The Queen: 1st mvt, Adagio — Vivace) 5.00 In Tune

Live music and interviews from the world's finest classical musicians

**7.00 Classical Mixtape**A selection of classical favourites mixed with iazz, folk and music from around the world **7.30 Live BBC Proms 2024**The BBC Philharmonic and Anja Bihlmaier

in music by Brahms and Gibson. They are joined by Tobias Feldmann for Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Presented by Georgia Mann, live from the Royal Albert Hall. During the interval — Georgia Mann talks to Leah Broad about Sarah Gibson's work and the legacy of women composers. Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D major); Gibson (*warp and weft*); and Brahms (Symphony No. 4 in E minor)

10.15 Night Tracks

A soundtrack for late-night listening 11.30 'Round Midnight Music by Mark Cherrie, Roxanna Ahemd and Alvin Queen amongst others

12.30am Through the Night

Orchestre National de France and Cristian Macelaru are joined by Daniel Lozakovich in Saint-Saëns 3rd Violin Concerto (r)

#### Radio 4

FM: 92 4-94 6 MHz I W: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz 5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today With Emma Barnett and Amol Raian 9.00 The Briefing Room
Discussing a story in the news (5/16)

9.30 The Long History of Ignorance — from Confucius to Q-Anon Rory Stewart makes a radical case

for embracing ignorance (5/6) 10.00 Woman's Hour Magazine presented by Anita Rani 11.00 The Infinite Monkey Cage Brian Cox and Robin Ince diffuse the into the intriguing world of gasses (5/7)

11.45 Battle Grounds: Culture Wars in the Countryside Anna Jones uncovers a newly emerging culture war around trees (4/5) (r)

12.04pm You and Yours 12.30 Dough A look at the business behind irons (4/5)
1.00 The World at One
1.45 How They Made Us

Doubt Everything
How the talc industry sought to avoid being officially listed as a carcinogen (4/5) 2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Belgrano

Richard Monks' drama about the leaking of papers about the sinking of the General Belgrang, drawing on Government papers, newspaper reports and court transcripts. Starring John Heffernan (1/2) (r) 3.00 Open Country

New series. Martha Kearney visits Helpston and Fen Edge (1/13) 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal On behalf of STOP THE TRAFFIK (r)

3.30 Feedback With Andrea Catherwood (8/9) 4.00 Across the Red Line
Discussion on whether obesity should be classed as a disease (1/3)

**4.30 BBC Inside Science**The latest scientific research 5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The Train at Platform 4 Two American tourists celebrate their

50th wedding anniversary (3/4)
7.00 The Archers Kate takes a walk down memory lane 7.15 Front Row

8.00 The Media Show Ros Atkins and Katie Razzall present the latest news from the media world (r)

9.00 Loose Ends With Ewan Mitchell, Jon Holmes, Julia Fordham and Kym Marsh (r) 9.45 Empire of Tea Sathnam Sanghera learns about tea supplies during the war (8/10) (r) 10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enlightenment By Sarah Perry (4/10) 11.00 The Today Podcast

Amol Rajan and Nick Robinson's take on the biggest news stories. Last in the series 11.30 Lights Out Homelessness in London's quee communities (5/6) (r)

12.00 News and Weather

12.30am Battle Grounds: Culture Wars

in the Countryside (4/5) (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service

#### Radio 4 Extra

Digital only 8.00am 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, Eric makes an enemy of his colleague Gordon McKay **6.30** Dad's Army. A French general visits **7.00** My Teenage Diary. Rufus Hound goes through the teenage diaries of Jan Ravens **7.30** No Room for Secrets, By Joanna Lumley 7.45 Where Angels Fear to Tread. By EM Forster. First aired in 2003 **8.00** Dilemma. Panel show hosted by Sue Perkins 8.30 No Commitments. Comedy following three sisters' changing fortunes **9.00** The Carlingford Chronicles: Miss Marjoribanks. Concluding part of the dramatisation of the novel by Margaret Oliphant **10.00** Comedy Club: The Train at Platform 4. An overly-amorous couple disturb the 14:15 to Kings Cross **10.30** Knowing Me, Knowing You. Spoof chat show with Steve Coogan and Rebecca Front **11.00** Britain in Bits with Ross Noble. The comedian is joined by presenter Nick Knowles **11.30** I've Never Seen Star Wars. Sarah Millican visits the Natural History Museum. Last in the series

#### Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909 5.00am Wake Up to Money 6.00 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 10.00 Adrian Chiles, Featuring Olympic coverage as the heptathlon competition starts its first day **1.00pm** 5 Live Olympics. Mark Chapman presents coverage of sailing, taekwondo, and diving **3.30** 5 Live Olympics. Coverage of the day's track cycling events **6.30** 5 Live Olympics. Kelly Cates presents coverage of athletics and taekwondo **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

#### talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089 kHz 5.00am Early Sports Breakfast 6.00 talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil 10.00

Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm**Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Olympic Kick-Off — Paris 2024 **10.00** The Sports Bar 1.00am Extra Time with Paul Ross

#### Talk

Digital only

6.30am Mike Graham 10.00 Alex Phillips 1.00pm Ian Collins 4.00 Peter Cardwell 7.00 Kevin O'Sullivan 10.00 Andre Walker 1.00am Paul Ross

#### 6 Music

Digital only

5.00am Chris Hawkins 7.30 Lauren Laverne
10.30 Tom Ravenscroft 1.00pm Craig
Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 6.00 Emily Pilbeam's Roundtable. With Geordie Greep and Soph Nathan **7.00** New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist in Residence: Mitski **12.00** New Music Fix Playlist **1.00am** New Album Fix **2.00** The Rise and Fall of Oasis

#### Virgin Radio

Digital only **6.30am** Angela Scanlon on The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with webuyanycar **10.00** Vogue Williams on The Ryan Tubridy Show 1.00pm Javne Middlemiss 4.00 Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Graeme Smith **4.00** Steve Denyer

#### Classic FM

FM: 100-102 MHz **6.30am** Classic FM Breakfast with Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Aled Jones 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1.00pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings. With John Brunning 10.00 Calm Classics 1.00am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

#### television & radio

**Viewing Guide** Toby Earle

Classic Movies: The Story of Brief **Encounter** 

Sky Arts/Now, 8pm



Brief Encounter has long been a

significant piece of the British cinematic and cultural mosaic, the

triple-Oscar nominated 1945 film held up as a definitive example of a doomed romance and suppressed happiness. You could argue that David Lean's masterpiece isn't about the tragedy of love denied but an equally relatable human experience — being stuck on the train with the most annoying person you know. The

film starts with its ending, the final station rendezvous between the housewife Laura Jesson (Celia Johnson) and Dr Alec Harvey (Trevor Howard) as it is interrupted by Dolly Messiter (Everley Gregg), a gossipy acquaintance of Laura. On the train home Laura is forced to suffer Dolly's wittering, so she seeks refuge in her

thoughts. Her internal monologue is a bittersweet tour de force, Johnson's delivery aching with yearning as she strives to reduce herself. "This can't last. This misery can't last. I must remember that and try to control myself. Nothing lasts, really neither happiness, nor despair. Not even life lasts very long," Laura

reflects. The film critic Ian Nathan pores over this final collaboration between Lean and Noël Coward — the story drawn from his play Still Life - and explores the film's wartime production and reception. Coward does feature, his station announcements perhaps the clearest on any platform, fictional or otherwise.

**Live Olympics: Paris 2024** BBC1, from 8am

Surely this time the heptathlon world champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson's fitness will allow her to chase that elusive gold at her fourth Games. This morning the 100m hurdles, high jump and 200m in her event take place (BBC1, 9.05am).

Meanwhile Jade "the Headhunter" Jones will be looking to hunt heads and a third Olympic gold in the women's 57kg taekwondo final (BBC1, 8.39pm) after a disappointing Tokyo Olympics, and the Team GB men's hockey team will dream of making a first final since 1988 (iPlayer, 6pm).

