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Features



The Daily Telegraph
NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Starmer warns Iran: No attack on Israel

PM urges Tehran to stand down in rare call with leader as regional tensions escalate

By **Ben Riley-Smith, Jotam Confino, Paul Nuki** *and* **Tony Diver**

SIR KEIR STARMER last night directly urged Tehran not to attack Israel in a rare telephone call with the Iranian president.

The Prime Minister told Masoud Pezeshkian there was a "serious risk of miscalculation" and urged Iran to "refrain from attacking Israel", according to a report of the conversation.

The Israeli military was on high alert last night amid reports Iran had increased preparations for a large-scale attack. The White House said that both the US and Israel expected Iran and its proxies in the Middle East, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, to launch an assault this week.

Iranian missile and drone units are reportedly being prepared for a direct attack on Israel in retaliation for the assassination of the Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Iran has vowed to retaliate for the killing, though it is unclear on what scale.

Sir Keir's call was part of a frantic effort by world leaders to avoid an Iranian attack that could plunge the Middle East into all-out regional war. Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, also phoned Mr Pezeshkian, and Joe Biden co-ordinated a statement by Italy, France, the US and Germany calling on Tehran to "stand down".

A Downing Street spokesman said of Sir Keir's call: "The Prime Minister said that he was deeply concerned by the situation in the region and called on all parties to de-escalate and avoid further regional confrontation.

"There was a serious risk of miscalculation and now was the time for calm and careful consideration, the Prime Minister said.

"He called on Iran to refrain from attacking Israel, adding that war was not in anyone's interests."

Sir Keir also raised the issue of foreign detainees in Iran, called for "constructive" dialogue between the two nations, warned Tehran off threatening individuals in the UK and urged the country to end its support of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The last prime minister to talk to their Iranian counterpart was Boris Johnson in March 2021, when the release of British-Iranian prisoner Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was discussed.

Israel's allies, including the US, have said they will help defend it from any strike, including with the use of an American guided-missile submarine deployed to the Middle East yesterday.

The strike could come within days, intelligence officials believe, and may take place before renewed ceasefire talks are held in either Doha or Cairo on Thursday.

The assessment reverses the view taken last week that Iran was backing away from direct action against Israel and that an attack by its proxy Hezbollah was more likely.

An Israeli official said: "We expect there will be an attack in the coming days. Iran has the most to lose in this."

Herzi Halevi, the Israeli military's chief of staff, said that offensive and defensive preparations were under way, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Israeli officials said the coalition ready to support Israel was as strong as in April, when the US, Britain, Jordan and other countries backed an anti-missile and drone effort above the country.

After a call with Yoav Gallant, Israel's defence minister, on Sunday, Lloyd Austin, his US counterpart, ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the region and said he was "accelerating" the dispatch of a second aircraft carrier group to bolster Israel's defences.

Editorial Comment: Page 15

Daley takes plunge into retirement



JORDAN PETTITT/PA

Tom Daley has announced his retirement from Olympic diving after returning from the Paris Games. The five-time Olympian, who won bronzes in London and Rio, a gold and bronze in Tokyo, and a silver in Paris, said it was the 'right time' to leave the sport but added that it was 'hard to talk when you have loved something so much'. *Sport: Page 4*

Kyiv pressures UK over missiles to finish Putin

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

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY has piled pressure on Britain to allow missile strikes deep inside Russia as he claimed his army's cross-border attack could oust Vladimir Putin.

By last night, Ukrainian forces were in control of about 386 square miles (1,000 sq km) of Kursk, a border region in southern Russia, according to Kyiv's top general. The cross-border attack marks the first foreign invasion of Russian soil since the Second World War.

Mr Zelensky said that the "Kursk disaster" 24 years ago, in which 118 Russian sailors died in a submarine accident, marked the start of Putin's rule. "And now it is clear this is the end for him," he continued. "And it is also Kursk."

The Ukrainian president ordered the preparation of a "humanitarian plan" for Russian citizens in Ukrainian-controlled Kursk, as his forces started building field hospitals and fortifications in preparation for an occupation.

In his first comments on the assault, Putin vowed to drive Ukraine off Russian land. "The task before the ministry of defence is to squeeze out, drive the enemy out of our territories and, together with the border service, ensure reliable coverage of the state borders," he told Kremlin security chiefs.