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>



**6.00am** Breakfast. News, entertainment and weather **8.00** Live Olympics: Paris 2024. Jeanette Kwakye and J. Chalmers present overage on day 13, with much of the British focus on the start of Katarina Johnson-Thompson's quest for heptathlon gold. The first of the day's medals will be decided in the women's 10km swimming, before attention switches to the Stade de France and the 100m hurdles and high jump disciplines of France and the 100m hurdles and high jump disciplines of the hepatathion. The cance sprint continues with the finals of the men's cance double and the men's and women's kayak four among the highlights, while the women's kite sailing gold will be decided. See Viewing Guide 1.00pm BEC News at One; Weather 1.30 BEC Regional News; Weather 1.35 BEC News at One; Weather 1.45 Live Olympics: Paris 2024. Diving and track cycling take centre stage, featuring the men's 3m springboard final from 2.00, with Jack Laugher. At the Saint-Journations-Weighers Video Committee Productions of the News Association of the Saint-Journations-Weighers Video Committee Productions of the News Association of the News As Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome it's the early stages of the men's omnium and individual sprint and the women's keirin. See Viewing Guide
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.30 BBC Regional

6.30am Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD, SL) 7.00 Gardeners' World (r) (AD, SL) 8.00 Breakfast 9.00 Dom Does America (r) 9.30 Wanted Down Under Revisited (r) 10.15 A Countryside Summer (r) (AD) 10.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (r) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD) 12.15pm Bargain Hunt. Eric Knowles presents the show from Ardingly, West Sussex (r) (AD) 1.00 Live Olympics: Paris 2024, Cestimed Live Surgerous of All 26 the Dark Grages West Sussex (r) (AD) 1.00 Live Olympics: Paris 2024. Continued live overage of day 13 of the Paris Games, including the conclusion of the women's kite sailing at Marseille Marina, and the men's bronze-medal hockey match 1.45 Make Me a Dealer. Contestants from Bolton and Leeds take part in the antiques challenge, presented by Paul Martin (r) 2.30 Beechgrove Repotted. Behind-the-scenes tours of some of Scotland's best-loved public gardens (r) 2.45 Live The Undred: Welsh Fire Men N Orthern Superchargers Men. (Start-time 3.00). Coverage of the match at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff 6.00 Live Olympics: Paris 2024. The conclusion of b.00 Live Orynipics. Pairs 2024. The conclusion of the women's keirin and men's omnium track cycling events at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome with strong British medal hopes in both disciplines

6.00am Good Morning Britain 9.00 Lorraine.
Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well
as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly
10.00 This Morning, Daily magazine, featuring a mix of
chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical
discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including
Local Weather 12.30pm Loose Women. The women put
the world by richts onge more and livities a calebrity quest the world to rights once more and invite a celebrity quest the work to rights once more and invite a deserrity guest to that about what they are up to 1.30 ITV News; Weather 1.55 Regional News; Weather 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson is joined in Swindon by Alison Chapman, Fay Rutter, Simon Schneider and Tracy Thackray-Howitt (r) (AD) 3.00 Tenable. A family of five get their chance to win a bumper cash prize by answering top 10 list questions. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis (r) 4.00 Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10.000 jackpot (r) 5.00 The Chase. Contestants from Wigan, Aylesbury and Cardiff, and one originally from Northumberland take part in Bradley Walsh's quiz (r) 6.00 Regional News; Weather 6.30 ITV News; Weather

#### Channel 4

**6.20am** Cheers (r) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **9.00** Frasier (r) (AD) **11.00** The Simpsons (r) (AD) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary **12.05pm** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes. With the canoeist Hope radayinpics, meet the Adheese, with the candens rupe fordon (r) (AD) 12.10 A New Life in the Sun. In Spain, a last-minute dash for some yoga room furnishings hits the buffers (r) 1.10 Car SOS. The boys take on a 1963 Citroën HY Van (r) (AD) 2.10 Countdown, Clara Amfo is in HT Vali (7 (AD) Z.10 countrown. Clard Amilor is in Dictionary Corner 3.00 A Place in the Sun. Lee Juggurnauth jets off to the historic town of Mojácar in Spain's Allmeria region to help house-hunters Christine and Howard find the perfect holiday home (r) 4.00 The Great House Giveaway. Simon O'Brien presents, as a sales manager and a telecommunications engineer are given a four-bedroom house in Melbourne, Derbyshire **5.00**A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? A return to the Algarve to see how Cheryl and Graham's riverside B&B is faring 6.00 Come Dine with Me. A financial advisor is keen to impress his guests with a Sheffield-themed menu (r) 6.30 The Simpsons. Marge buys healing crystals to treat Bart's ADD and decides to sell them to support her family when they appear to work (r) (AD)

#### Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day 11.30 Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues 12.45pm Friends. Chandler's date ignores him (r) (AD) 1.10 Friends. Ross's pet monkey reaches puberty (r) (AD) 1.40 5 News at Lunchtime 1.45 Home and Awwy. Mail calls in big sister Elandra to help track down their missing bother Dans's suscivious ower Bronte are nieural grain brother, Dana's suspicions over Bronte are piqued again. and Leah attempts to convince Joseph to drop his lawsuit (r) (AD) 2.15 FILM: Murder and Matrimony (12, TVM, 2021) A wedding planner takes on her estranged brother's upcoming nuptials, only to be drawn into a dangerous web of potentially deadly deceit. Thriller starring Kristen Vaganos (AD) 4.00 The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits at Sea. The cruise ship Regal Princess arrives at the resort town of Kusadasi, on Turkey's Aegean coast, where Andy and Rachel visit the town's oldest Turkish Bath (r) 5.00 5 News at 5 6.00 Amazing Railway Journeys with Nick Knowles Nick tours Morocco rform Tangier to Marrakesh, visiting a fish market and a real-life tribute to Rick's Cafe in Casablanca, before a steam bath at a luxury hotel (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



# Inside Britain's far

Riots have engulfed Britain after the stabbing of three girls in Southport. The far-right are being blamed for inciting the violence and disorder, but how have they gained momentum and what do they stand for?



7.00 Live Olympics: Paris 2024 Gabby

Logan introduces live taekwondo and

athletics coverage as day 13 concludes, with five champions to be crowned in the track and field events at the Stade de France. 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 aiming to retain his Chopra will be aiming to retain his Olympic title in the men's javelin. This evening's finals feature 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. The men's -66kg Taekwondo final is at 8.19 and the wenow's -574a 21 3.27 with

#### and the women's -57kg at **8.37**, with Team GB's Bradly Sinden and Jade Jones hoping to be involved in their respective events. *See Viewing Guide* 10.00 BBC News; Weather

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather 10.40 Olympics: Paris 2024 — Tonight at the Games Isa Guha and Mark Chapman introduce highlights from day 13 in the French capital. There were strong British medal hopes in track cycling, with world champions Emma Finucane and Ethan Hayter competing in the keirin and omnium respectively, while Jade Jones and Bradly Sinden were vying to punch and kick

their way to tackwondo glory

- Hedges and Tyler West test their general knowledge skills (r)
- **EastEnders** Linda receives a blackmail letter, Bobby is suspicious and follows Cindy, and Freddie and Anna take Mo birdwatching to cheer her up (AD)
- 8.00 Why Bridges Collapse: The Genoa **Disaster** On August 14, 2018, the Ponte Morandi in Genoa collapsed, sending 27 vehicles plummeting to the valley below with the loss of 43 lives. Telling the stories of people on the bridge that day and examines what caused the road viaduct to fail (r) (AD)

- 10.00 Not Going Out Lucy and Lee decide to discover the truth about whether it is possible to retain their memories of
- national and international news stories with Katie Razzall
- 11.05 Colin from Accounts Ashlev takes Gordon to her birthday dinner at the home of Lynelle and creepy Professor Lee (6/8) (r) (AD)
- McConaughey. See Viewing Guide (AD)