As Russian forces mounted counter-attacks across the Kursk front line, Mr Zelensky said he was once more imploring Western allies to be allowed to use long-range missiles deep inside Russia. He has instructed defence officials and diplomats to "present a list of necessary actions on our part to obtain permission from our partners to use long-range weapons to defend our territory".

The Telegraph understands that the UK Government has not given Ukraine approval to use Storm Shadow missiles as part of its Kursk offensive. "There has been no change," a government source insisted. Last month, Mr Zelensky lobbied Sir Keir Starmer to lift restrictions on how the munition, which has a range of about 150 miles, can be used.

Ukraine wants to strike airfields and logistics hubs far beyond the front line that Moscow is using to reinforce its position in Kursk. Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, a former British tank commander, said Storm Shadows would be able to strike "rail heads and key roads coming into Kursk, plus any airfields within 100 miles".

The position on how Storm Shadow missiles are used is not just the UK Government's to make, since the missile is manufactured with France, meaning Paris also has a say on conditions.

A No 10 spokesman said: "We have been providing military aid to support Ukraine's clear right of self-defence.

"We are clear that equipment provided by the UK is intended for the defence of Ukraine."

Report and analysis: Page 11

'Blood on the hands' of NHS staff who freed Nottingham killer

By **Michael Searles**
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NHS doctors have "blood on their hands" over their failings in the treatment of the Nottingham killer, the victims' families have said.

Valdo Calocane was sectioned under the Mental Health Act four times before NHS services lost track of him and then discharged him, according to a new report by the health watchdog.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) identified five missed opportunities to deal with Calocane's violent psychosis in the three years before he stabbed to death students Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both aged 19, and caretaker Ian Coates, 65.

Wes Streeting, the Health Secretary, said the "distressing" report revealed that the deaths were "avoidable" and called for mental health services across England to apply its recommendations to avoid future tragedies.

The families of those who were killed during the attack in Nottingham in June 2023 said they had been "failed by multiple organisations" and that they had been told there would be a public inquiry. "This report demonstrates gross, systematic failures in the mental health trust in their dealings with Calocane, from beginning to end," they said.

"Along with the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire police forces, these departments and individual professionals have blood on their hands.

"Alarmingly, there seems to be little or no accountability amongst the senior management team within the mental health trust. We question how and why these people are still in position."

The families said they expected it to be the first in a "series of damning reports" as they called for senior managers to be held to account. "Clinicians involved at every stage of Calocane's care must bear a heavy burden of responsibility for their failures," they added.

The report found a series of "errors, omissions, and misjudgments" in Calocane's care by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

Calocane was "acutely unwell" and had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in 2020, with a psychiatrist noting three years before the attacks that "there seems to be no insight or remorse and the danger is that this will happen again and perhaps Valdo will end up killing someone". He was sectioned four times in less than two years before health services discharged him for a lack of engagement.





Students Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both 19, were stabbed to death last year by Valdo Calocane

Calocane's family have also said they want answers and have called for a public inquiry. His mother Celeste told the BBC: "There's a lot of Valdos out there... and if we haven't got capacity to care for them I don't know what's going to happen. The system is not fit for purpose."

The report found there was a "clear indication" to detain him under section 3 of the Mental Health Act, which would have given doctors powers to keep him in hospital for up to six months and administer antipsychotic injections against his will. It would have also allowed medics to give him a community treatment order that would have allowed them to detain him again if he failed to take his medication or attend appointments – both of which he did routinely.

Medics also repeatedly failed to follow medical guidance for psychotic patients, ensure he was taking medication, and consult the police, his family or GP when discharging him, amid a litany of failings highlighted in the report.

NHS services increasingly lost touch with him whenever he was discharged. They tried to catch him at home but had the wrong address, and when they phoned he said he was out of the country.

Chris Dzikiti, the Care Quality Commission's interim chief inspector of healthcare, said: "Wider national action is needed to tackle systemic issues in community mental health – including a shortage of mental health staff and lack of integration between mental health services and other healthcare, social care and support services – so that people get the right care, treatment and support when and where they need it."