Australian Adventure The actress returns to one of her favourite countries, and explores Perth, Western Australia, in search of fun and her own identity (r) (AD SL) 2.40-3.10 Dom Does America Dominic Littley rks as a paramedic in Austin, Texas (r) (SL)

- **7.30 Emmerdale** Victoria meets a relative stranger, Jimmy is concerned, and Mandy is determined to resolve her debts when Gail gives her an idea (AD)
- Tom Kerridge Cooks Britain The chef heads up the border between England and Wales starting in Powys in search for free-range chicken (AD)
- 9.00 Irvine Welsh's Crime There's a development in the case when a body turns up with similar injuries to the victim of the rumoured hotel attack. The deceased is a beloved community GP, but the message carved into his body suggests he was hiding a dark secret (2/6) (AD)
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.35 Regional News 10.45 Mission: Impossible (PG, 1996)
Secret agents suspect there is a traitor in their organisation when their latest assignment ends in disaster. The sole survivor is accused of being the mole, forcing him to go on the run to clear his name. However, in the process, he discovers a former Russian spy is selling information about the world's leading undercover operatives. Action thriller based on the 1960s television series with Tom Cruise (AD)

12.35am Shop on TV 3.00 Big Zuu's 12 Dishes in 12 Hours. The rapper takes Anna Maxwell Martin on culinary tour of Amsterdam (r) (AD, SL) 3.35 Unwind with ITV 5.05 In for a Penny. More games with Stephen Mulhern (r) (SL) 5.30-6.00 Gino's Italian Express Gino D'Acampo goes fishing on Lake Iseo. Last in the series (r) (SL)

#### 7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick An eight-month-old Labrador puppy is rushed in as a late-night emergency after being hit by a car, while a four-year-old bull mastiff is referred to

George Clarke's Amazing Spaces The architect meets a couple who are converting a rusty ship's wheelhouse into head-turning accommodation for their Welsh glampsite. In Scotland, George revisits a designer who he met on the first series to see a pair of his gorgeous new eco-builds (8/8) (AD)

**USA** The acerbic chef tries to transform six-month-old New Jersey gastropub Bask 46, which is in jeopardy due to the antics of its equally fiery head chef (2/10)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts a hybrid of the comedy panel show and the words-and-numbers quiz, as Alan Carr and Munya Chawawa take on Sarah Millican and Gary Delaney. Don Rodolfo, aka Ciarán Dowd, joins Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner (r)

Love It or List It Australia (r) 4.20 Food Un (AD, SL) **4.50** Frasier (r) (AD) **5.40-6.20** Countdown (r)

- Bank Scams: Don't Get Caught Out Alexis Conran and his team look into the banking app infiltrated by criminals, a delivery scam and a woman tricked out of the sale of her new Spanish home (r)
- 7.55 5 News Update
- 8.00 Fresh vs Frozen: Which Is Better? Discover how Clarence Birdseye's groundbreaking fast-freezing process revolutionised the food industry, and peek behind the factory door of a teatime favourite, the potato waffle, to see exactly how his method is still being used today
- Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The comedian visits Eastbourne on the southeast coast, beginning at the beautiful golden pier. She's then off to Sovereign Harbour for a boat trip to the iconic chalk sea cliff of Beachy Head, the highest in the UK
- 10.00 The Child Snatcher: Manhunt Documentary about the investigation into serial killer Robert Black, who abducted and murdered Jennifer Cardy, Susan Maxwell, Caroline Hogg and Sarah Harper in the 1980s. Detectives from multiple forces attempted to ioin the dots between the murders using antiquated policing systems without vehicle registration recognition, CCTV or even fully-fledged computer systems (r)
- **11.55 Cold Case Killers** Investigating the murder cases of Samo Paul and Tracey Turner from the 1990s (r)

12.55am Entertainment News on 5 1.00 PlayOIO Live Casino Show **3.00** Tyrant: The Rise of Adolf Hitler (r) **3.50** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson. Visiting Durham cathedral (r) (SL) 4.40 House Rusters (r) (SL) 5.05 House Doctor (r) (SL) 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 **5.35-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

**12.00 Kin** The chaos created by Bren reaches its peak and the Kinsellas are driven to mayhem, while Michael and Viking both suffer heartbreak, and Frank seeks a change (r) (AD) 12.50 Kin. Michael and Jimmy find common ground, and Amanda proposes a partnership Last in the series (r) (AD) **1.45am-6.00** BBC News

Richard Osman's House of Games Bonnie Langford, Myra DuBois, Charlie

Interview with the Vampire In post-war Paris, a visit to the revelatory Théâtre des Vampires disrupts Louis's quiet life and enraptures Claudia.

See Viewing Guide (2/8) (AD)
Live at the Apollo Bites
Highlights featuring Ardal O'Hanlon,
Lou Sanders and Kae Kurd (4/6)

a heavy night of drinking (6/6) (r) **Newsnight** The day's important

11.35 Mud (12, 2012) Two boys explore an island in the Mississippi where a fugitive is living. Drama with Matthew

1.40am Sign Zone: Miriam Margolyes — A New

Noel with a suspicious and painful lump near its ankle (4/4) (r) (AD)

10.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares

12.00 Gogglebox (r) (AD, SL) 1.00am Ramsay's Kitcher 12.00 Gogglebox (f) (AD, SL) 1.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (f) (SL) 1.50 FILM: Primal (15, 2019) A collector of rare animals sees his cargo released onboard a ship. Action thriller with Nicolas Cage 3.25 THE TIMES | Thursday August 8 2024

#### television & radio

#### The Mallorca **Files**

Prime Video

A real good news/bad news situation for fans of the sun-kissed crime drama because the show's third series has moved from the BBC1 daytime schedule to Prime Video. As a messenger not wanting to be shot in Mallorca would say, "No disparar al mensajero." In this run of cases the **British-Germanic** detective duo Miranda Blake (Elen Rhys) and Max Winter (Julian Looman) head undercover as a married couple, investigate a jailbreak and, to start with, hunt for the kidnapped creator of a treasure hunt which has gripped the island.

#### The Umbrella Academy Netflix

During this often wet summer there's no more apt group of superheroes to save the day, with these adoptive siblings gathering for one last time in the fourth and final series of this comic-book adaptation. Their quest is slightly more

pressing than resurrecting decent enough weather for a barbecue, as Viktor (Elliot Page), Klaus (Robert Sheehan) and the rest of the gang team up to prevent the end of the world. Quite an ask at any time but especially more so after they all lost their super-abilities at the end of the

third series...

#### **Interview with** the Vampire BBC2, 9pm

Before visiting the Eiffel Tower or the Mona Lisa, all vampires arriving in Paris must inform the local coffin lodgers of their presence — one thing these neck-rippers can't bear is bad manners. Five months into their stay in post-war

Paris neither Louis (Jacob Anderson) nor Claudia (Delainey Hayles) have shown themselves, and so receive an invitation to the Théâtre des Vampires, a crime scene masquerading as a stage show. Ben Daniels's performance as Santiago, the sadistic compere, is worth the price of admission alone.