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Romp-com king
Renaissance of Robin Askwith

Features



NEWS

Girl, 11, stabbed by stranger in West End

An 11-year-old girl has been taken to hospital after she and her mother were stabbed by a stranger in the West End. The Met said its officers were called to the scene of a stabbing in Leicester Square, London, where the girl and a 34-year-old were attacked yesterday. The force said a man had been arrested. A security guard claimed he "jumped on" and took a knife from a man who had stabbed a child. A witness described the attacker putting the child in a headlock and stabbing her.
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NEWS

Grouse go missing from restaurant menus

Grouse has been taken off the menu at many restaurants this Glorious Twelfth after a shortage of birds sent prices soaring to £70. London restaurateurs said they had been quoted extortionate prices for a single bird, leaving them unable to honour a tradition in which grouse shot in Yorkshire or Scotland at the start of the season would be sold that night. Several Glorious Twelfth shoots had to be called off this year owing to an unusually cold breeding season.
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BUSINESS

Hopes for UK-India trade deal rekindled

An Indian telecoms billionaire is vying to broker a UK-India trade deal after buying a stake of almost 25 per cent in BT. Sunil Bharti Mittal is said to be keen to assist discussions between the two countries after striking a deal to become the largest investor in the former British monopoly. Mr Mittal – who held a meeting with David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary, in India before the election – said he hopes his investment can help by "elevating and broadening the India-UK ties".
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Half of GP practices taking union action

BMA says it wants to bring NHS to 'standstill' despite warnings of 'catastrophic' consequences for A&E

By **Laura Donnelly** HEALTH EDITOR

ALMOST half of GP practices are taking part in industrial action, in a drive to bring the NHS "to a standstill". Polling of surgeries across the country shows widespread participation in protest measures designed to wreak chaos.

Almost half have already abandoned normal service, with even more saying they are willing to escalate to a full strike, meaning practices could close their doors.

The snapshot survey is the first to be carried out since the British Medical Association (BMA) declared the results of a ballot which backed immediate action from Aug 1. GPs have been told to "pick and choose" from up to 10 protest measures including cutting the number of appointments.

In total, 46 per cent of GP partners said they were now taking part in some form of collective action – and 80 per cent of them were planning or considering to take action in future.

A quarter of those polled admitted they expected the actions would increase harm to patients in the short-term. Yet, more than half of those who responded to the survey wanted such actions introduced "indefinitely".

Until now, the work to rule actions drawn up by the BMA have kept GPs working within their contracts, while causing widespread disruption.

But 50 per cent of those polled by *Pulse* magazine said they would be willing to "escalate action" further to take part in full strikes.

So far, 26 per cent of GP partners taking part in the collective action have capped patient numbers, with many introducing the measure even before the BMA vote was declared, the survey shows.

A further 44 per cent of those polled were considering introducing such limits. According to the BMA, more than 8,500 GPs took part in the vote on collective action, with 98.3 per cent in favour.

The BMA said the action aims to bring the NHS "to a standstill" but has insisted the protest is aimed at policy makers and administrators, not patients. The moves come despite warnings from NHS leaders that doing so would be "catastrophic", heaping pressures on A&E departments.

The BMA has proposed that GPs deal with a maximum of 25 cases per day, including simple transactions such as repeat prescriptions. It would cut average caseload by one third, and in some cases by half.

Dr Julius Parker, the deputy chairman of the BMA's GP committee for England, said: "We want to show NHS England and the Government what happens when GPs stop jumping through bureaucratic hoops and instead prioritise their patients' needs, giving patients the time they deserve, instead of hurried consultations with tired doctors who are often working beyond safe working limits."

Mother of Costa death girl told staff of her severe allergy

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

THE mother of a 13-year-old girl who died after taking a single sip of hot chocolate from Costa Coffee had warned staff about her daughter's severe dairy allergy, an inquest has heard.

Hannah Jacobs, from Barking, east London, collapsed within half an hour of taking the drink in February 2022 and died hours later.

Abimbola Duyile, her mother, told East London coroner's court she ordered two takeaway soya hot chocolates before taking Hannah to a dental appointment.

Ms Duyile said she told staff of her daughter's severe allergies to cow's milk and asked them to thoroughly clean equipment.