Film Mud BBC2, 11.35pm

Down the Mississippi River, two 14-year-old boys bump into a fugititve called Mud, played by Matthew McConaughey. Here starts a boy's adventure of the Huckleberry Finn sort. Jeff Nichols directs with childish fervour and adult perspicacity. (12, 2012)

#### **Sky Max**

6.00am NCIS: New Orleans (r) 7.00 SEAL Team (r) (AD) 8.00 Supergirl (r) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (r) 11.00 NCIS: New Orleans (r) 12.00 Supergirl (r) 1.00pm MacGyver (r) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T (r) (AD) 5.00 SEAL Team (r) (AD) 6.00 Stargate SG-1. Part one of two. A reporter threatens to expose a secret military project (r) 7.00 Stargate SG-1. Part two of two. Thor asks from the whose a Accord that packfrow (A) 7.00 Stargate SG-I. Part two of two. Thor as for help when an Asgard plan backfires (r) 8.00 Rob & Romesh vs K-Pop. Entering the world of the music phenomenon (r) (AD) 9.00 The Walking Dead: Dary Dixon. Daryl and his new allies face trouble 10.10 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Gregory Porter and Chesney Hawkes (r) (AD) 10.55 The Walking Dead. Daryl, Abraham and Sasha encounter a new threat (r) and Sasha encounter a new threat (r) 11.50 Last King of the Cross. John is left to 12.50 abs king of the today. John Steff (AD)

12.50am Entourage (r) 2.00 Road Wars (r)
(AD) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T (r)
(AD) 5.00 Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

#### Sky Atlantic

6.00am Fish Town (r) 8.10 Riviera (r) (AD) 10.20 Britannia (r) (AD) 12.25pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 1.45 The Sopranos (r) 3.55 Riviera (r) (AD) 5.55 Britannia (r) (AD) Asserting to the day of King Joffrey's wedding to Margaery Tyrell arrives, Melisandre oversees a sacrifice to the Lord of Light at Dragonstone, and Bran Lord or Light at Oragonstone, and Brain experiences a series of visions (r) (AD) 9.00 House of the Dragon. Fantasy drama set 200 years before the events of Game of Thrones and telling the story of House Targaryen. Starring Matt Smith. Last in the series (r) (AD) 10.25 Yellowiackets. Misty uses her first-aid 10.25 Fellowing decks. Imistry does liet instruction the knowledge to tend to the injured (2/10) (r) (AD) 11.30 Succession. Logan and team head to Virginia for a conservative political conference, where Roman finds out surprising news about his mother (6/9) (r) (AD) 12.40am Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty (r) (AD) 1.45 Watchmen (r) (AD) 2.55 We Own This City (r) (AD) 4.00 Fish Town (r)

#### **Sky Documentaries**

6.00am Superpowered: The DC Story (r) 7.00 Discovering: Angela Bassett (r) 8.00 The Directors (r) 8.55 The Vietnam War (r) 10.00 OJ: Made in America (r) (AD) 12.00 Rise of the Superheroes (r) 2.10pm FILM: Man on Wire (12, 2008) Documentary about a tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers 4.00 The Directors (r) 5.00 Discovering: Angela 7.00 OJ: Made in America. OJ Simpson's trial for the murders of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ron Goldman (r) (AD) 9.00 David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived. A stunt double left paralysed after an accident (r) (AD) 10.50 FILM: When We Were Kings (PG, 1996) Documentary by Leon Gast (AD) 12.35am FILM: Say Hey, Willie Mays! (12, TVM, 2022) Documentary following the life and career of the baseball player (AD) 2.30 Premier League Legends (r) (AD) **3.00** Great Photo, Lovely Life: Facing a Family's Secret (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Angela Bassett (r)

#### **Sky Arts**

6.00am Gilbert and Sullivan: A Motley Pair 7.00 The South Bank Show 8.00 Joy of Painting (AD) 9.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 11.00 Discovering: John Mills 12.00 The Joy of Painting (AD)
1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 2.00 My
Greatest Shot: Street 2.30 My Greatest Shot: Animals 3.00 Buster Keaton: The Genius Animais 5.00 Buster Readon: In Genius Crushed by Hollywood (AD) 4.00 Discovering Michelle Yeoh 5.00 The Joy of Painting (AD) 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Double bill 8.00 Classic Movies: The Story of Brief 8.00 Classic Movies: The Story of Brief Encounter. New series. See Viewing Guide (AD) 9.00 The Directors. David Lean's work 10.00 Kubrick by Kubrick. A profile (AD) 11.35 Have You Got It Yet? The Story of Svd Barrett and Pink Floyd (AD) 3yu Sairett aliu Pilik Filoyu (AD) 1.35am Comedy Legends 2.35 The Other Art Show (AD) 3.35 Inside Art: Lubaina Himid at Tate Modern 4.00 Cheltenham Literature Festival 5.00 The Art of Architecture

#### **Sky Main Event**

6.00am Sky Sports News 7.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 9.00 Good Morning Transfers 10.00 Sky Sports News 11.00 Live The Hundred: Welsh Fire Women v Northern Superchargers Women (Start-time 11.30). Coverage of the match at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff 2.30pm Live The Hundred: Welsh Fire Men v Northern Superchargers Men (Start-time 3.00), Coverage Superchargers men (Start-time 5.00), Overlage of the match at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff 6.00 EFL: Start of Season Launch 7.30 Live The Hundred: Oval Invincibles Men v Southern Brave Men (Start-time 6.30). Coverage of the match at The Kia Oval, London 9.30 Live PGA Tour Golf: The Wyndham Championship. Coverage of day one of the tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina in Greensboro, North Carolina
11.00 Live Tennis. Coverage of the day's action
on the WTA and ATP Tours, as the season
continues with a number of clay- and
hard-court tournaments around the world
4.00am Sky Sports News 5.00 Sky Sports News

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#### BBC3

7.00pm Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson puts the Kia Cee'd through a peculiar road test (AD) 8.00 Dragons' Den US — Shark Tank. Entrepreneurs introduce their innovative technology designed to help maximise a workout 8,45 Becoming — The Batman. Robert Pattinson talks about taking on the comic-book role 9,00 Who Stole Tamara Ecclestone: Diamonds?. The 2019 burglary of Tamara Ecclestone and Lau Putland's Lendon borne (AD). and Jav Rutland's London home (AD) and Jay Kutlands Zondon home (AU)
10.00 Sneakerhead. Mulenga gets in a scuffle
with a customer and the incident goes viral (AD)
10.30 Man Like Mobeen. After the attack on his
best friends, Mobeen is set for revenge (AD)
10.55 Man Like Mobeen. Uncle Khan orders Mobeen to launder money (AD)

11.20 Man Like Mobeen. A drug deal goes
wrong at a church. Guz Khan stars (AD)
11.45 Who Stole Tamara Ecclestone's Diamonds? The 2019 burglary in London (AD)

12.40am Top Gear (AD) 1.40 Man Like Mobeen (AD) 2.55 FILM: It's What She Would Have Wanted (2022) Short comedy film written by and starring Holly Hall 3.05-4.00 Who Stole Tamara Ecclestone's Diamonds? (AD, SL)

#### BBC4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys. Michael 7.30 Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure.
Rugby legend Gareth and wife Maureen travel by y foot, motorboat and cance to see for themselves the lost canals they knew as children around Swansea and Neath. Last in the series 8.00 Eyewitness to History: Norma Percy on Watergate. The film-maker Norma Percy looks back on her Watergate documentary 8.10 Watergate. The 1972 break-in at the Democratic Party's headquarters (1/5) 9.00 FILM: All the President's Men (15, 1976) Alan J Pakula's fact-based political drama about investigative journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who brought the Watergate scandal to light. Starring Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Robards and Hal Holbrook 11.15 Watergate to Trump: Amol Rajan Interviews. An interview with US journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

12.00 Paris 1.00am Great British Railway
Journeys 1.30 Gareth Edwards' Great
Welsh Adventure 2.00 Watergate

2.50-3.50 Ardal O'Hanlon: Tomb Raider

#### **Talking Pictures**

6.00am FILM: The March Hare (U, 1956) Racing comedy starring Peggy Cummins 7.40
FILM: Danger By My Side (PG, 1962)
Mystery with Maureen Connell 8.55 A Lifetime
Ago with The Baim Collection 9.25 FILM: Suspect (PG, 1960) Crime thriller starring Tony Britton (b/w) 11.05 FILM: Doctor in the House (PG, 1954) Comedy starring Dirk Bogarde 12.55pm FILM: Knock on Any Door bogate 2.57pml r.Limit Rilock oil Arily Dool (PG, 1949) Courtroom drama starring Humphrey Bogart (b/w) 3.00 Crown Court 4.30 Enemy at the Door 5.35 FILM: 36 Hours (PG, 1953) Crime drama starring Dan Duryea (b/w) 7.20 FILM: The Spare Tyres (U, 1967) Short comedy starring Terence Alexande 7.55 Cinebox Memories 8.00 The Brothers 9.05 Van der Valk (7/12) 10.05 FILM: A Month of Sundays (PG, 10.05 FILM: A Wonth of Sundays (PC, 1989) Comedy drama. Hume Cronyn stars 12.05am FILM: Genghis Khan (PG, 1965) Historical adventure starring Omar Sharif 2.30 FILM: The Last Angry Man (U, 1959) Drama starring Paul Muni (b/w) 4.25 FILM: The Sword of Monte Cristo (U, 1951) Adventure

#### Film4

11.00am Stardust (PG, 2007) Fantasy with Charlie Cox and Claire Danes (AD) 1.35pm Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (PG, 2010) Fantasy adventure starring Logan Lerman (AD) 3.55 The Legend of Zorro (PG, 2005) Swashbuckling adventure sequel starring
Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones
6.30 Mortal Engines (12, 2018) Two
survivors in a brutal post-apocalyptic world try to stop a dangerous conspiracy. Fantasy adventure starring Hera Hilmar (AD) 9.00 Old (15, 2021) A vacationing family discovers that the secluded beach where they are relaxing is somehow causing them to age rapidly. M Night Shyamalan's horror starring Gael Garcia Bernal (AD) 11.10 The Running Man (18, 1987)
A convict takes part in a brutal television game show in which he is hunted by a series of gadget-wielding killers. Sci-fi action adventure gadge-wielding killers. Sci-il action adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger (AD) 1.10am-3.00 Cube (15, 1997) Six disparate characters awake in a trap-laden labyrinth, and face the fight of their lives to regain their freedom. Sci-fi horror starring Nicole deBoer

#### **More4**

8.55am Food Unwrapped (AD) 9.30 A Place in 8.55am Food Unwrapped (AD) 9.30 A Place in the Sun 10.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It 12.30pm Come Dine with Me (AD) 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Château DY (AD) 6.55 Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz team up with Paddy Hopkirk to fix up their first rally car (AD) 7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows a project to transform a classic 1920s cinema in South Yorkshire into a family home, complete with a bydraulic dasse wall that complete with a hydraulic glass wall that onens un one side of the house (1/12) (AD) opens up one side of the house (L/L2) (AU) 9.00 24 Hours in A&E. A 15-year-old is rushed in after going over the handlebars of his bike and a 73-year-old is in extreme pain having dislocated her shoulder months ago (8/9) 10.00 24 Hours in A&E. The doctors treat a teenage stabbing victim, an 11-year-old has fallen in the playground and a sport commentator with an unusual inflamed ankle with blood spots and a rash (5/9) (AD) ankle with floods optox and a rash (2/9) (AU) 11.05 Surgeons: Life in Their Hands. A 44-year-old mum from Orange is confronted with a life-changing diagnosis (3/8) (AD) 12.00 999: On the Front Line 1.05am 24 Hours in A&E (r) 3.15-3.45 Food Unwrapped (AD)

#### ITV3

ITV2 6.00am CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos 9.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 9.30 Totally Borker's Guinness world Records
10.00 Love Bites (AD, SL) 12.00 Dress to
Impress 1.00pm In with a Shout for Soccer Aid
2.00 Supermarket Sweep 3.00 Charmed 4.00
Dawson's Creek 5.00 Dress to Impress Poirot (AD) 10.15 The Royal (AD) 11.20 Heartbeat (AD) 1.30pm Classic Emmerdal (AD) 2.40 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 3.50 A Touch of Frost (AD) 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) 8.00 Bob's Burgers. Louise, Gene and Tina try to find a long lost family recipe (AD) 8.30 Bob's Burgers. Mr Fischoeder enlists the 8.30 Bob's Burgers. Mr Fischoeder enlists the Belchers to get his brother to admit to theft 9.00 Family Guy. Angry baby Stewie finds himself reborn into a British household (AD) 9.30 Family Guy. Part one of two. The Griffins find themselves stuck in Springfield (AD) 10.00 Family Guy (AD) 11.00 Family Guy (AD) 11.30 Family Guy (AD) 11.30 American Dad! (AD) 12.30 American 12.00 American Dad! (AD) 12.30am Bob's Robert Carlyle quest stars (1/9) (AD) Rurgers Linda hooks the Relchers a summe holiday in a lakeside cabin **1.30** Deal or No Deal (SL) **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

6.00am Classic Emmerdale (AD) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 8.05 Agatha Christie's 6.00 Heartbeat. Mason visits a travellers' camp 7.00 Heartbeat. Joe risks his career to help Dawson when she is accused of theft (AD) 8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the death 8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the death of a businessman who was working as an informant for HM Revenue and Customs offering information on his own company (4/4) (AD) 10.00 Cracker. Part two of two. Fitz secures a confession of guilt from Cassidy, but later realises the declaration is false — forcing him to confront his own personal demons (7/7) (AD) 11.05 Cracker. Part one of three. A particularly violent murder leaves the police baffled. Robort Carlylo guest stars (1/9) (AD) 12.00 The Royal. An ice-cream parlour is vandalised (AD) 12.50am Upstairs, Downstairs 2.00 Bless This House 2.30 Teleshopping

#### ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) 7.00 The Professionals (AD, S1) 8.05 bempsey and Makepeace (AD) 9.10 The Champions 10.20 Kojak 11.20 BattleBots 12.20pm Robin of Sherwood 1.25 The Champions 2.30 Kojak 3.35 River Monsters 4.05 The Professionals (AD) 5.15 Monsters 4.09 In the Professionals (AU) 5.15
I'll Racing: Racing League. Coverage of the
third round of the season from Chepstow
8.45 Football Rivalries. Clips from matches that
feature Liverpool against Manchester United
9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. Thornley Manor turns out to be a listed building and the lads are forced to down tools so they set about making themselves unpopular with local pub landlord Arthur Pringle instead 10.10 FILM: Alien Resurrection (18, 1997) A clone of Ripley protects a smuggling crew from a new breed of the extraterrestrial monsters. Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder and Ron Perlman 12.15am The Professionals. CI5 is assigned to protect an Middle Eastern diplomat (AD) 1.20 Minder (AD, SL) 2.15 Auto Mundial 2.40

#### **U&Drama**

6.00am Teleshopping 7.10 London's Burning 8.00 Doctors 9.10 Classic Holby City 10.35 Classic Casualty 11.40 The Bill 12.40pm Classic EastEnders 2.00 London's Burning 3.00 Born and Bred 4.10 Howards' Way 5.20 Birds of a Feather, Sharon mounts a campaign to free Chris 6.05 Desmond's. The barber is taken ill 6.40 Are You Being Served? The staff are insulted by a suggestion they take a wage cut 7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Clegg plans a quiet birthday lunch at a nice hotel 8.00 Annika. The body of a scientist is 9.00 Whitstable Pearl. Molly Stratton asks Pearl for help when she receives anonymous threats after inheriting a beloved local pub (3/6) (AD) 10.00 New Tricks. A painting in the Queen's collection is found to be a fake (3/7) (AD)

11.20 Silent Witness. A woman is killed in a car crash and the forensic evidence suggests foul play and that the victim's son could be involved. Emilia Fox and David Caves star (AD) 1.25am Footballers' Wives 2.35 Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