She said after taking a sip, Hannah "abruptly got up and went to the toilet and shouted, 'That was not soya milk,'" adding that Hannah's reaction "happened quickly" and she was coughing up phlegm.



Hannah Jacobs, who had a severe dairy allergy, died after taking a sip of hot chocolate from Costa Coffee

Ms Duyile then rushed Hannah, who was complaining of chest pains, to a nearby chemist as her "lips and mouth were very swollen and she was itchy".

In a statement, Ms Duyile said her "initial response was of anger to the Costa Coffee staff – it gave way to terror". She told the court she had been careful about checking with the staff before they prepared the drinks, saying: "I made sure that the staff were aware that this was not a joke."

Of the reaction of the staff behind the counter to her request, Ms Duyile told the court: "I feel that she did not understand what I was saying, which is why I leaned forwards so that she could hear what I was saying."

Hannah collapsed in the chemist and was taken to hospital in an ambulance, where she was declared dead by 1pm, according to her family's lawyers.



Bowled over
Stuart Broad kisses Mollie King's baby bump with daughter Annabella on his shoulders as the couple reveal they are expecting their second child. The retired England cricketer and The Saturdays singer announced their engagement in January 2021, and had their first child in November 2022. They captioned the photo: "Our baby girl is going to become a big sister. We can't wait to meet you, little one!"

NEWS BULLETIN

British Museum archive falls foul of records law

The British Museum is not complying with the law over its 270-year-old archive, an internal review has found.

The museum is one of a few national institutions that is trusted to keep its records once they pass 20 years old. Others hand them to the National Archives (TNA).

An internal audit has found it is not meeting the standards needed to keep its archives, which are detailed in the Public Records Act and include having a workforce with the experience and numbers to maintain the archive.

A museum spokesman would not comment on what specific breaches had occurred, but told *The Telegraph* the museum is "working closely with TNA to reach full accreditation".

Zoo's same-sex male flamingos adopt a chick

A pair of male flamingos at a British zoo have hatched an egg and adopted the chick that had been abandoned by its mother.

Curtis and Arthur, flamingos at Paignton Zoo, in Devon, surprised keepers when they began incubating and subsequently caring for a new chick.

The zoo, near Torquay, said: "Our flamingo chicks are the first we've had since 2018... and the first time we've ever seen a same-sex pair successfully hatch and raise a chick. We aren't entirely sure how the same-sex parenting has come about biologically speaking although it is a known phenomenon in Chilean flamingos."

Wrongful toll fines drive motorists round bend

Drivers are being fined £70 for unpaid toll charges on the Dartford Crossing despite being hundreds of miles away.

The issue, which is believed to be caused by faulty automatic number plate recognition cameras (ANRP), has resulted in motorists wrongly being handed penalties. National Highways insisted the fines were being wrongly issued in "minority of circumstances", with about 55 million drivers using the Queen Elizabeth II bridge and the Dartford Tunnel last year.

A National Highways spokesman said: "In a minority of circumstances, penalty charges are issued in error. Where this happens, the charge will be cancelled."

Toddler dies after being pulled out of canal

A two-year-old boy has died after being pulled from a canal in Wolverhampton.

Emergency services were called to the waterway off Hendon Avenue, in Ettingshall, at 6.01pm on Sunday.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "On arrival, crews found a boy, who had been pulled from the water by police colleagues, in a critical condition. He was receiving basic life support by officers and ambulance staff immediately took over ... he was confirmed dead at the scene."

According to residents the boy, who has not been named, may have escaped through an open garage as his family packed to move house.

Cooper: Criminal gangs undermine border security

Continued from Page 1

officers from the UK's National Crime Agency that would be seconded to Europol. She also talked to Catherine de Bolle, the executive director of Europol, shortly after entering the Home Office, in a sign of the importance being placed on working with Europol.

Sir Keir is seeking to "reset" the UK's wider relationship with the EU, and any agreement on a new mandate for Europol is likely to need the support of a majority of EU member states. Europol cannot instigate investigations but supports those launched by EU member states.

Since Britain left the EU, there has been a debate about how much Europol data the UK should be able to access.

A spokesman for Ms Cooper said: "Criminal gangs are undermining our border security and putting lives at risk as we saw in the Channel again tragically this week. An entire criminal industry has been allowed to take hold both along our border and through sophisticated criminal networks across Europe and beyond. It is appalling that for so long they have just been able to get away with it.