**U& Yesterday 6.10am** Inside the Factory **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** World War Two from Above 11.00 Nazi Hunters 12.00 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash (AD) 4.00 World War Two from Above 5.00 Nazi Hunters 6.00 Antiques Roadshow, Highlights 7.00 Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry and Simon visit Jim's vast barn in Leicestershire (AD)
8.00 Bangers & Cash. The rare chance to pick up a trio of iconic Austin Healeys (2/6) (AD) 9.00 Dream Car Fixers. Sheldon and Peter must come up with a dream car for no more than £10,000 for a former Flat 500 owner (AD) 10.00 Bangers & Cash. Derek checks out an abandoned 1985 Renault 4 and an MGB Roadster that hasn't seen the light of day for 36 years, and Jack heads to Rotherham to pick up a pair of rare Bond Bugs (AD) 11.00 Abandoned Engineering, Exploring a bizarre block in Taiwan resembling a giant neaker and an alnine village (5/12) (AD) 12.00 Great Continental Railw 1.00am Inside the Factory 3.00 Teleshopping

#### Variations

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: 8.00pm Eisteddfod 2024 with Huw Stephens. The presenter reports on all the highlights and stories from the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and discovers how this most ancient of festivals is constantly evolving **8.30-9.00** SOS: Extreme Rescues. The race is on to find two climbers stranded in deep snow botto indictive diminishing strained in deep show before night falls, and a spate of wildfires puts fire and rescue teams under strain (r) 10.00-10.30 Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop. Archive footage of Welsh dance music (r)

As ITV1 except: 7.00pm-7.30 Animal 999. A rabbit has long nails that need to be clipped, and with horses ready to foal in Aberdeen, the newborns will need forever homes 10.35-10.45 STV News 12.35am Shop on TV 3.00 Zuu's 12 Dishes in 12 Hours (r) **3.35** Unwind with STV **4.50-5.05** Unwind with STV (r)

#### BBC Scotland

BBL Scotland
7.00pm River City. Kim is desperate to make contact with her donor's family (r) (AD) 7.30
The Island That Saved My Life. Sarah Moore's life on North Ronaldsay in the Orkneys (r) (SD) 8.00 Beechgrove Garden. Ruth Vichos look at the different varieties of bamboo 8.30 Return to Uist. A couple move from London to the Outer Hebrides (r) (AD) 9.00 The Nine 10.00 Edinburgh Unlocked 2024. New series. The best of the Edinburgh Festival 10.30 The Karen Dunbar Show. The comedian deals with a pointy present (r) 11.00-12.00 The Agency: Unfiltered. The Mykonos trip continues, but there's a problem when two of the influencers wear the same dress (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today 5.00pm Sionnach agus
Maigheach (fox & Hare) (r) 5.10 Meaban is
Moo (r) 5.20 Pip & Posy (r) 5.25 Boalqa-bhreat
is Seillean 5.30 Oscar & Ealasaid (r) 5.45
Nannag a' Noo/Huggleboo (r) 5.55 Stòiridh (r)
6.05 An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Plor/The Rubbish
World of Dave Spud (r) 6.15 An Teaghlach
Rioghali an Ath-dhoras (The Royals Next Door)
(r) 6.40 (Jan Jan Cyulpon (r) 7.00 Vest: 6.30 (r) 6.40 (Jann Na Cruinne (r) 7.00 Vets: Gach (reutair Beo (r) 7.30 SpeakGaelic (r) 8.00 An La (News) 8.30 An Cuan Sgith (The Minch) (r) 9.00 Mystery of the Giant Birds/ Diomhaireachd nan Eun Mhora. The work of Diomnaireacno nan Eun Mhora. The work of scientists in reconstructing massive birds that last roamed the earth 70 million years ago 9.50 Cuirm@Celtic (r) 10.00 Seòid a' Chidsin — The Kitchen Cowes. The lads check out kitchen gadgets (r) 10.30 Opry le Daniel. Country goagel music from Cliona Hagan, Michael English, Chloe Agnew, and Patrick Feeney (r) 11.20 Dhan Uisge (r) 11.30 Julie Fowlis: Ceòl Aig Baile (r) 12.00-6.00am Alba Today

54C
6.00am Cyw: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) 6.10 Jen
a Jim Pob Dim (r) 6.25 Abadas (r) 6.40 Sali
Mali (r) 6.45 Asra (r) 7.00 Cymylaubychain (r)
7.10 Sam Tan (r) 7.20 Crads Bach y Traeth (r)
7.25 Pablo (r) 7.40 Aholi (r) 8.00 Bing (r)
8.10 Caru Canu a Stori (r) 8.20 Gwdihw (r)
8.35 Octonst (r) 8.45 Sbarc (r) 9.00 Brethyn
a Fflwff (r) 9.05 Sion y Chef (r) 9.20 Byd
Tad-Cu (r) 9.30 Pentre Papur Pop (r) 9.45
Polish Jali (r) 10.00 Eirichdiff Genedlashbid Tad-Cu (r) 9.30 Pentre Papur Pop (r) 9.45 Deian a Loli (r) 10.00 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. Tudur Owen and Heledd Cynwal present the morning's offerings, including the Osborne Roberts Memorial Award 12.00 News; Weather 12.05pm Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. The Science and Technology Medal ceremony and the SA Voices Choir competition 2.00 News; Weather 2.05 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. Nia Roberts presents the affrogroef's attractions including the heafter of a tractions including the heafter of a traction including the heafter of traction including the heafter of traction including the heafter of traction in traction in the heafter of traction in the h denediation Cymru 2024. Nia koulet's present the afternoon's attractions, including the Learner Choir competition 4.00 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. Coverage of the Main Ceremony of the Day — The Drama Medal 5.10 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. Coverage of a night of competition, including Coverage or a night or competition, including the Lois Blake Memorial Trophy and the Cerdd Dant and Alaw Werin Parties 7.30 News; Weather 7.50 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2024. The rest of the evening's competition and performances around the field as well as a 9.30 Am Dro! Four walks around Rhondda Cynon Taf (r) 10.30-11.35 Y Babell Lên 2024. All the highlights of the day from the Literature Tent in the company of Aneirin Karadog

#### **MindGames**

#### Tetonor Tricky No 490

104	44	160	30
28	54	26	64
119	21	56	16
15	153	24	192
2 7	8 9	13 16	17

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Tuesday

#### For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

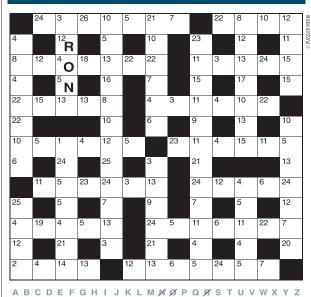
#### **Winning Move**



Black to play. This position is from Ampaire-Guo, Kazan 2024.

Neither king is especially happy here. The black monarch is clearly vulnerable on a7 while White's is subjected to tremendous pressure along the f- and h-files. In such situations the initiative is often the decisive factor. Black now found a powerful move that created overwhelming threats on the kingside. Can you see it?

#### Codeword No 5288



Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. Yesterday's solution, right

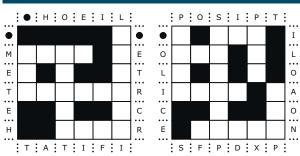
Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-FrI, 9am-5.30pm).

**Hard No 7582** 

#### Lexica Easy No 7581

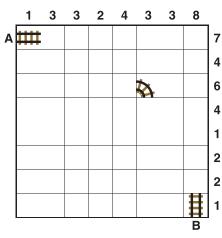
ON

18



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

#### Train Tracks No 2316



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

#### **Quintagram®**

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

1 Home for birds in some pines, temporarily (4)

**2** Don't get rid of stronghold (4)

3 Worn out after eating nothing but vegetable (7)

4 City unforthcoming about opening bar, ultimately (8)

**5** Setter dancing with cop? That's classified! (3.6)



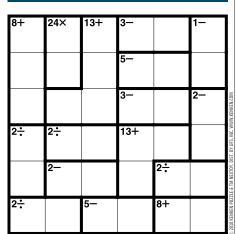
Challenge
your mind
with these
fiendish
word and
number
puzzles

TEASERS

Mindet
Puzzles

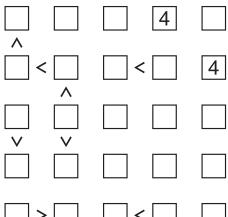
What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames? Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

#### KenKen Difficult No 6280



All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

#### Futoshiki No 4828

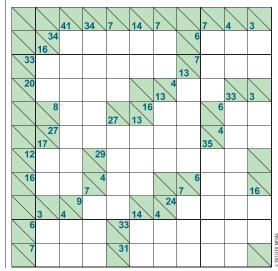


Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

#### Kakuro No 3787

R

26



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

#### **MindGames**

# times2 Crossword No 9604

#### Across

- 1 Joint business venture (11)
- 8 Outspoken (5)
- 9 North African country (7)
- 10 Plunge (4)
- 11 Acidity in food or drink (8) 13 Clever, sharp (6)
- 14 Motorist (6)
- 17 Placed obstructively (2,3,3)

#### Solution to Crossword 9603



- 19 Cot (4)
- 22 Enduring, lasting (7)
- 23 Lift or haul with effort (5)
- 24 Damaged reputationally (11)

- 1 Topped with flagstones (5)
- 2 Rally after illness (7)
- 3 Legally invalid (4)
- 4 Went back over (a path) (6)
- 5 (Of a title or post) conferred as a show of respect (8) 6 Glutinous substance (5)
- 7 German emperor (6)
- 12 Children's edible treats (8)
- 13 Winding or coiling figure (6)
- 15 Lush with greenery (7)
- 16 Peril (6)
- 18 Group of three; Chinese criminal society (5)
- 20 Focaccia or ciabatta, eg (5) 21 Dull sound of an impact (4)

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

#### **Bridge** Andrew Robson

team in the 56th European Team Championships in Denmark was to finish in the top eight countries (out of 30), and so qualify for next year's World Champonships. This was the last board of the 25th match — England v Denmark —

match — England v Denmark —
the one in which qualification
became 90 per cent secure.

The England North-South pair
stopped safely in 3NT — although
declarer, Tom Townsend, made an
incredible 12 tricks after some
slack defence. A huge swing rested
on whether the Danish declarer
could make the decent-ish 6♣.

Declarer beat East's queen of
spades with the king then crossed

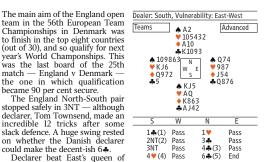
Declarer beat East's queen of spades with the king then crossed to the ace of spades to lead a heart to the queen. West won the king and exited with a third spade declarer discarding a heart from dummy as he won the jack in hand. At this juncture he cashed the ace of clubs — and the English camp breathed a sigh of relief, declarer no longer able to succeed (he ended up two down).

However, say declarer leaves clubs alone. He instead cashes the ace of hearts then crosses to the

ace of hearts then crosses to the ace of diamonds and ruffs a heart. He then cashes the king of dia-monds and ruffs a diamond to

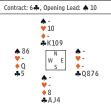
monds and ruffs a diamond to leave the ending across.

At trick ten, declarer leads a heart and observes East ruff. Surely East would discard here—unless he held only clubs. Declarer plays East for \$\infty\$Qxxx — four times as likely as \$\infty\$xxx — and overruffs with the jack. He then ruffs his eight of diamonds with the king of clubs (East underruffine). At trick clubs (East underruffing). At trick



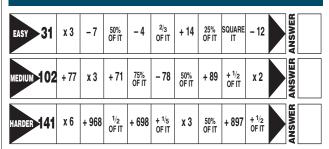
(1) You can go either way when choosing which minor to open with 4 • 4 • 4.
(2) Showing 18-19 balanced.
(3) Worth a try for slam. Give partner, say \* kxx, \* Ax, \* kxx, \* AQ,Dxx, and 6 • is huge (and that's not even enough points).

(4) South would have bid 3♥ over 3♣ with (4) South World lave by Well 14. With three cards, so this is a control bid.
(5) With first-round controls in both unbid suits, this looks a reasonable punt.



12, declarer runs the ten of clubs through East's queen-eight and that's slam made. Phew — he didn't do that and England won the

#### **Brain Trainer**



#### Polygon



From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc.), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. **How you rate** 12 words, average; 16, good; 21, very good; 26, excellent

#### Yesterday's answers

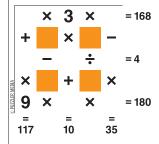
amour, ardour, armour, armoured, arum, demur, dour, drum, durra, eardrum, euro, moue, mudra, murder, mure, murre, odeum, ordure, roué, rude, rumor, urea

#### Cell Blocks No 5171



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

#### Set Square No 3790



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

#### Killer Gentle No 9614

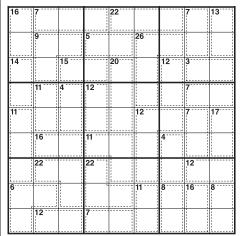
Killer Tough No 9615

20

18

lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

28 25



17 ...

11 ....

15

As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column,

every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293

6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network

access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

18 17 11

-----

15

22

#### **Solutions**



ZOOLOGY COCOA
EMBRING AMLINA
NAINT GIMMICK
THEMH UPPROMIC
FALCON RYMHUGE
UMAN DONEN ZYME
WAYTH SYCAMORE
INNERS SEPEC
DISPOSE IN RETO
HATCH FUNFAIR

#### Sudoku 15.129

2					4			
5	8	1	3	7	9	2	6	4
7	6	4	2	5	1	8	3	9
4	9	7	8	1	3	6	2	5
1	5	3	7	2	6	4	9	8
8			4	9	5	7	1	3
9	1	8			7		4	2
3	7	5	1	4	2	9	8	6
6	4		9	3	8	1	5	7

Train Tracks 2315



#### Sudoku 15.130

7	6	9	1	4	5	2	8	3		4	ļ	ļ	6		Į.
1	2	8	6	9	3	4	5	7		L	L	2			
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										10	<i>r</i> ua	уэ	301	utioi	1
ίI	ler	96	12								on		e		

#### 2 4 1 9 3 7 8 6 5 Cell Blocks 5170 2 4 1 9 3 7 8 6 5 6 3 7 8 5 4 9 1 2 9 8 5 2 6 1 3 7 4 8 1 6 3 7 2 5 4 9 4 7 2 5 8 9 1 3 6 5 9 3 4 1 6 7 2 8 3 5 4 7 2 8 6 9 1





#### Futoshiki 4827 1 5 > 3 2 4 5 > 2 1 4 3



3 4 5 2 1 6

#### Lexica 7580

#### Todav's solutions

ı	ier	96	12						
	3	6	1	2	4	7	9	8	
	4	9	3	7	5	2	1	6	
	2	7	8	9	6	4	3	5	
	8	5	6	3	7	1	2	4	
	6	3	4	1	2	8	5	9	
	1	2	5	8	9	6	7	3	
	5	4	9	6	1	3	8	7	
	7	8	2	5	3	9	4	1	

#### 3 9 1 7 4 8 5 6 2

KIII	iei	30	113					
8	6	1	4	2	7	5	3	9
3	9	7	5	1	8	2	6	4
2	4	5	6	3	9	7	8	1
5	8	9	2	7	6	1	4	3
6	7	2	1	4	3	9	5	8
1	3	4	8	9	5	6	2	7
4	2	8	7	5	1	3	9	6
9	1	6	3	8	2	4	7	5
7	5	3	9	6	4	8	1	2

#### Concise Quintagram Cryptic Quintagram

1 Dane 2 Poleaxe 3 German 4 Indiana 1 Nest 2 Keep 3 Shallot 5 Brittle



Traine

Primitiae (a) The first fruits of the harvest (Collins)
Water-dogs (a) Small low clouds said to indicate rain (OED)
Aptotic (a) (Of a word) uninflected (Chambers)