"We are determined to launch major new operations to pursue the gangs, the boats and the money. Our Border Security Command will coordinate efforts across our intelligence agencies, Immigration and Enforcement and Border Force, police and National Crime Agency to boost our border security, with new powers in place and we are already increasing our work with Europol to plan new operations across the continent. The Conservative Government failed to ever have a comprehensive plan to go after the gangs and they've been getting away with it for too long. That changes now."

> 'The Conservative Government failed to ever have a comprehensive plan to go after the gangs'

An Italian Government source told *The Telegraph* the conversation "dealt with ways to further increase Europol's effectiveness in combating human trafficking" including "strengthening cooperation with third countries" such as the UK.

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Martini and mints settled the nerves on Her Majesty's supersonic service



PA/EMPICS; TIM GRAHAM VIA GETTY IMAGES

Late monarch enjoyed a cocktail on Concorde prior to entertaining and was keen to follow route maps

By **Victoria Ward**
DEPUTY ROYAL EDITOR

ELIZABETH II liked to drink a Martini before meeting guests on royal flights and always requested a particular type of mint sweet during take-off, it has emerged.

The late Queen also enjoyed following the route map while travelling.

Her flying habits are revealed in a treasure trove of memorabilia kept for decades by an air hostess who worked for British Airways for 28 years from 1970.

Elizabeth Evans, from Birmingham, served many famous travellers during her long career, among them the late Queen and Prince Philip during their 1989 tour of Singapore and Malaysia.

A collection of mementoes found in Mrs Evans' study following her death contains confidential instructions on how to look after the royal couple.



Elizabeth II reads newspapers on a 1977 flight from Barbados, main; Exiting Concorde after landing in Saudi Arabia in 1979, above

The points of etiquette reveal that the late Queen liked a bowl of sugar-free Velamints beside her on take-off and that she should be left to doze if she was sleeping prior to landing.

She also preferred to use her own pillows, with her personal dresser advising on how to make up her bed.

Any guests joining the royals for dinner would be told what time cocktails were to be served in the royal compartment and the Queen would later be asked which wine she would like served with dinner.

"Her Majesty tends to like a Martini before her guests arrive," the notes state.

Canapes were served with cocktails before the guests took their seats and staff were reminded that the late Queen must be served first. One section of the notes is titled "Tips for Royal Compartment", under which is listed: "Route map – Her Majesty enjoys looking at these."

Members of the flight crew were told not to pass through the cabin and to restrict all noise.

The memorabilia, inherited by Mrs Evans' niece, Jo Smallwood, is expected to fetch between £400-£600 when it goes under the hammer at Hansons Auctioneers on Aug 20.

Charles Hanson, owner of the auctioneers, said: "Elizabeth must have been extremely highly regarded by BA because she served some of the most important people in the world.

"Take that 1989 British Airways royal flight. Her memorabilia includes confidential instructions on how to care for our late Queen and Prince Philip – right down to the sweets Her Majesty preferred on take-off."

Velamints were launched in the US in 1977 and are said to have become president Ronald Reagan's favourite mint. They were dubbed "the Official Air Force 1 mint".

Meanwhile, both the late Queen and her husband were known to be fond of a Martini, which they would typically enjoy before dinner.

In late 2021, a year before her death, it emerged that she had given up drinking on doctors' orders.

She was said to favour a gin and Dubonnet at lunchtime and a gin and vermouth cocktail before dinner.

Mrs Evans also crewed Concorde, the world's first commercial supersonic airliner which would fly at twice the speed of sound, during the 1980s and 1990s.

She kept signed menu cards and other paraphernalia relating to many of her VIP passengers, including Rod Stewart, Cliff Richard, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Patrick Swayze.

Mr Hanson noted that although the late Queen had flown to Singapore and Malaysia on BA, she had closely followed Concorde's development.

"Elizabeth's archive sweeps us back in time to the 1970s, 80s and 90s when flying on Concorde was a luxurious privilege enjoyed by the wealthy jet-set," he added.

"Celebrities flocked to use its services and carrying royalty was the norm. Service had to be first class.