1 ... Qh4! threatens to come in on f2. After 2 Re2 Qxg4+! 3 Khl Rxh3+ 4 Nxh3 Qxe2 (4 ... Rh8 is also winning) 5 Qg2 Qh5 Black has an

#### Quiz

1 Frère Jacques 2 A Tale of Two Cities 3 Dogs 4 Joseph Stalin 5 Ronal Reagan 6 Terry Gilliam 7 A Shropshire Lad 8 Rachel Reeves 9 Howard League for Penal Reform 10 Glynis

#### Chess - Winning Move

Johns 11 Diana Dors 12 Martin Brennan, played by Steve Coogan 13 Charmaine Solomon

14 Simone Biles 15 Llama.

08.08.24 THE TIMES

# 



#### **Word watch David Parfitt**

#### Primitiae

a The first fruits of the harvest

**b** The great apes c Fussy details of etiquette

#### Water-dogs

a Small low clouds

b Dolphins or porpoises c Smudges caused by

#### Aptotic

a (Of a word) uninflected **b** Fitting, appropriate **c** Flightless

Answers on page 15

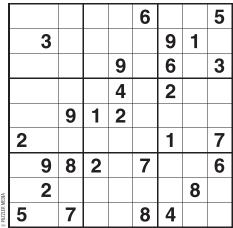
#### Sudoku Mild No 15,132

					7	3	
2	6						
3	5	1	7	9			6
		6		8		7	1
		8			2		
5 7	2		4		6		
7			6	2	8	5	4
						2	3
	8	2					

Fiendi	sh No	15,133

	5						3	
2				6				9
				2	7			
				7	4	5		
	4	6	2	8			7	
		5	6			4		
			7		6			1
6				1				7
	9					6	8	

#### Super fiendish No 15,134



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

#### The Times Daily Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Which classic French nursery rhyme is known in English as "Brother

2 The title of which Charles Dickens novel refers to both Paris and London?

3 According to Italians, which pet animals make a "bau, bau" sound?

4 In 1953, the composer Sergei Prokofiev died on the same day as which Soviet leader?

5 Which US president gave his "Shining City Upon a Hill" farewell address in 1989?

6 Which American was the only Monty Python member not to attend an Oxbridge university?



7 Opening with the lines: 'Clunton and Clunbury,/ Clungunford and Clun", Poem L comes from which AE Housman collection?

8 Which former Bank of England economist is the new chancellor of the exchequer?

9 Founded in 1866 what is the oldest penal reform charity in the world?

10 Stephen Sondheim wrote the song Send in the Clowns for which Mary Poppins actress?

11 Who played Mary

Hilton, a woman awaiting execution for murder, in the 1956 film Yield to the Night?

12 Which Steve Coogan character sang Come Out, Ye Black and Tans on This Time with Alan Partridge?

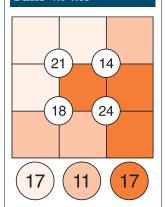
13 Which 93-year-old Australian cook wrote The Complete Asian Cookbook: China (1976)?

14 In 2021 who became the first gymnast to land the most difficult vault, the Yurchenko double pike, in competition?

15 Which domesticated South American mammal is this?

Answers on page 15

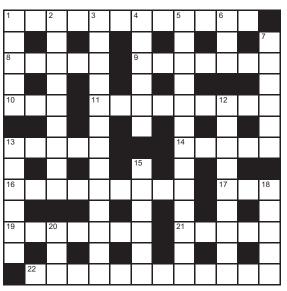
#### **Suko** No 4189



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.com

#### The Times Quick Cryptic No 2749 by Asp



- Resisting having status (12) 8 Obstruct everybody on street
- Fat babies regularly smudge clothes (7)
- 10 Second person caught sheep
- Lazy and not even dressed? (9)
- 13 Rent somewhere in Croatia (5)
- 14 Dispossess some crime victims
- 16 Son is mixed up with Arab in scrapes (9)
- Singular type of number (3) Man on public transport
- performing for money (7) I left marriage finally, after former partner's removal from home (5)
- 22 Dish was for lad prepared by another (7,5)

- Debris used to be there following evacuation (5)
- Itinerant reporter entertains
- wild party briefly (9) Complacent broadcast feels as
- if it's beginning to decline (4-9) Although adults loathe babies, everyone is tiny to begin with
- Daring dancing stunned lasses
- Where one might file bad reviews about writer? (3)
- Cheers person getting paid to be a model (6)
- 12 Real idiot upset leader (9) Silence report of religious building in disrepair (6) 13
- His work is supposed to be
- done by someone else (6) Daughter understood the 18 meaning of fear (5)
- 20 Main means of authentication is reduced (3)

Yesterday's solution on page 15

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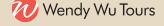
En route you'll see and experience the very best of what Japan has to offer. Of course, there'll be plenty of activities that showcase Japan's rich culture and, depending on your departure date, you may even get to visit the rituals and traditions of a sumo wrestling tournament.

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Reaching Matsumoto you'll combine a fascinating exploration of its magnificent 16th-century castle, with a visit to a miso house to learn about this famous Japanese seasoning and also spend some time at a wasabi farm.

In the Japanese Alps you'll be delighted by the cute Japanese macaques bathing and playing in natural hot springs and get a glimpse into a rural way of life. Cruise the waters of Lake Ashi and soar high on the Hakone Ropeway, (if the weather is kind) the peak of Mt Fuji visible in the distance. Roll up in Tokyo ready to be dazzled and spend two days getting to know both its modern and traditional sides, ascending the Skytree and soaking up the ambiance  $\,$ of Sensoji, the city's oldest Buddhist temple.

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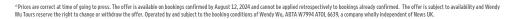


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ncover the ancient, modern, and natural gems on this allencompassing tour of China's must-see sights and unforgettable experiences.

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Beginning in Beijing, you'll explore the historic wonders of imperial China including the Forbidden City and Summer Palace, sample local life in the historic hutongs and marvel at one of the true wonders of the world, the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China.

Catching the bullet train to Xian, the enigmatic Terracotta Army awaits. The colourful Muslim Quarter offer insights into ancient history and culture, while a dumpling feast and Tang Dynasty show provide entertainment. Travelling on to Chengdu the adorable pandas are the stars of the show at the world-renowned conservation center.

A relaxing Yangtze River cruise through the famous Three Gorges provides a welcome spell to reflect on your adventures so far before diving into the otherworldly landscapes of Zhangjiajie's stunning sandstone pillars. Explorations of the landscape that inspired the blockbuster movie Avatar include the Bailong glass elevator and Tianmen Mountain's thrilling cable car.

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ourney through the heart of Central Asia, crossing starkly beautiful deserts and magnificent mountain landscapes, following the route of the

The adventure begins in capital Bishkek before heading out into Kyrgyzstan's rugged landscapes to explore on and around the waters of Issyk Kul. Join a local family for dinner as part of your time in Karakol before a eagle hunting demonstration in the spectacular Kyrgyz highlands, Fly into Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, to see the sights and traditional crafts. Then it's a succession of legendary cities, golden Samarkand, fascinating Bukhara, and ancient Khiva.

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In each you'll have plenty of time to soak up all the wonders. The timeless atmosphere, the immense history and the magnificent architecture, brings an unforgettable experience.



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e inspired by the classic sights of India's Golden Triangle from the floating palace of Udaipur to the mighty tigers of Ranthambore and a sprinkling of Rajasthan's hidden gems.

Starting in the capital Delhi, a city combining charm and chaos in equal measure, you will explore both Old and New Delhi, visiting the country's largest mosque, Jama Masjid, and the gigantic Red Fort, along with a rickshaw ride

through the renowned spice market. The splendid sights continue as we head to Agra, visiting Itmad-ud-Daulah, an exquisite marble tomb and the red sandstone Agra Fort on the banks of the

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Yamuna River. A tour highlight is sunrise at the breathtaking Taj Mahal, watching in awe as the white marble is tinged pink by the early morning sun.

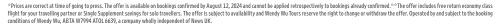


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