"[The late queen enjoyed her first supersonic flight in 1977 and used the aircraft for state visits. The Queen of the Skies was seen as fitting transport for the Queen of the realm.

"Elizabeth gathered mementoes throughout her career. Her memorabilia captures the life and times of Concorde at its height and the detail that went into luxury travel with British Airways.

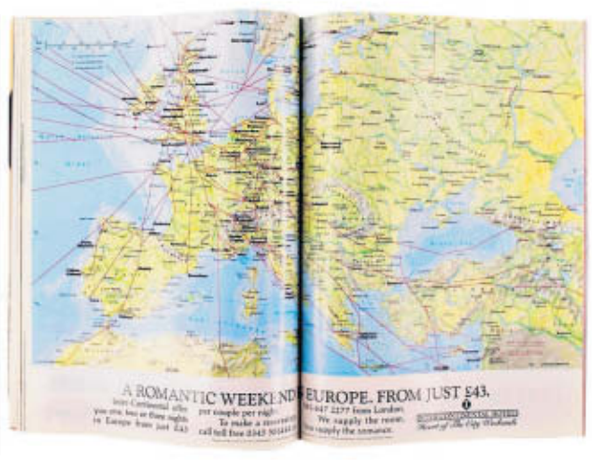
"No VIP wish was too small to be accommodated. Even smoking was permitted on board back then."

'Her Majesty, if asleep prior to landing, is left in bed' Cabin crew notes on royal protocol when Elizabeth II flew on Concorde

Royal Cabin
F/D to ask Her Majesty at what time she would like to dine.
This is also the time to present the menu and ask how many will be dining in the Royal Cabin.
Her Majesty will inform who her guests, (if any) will be. You will then let the guests know at what time cocktails will be served in the Royal compartment.



At a suitable time prior to the meal you will ask Her Majesty what wines she would like. The table should be laid up about 30 minutes before the cocktail service.
Lay one place setting at a time, one person holding the tray whilst the other places the contents on the table.
Cocktails and Canapes
Her Majesty tends to like a Martini before her guests arrive. The F/D will escort guests from the aft cabin to the Royal Compartment.
Take a cocktail order, serve with canapes.
At the pre-arranged time, ask Her Majesty if she would like to take her seat and direct her guests to their places.
The meal routine is as per First Class procedure.
Her Majesty is always served first. Then any other female guests.
After this it is in order of importance.



It is very important to seat the guests with this in mind, otherwise you are moving the trolley unnecessarily.
There is generally a choice for the hors d'oeuvre, however, there is generally only the single main course.
Salad is served from the large cut glass bowl into individual bowls.
Tips for Royal Compartment
1. F/D does not introduce himself.
Her Majesty is fully aware of who you are.
2. Route map – Her Majesty enjoys looking at these.
3. No member of the crew can pass through the Royal Cabin unless authorised by F/D.
4. Communication by aft cabin will be through Flight Deck interphone.
56. Restrict all noise in Fwd Galley.



6. F/D liaise with Her Majesty's dresser when making up her bed. The Queen has her own pillows.
7. Velva Mints [sic] Her Majesty would like a bowl of these beside her for take off. Also in her dressing room.
8. Her Majesty, if asleep prior to landing is left in her bed.

Cheesecake beats Victoria sponge as Britain's favourite teatime treat

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

THE classic Victoria sponge has been knocked off the top spot of favourite teatime treats by cheesecake.

The cream and jam sponge has long been a teatime tradition in Britain, but it has now been overtaken in popularity by cheesecake, which took a 25 per cent slice of the vote.

Chocolate cake came second in the survey of 2,000 adults, followed by carrot cake and lemon drizzle.

Other sweet treats now judged to be the cream of the teatime crop include doughnuts, banoffee pie and cinnamon buns.

While 60 per cent said they still prefer traditional cakes, modern-day bakes such as pistachio croissants and chocolate Oreo cake also made the list.

The study was commissioned by Spar to celebrate its Blooming Great Tea Party with Marie Curie, which is asking people to bake cakes and hold a tea party to raise money to fight cancer.

Ian Taylor, spokesman for the retailer, said: "With cheesecake coming out as the UK's top teatime treat it's obvious that people are looking for bakes that give us flavours with inspiration from around the world.

"We love seeing how baking can bring people together and encourage kindness. Hosting a tea party is a great way to unite the community and support good causes."

The survey also revealed generational differences in teatime tastes, with 15 per cent of people aged 18-24 more likely to choose a red velvet cake compared with 28 per cent of the over-55s who favour a coffee cake.

And it seems the older generation are no longer the nation's star bakers, with almost half of 18-34 year-olds saying they love to bake at home – 23 per cent more than those aged 55 and over.

Members of Gen-Z bake nearly three times a month on average – whereas 30 per cent of people aged 65 and over never bake at all.

TV shows are also inspiring people, with 20 per cent of the younger generation tuning into *The Great British Bake Off* and 10 per cent being influenced by *Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites*.

'Baking is such a great way to show love to your friends and family'

The survey showed 41 per cent can make a cake without following a recipe and 25 per cent even bake without having to check measurements. But the proportion is slightly higher among 18-24 year-olds with the figure rising to 42 per cent.

A further 41 per cent of all adults choose to bake for fun, while 35 per cent save it for a special occasion – such as a birthday. It was also revealed that a third of participants get baking for charity events.

Suzy Pelta, winner of Lorraine's Cake Club Competition, on ITV1's *Lorraine* show has created a lemon honey drizzle cake recipe to celebrate the Blooming Great Tea Party, She said: "Baking is such a great way to show love to your friends and family.

"I love that baking gives you a chance to be creative, make something delicious and bring joy to others, all with a few simple ingredients."

1



Sweet treats
Britain's top baked goods for teatime

1. Cheesecake
2. Chocolate cake
3. Carrot cake
4. Lemon drizzle
5. Victoria sponge
6. Bakewell tart
7. Doughnuts
8. Millionaire's shortbread
9. Lemon meringue pie
10. Coffee cake
11. Profiteroles
12. Brownies
13. Scones

5



14. Banoffee pie
15. Shortbread
16. Cinnamon buns
17. Fruit loaf
18. Cookies
19. Cupcakes
20. Flapjack
21. Red velvet cake
22. Banana bread
23. Swiss roll
24. Rocky road
25. Biscoff cheesecake

18



PM suffers biggest day of migrant crossings

Labour Party accused of 'throwing doors open' as Channel sees busiest small boat traffic of year so far

By **Albert Tait** *and* **Dominic Penna**

THE highest number of migrants since Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister crossed the Channel in a single day on Sunday.

A total of 703 people were detected making the crossing in 11 boats, according to provisional figures from the Home Office – the third highest daily number of 2024 so far. Total arrivals in small boats this year has now reached 18,342 – 13 per cent up on the same time last year, when it stood at 16,170. It was, however, 3 per cent lower than the total at this stage in 2022, when it was 18,978.

The highest number of migrants to arrive on a single day so far this year was 882, recorded on June 18, while the second highest was 711 on May 1.

There were 29,437 arrivals across the whole of last year, down 36 per cent on the record 45,774 arrivals in 2022.

Two people died in French waters while trying to cross the Channel on Sunday. It is understood others were rescued and taken back to France. French authorities are said to be leading the investigation into the deaths.

That came after Dame Margaret Hodge accused Labour of being "too frightened" to talk about immigration in the wake of recent riots. The Labour grandee, who stood down as the MP for Barking at the general election, said it was vital to show Britain can control its borders and urged the party to to take heed of voters' frustrations.

During the riots groups attempted to set fire to a hotel housing asylum seekers in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and dozens of masked thugs, many carrying England or Union flags, threw missiles at police.

Last month, Sir Keir warned that there were "no silver bullets" to solve the small boats crisis. He said he had been "left in a really difficult position" by Rishi Sunak, describing his focus on the Rwanda plan over other solutions as "a dereliction of duty". He killed off the Rwanda plan on his first day in No 10.

The Government has started work to create a Border Security Command, which would feature hundreds of new specialist investigators and is being funded by £75 million saved from scrapping the Rwanda scheme. Counter-terror powers are also being used to smash the people-trafficking gangs.

James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, and a Tory leadership candidate, said the figures showed Labour's approach to illegal migration "clearly isn't working". He said: "Since Labour ditched our deterrent, more and more boats are crossing the Channel with more and more people in them.

"They've sent the wrong signal, throwing the doors open instead of doing what is necessary to stop the dangerous crossings."

Robert Jenrick, a former immigration minister who is also running to become the Tory leader, said: "Studies show each [migrant] costs the taxpayer roughly £400,000 over their lifetime.

"So the cost of not having a border for one day was £281 million. Starmer's decision to scrap, rather than strengthen, the Rwanda plan will be a disaster."

Asked about the small boat figures, a No10 spokesman said: "We've been very clear that we know the summer is a challenging time and we expect to see increases ... we know that it's within these months the criminal gangs seek to exploit people, taking ever more dangerous tactics and approaches, and tragically we saw that yesterday.

"Tackling the gangs is one of the Government's first priorities and we're working at pace to deliver that objective. We've been very open ... that involves hard work with law enforcement agencies to bear down with them and work with our allies."

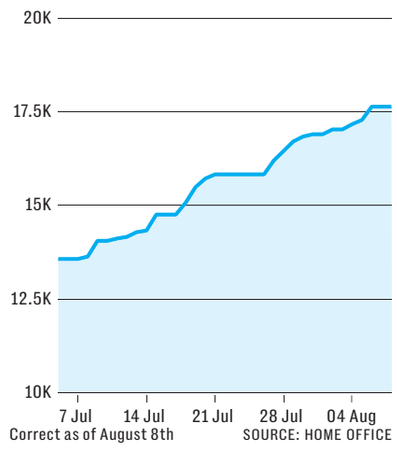
The spokesman likened the Government's approach to the response to the riots, saying a "methodical, evidence-led approach" has the best chance of success.

Asked whether efforts were "failing" because of Sir Keir cancelling the Rwanda scheme, he said: "We wouldn't agree with that."

No10 also downplayed suggestions that Sir Keir would make a keynote speech about migration in the coming week but added that legitimate migration concerns could not justify last week's lawlessness.

A busy summer for smugglers

Cumulative Channel migrant crossings per week since Sir Keir Starmer became PM



Correct as of August 8th
SOURCE: HOME OFFICE



Walk and talk James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, in Edinburgh with Baroness Davidson, a former Scottish Conservatives' leader. Mr Cleverly said on social media later: "Great to have Davidson support me and outline why she believes I would be the best person to lead the [party] back to government."

Badenoch liked twice as much as her Tory rivals

By **Genevieve Holl-Allen**
POLITICAL REPORTER

KEMI BADENOCH is almost twice as popular among the Tory grassroots as Jeremy Hunt, the next most popular shadow cabinet member, a new ConservativeHome poll has shown.

Mrs Badenoch, the shadow housing secretary and Tory leadership contender, came top of the shadow cabinet league table with a net satisfaction rating of 45 percentage points. Mr Hunt, the shadow chancellor, rated at 27.3. She also headed James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, who is also in the race and had an approval rating of 26.3.

The survey charting party members' views, the first by ConservativeHome since the Tories lost the election, cements Mrs Badenoch as the favourite to become the next Tory leader.

Other leadership hopefuls include Tom Tugendhat, the fifth most popular minister, with an approval rating of 14.2, and Mel Stride, on 14. Neither Robert Jenrick nor Dame Priti Patel, both also running for leader, are included in the poll because they are backbench MPs.

The poll has limited scope because of its relatively small sample size, but gives a sense of the mood among the Tory grassroots, who have the final say in who is chosen as leader.

The process to elect Rishi Sunak's successor involves a ballot of party members at the final stage after Tory MPs first whittle the six candidates down to a final two.

ConservativeHome surveys from the leadership contest in the summer of 2022 successfully predicted that Liz Truss would win against Mr Sunak among party members.

Mr Hunt's popularity has soared among the membership since he received a net satisfaction rating of minus 22 percentage points while serving as chancellor in May.

The Godalming and Ash MP has been vocally critical of Chancellor Rachel Reeves's statements on the national finances, and the £22 billion "black hole" inheritance she claims has been left by the Conservatives.

Mrs Badenoch's leadership campaign, Renewal 2030, has received the backing of Andrew Bowie, a fellow shadow cabinet member as well as a number of current and former MPs.

The 44-year-old served as business secretary and equalities minister while in government and has been an MP since 2017.

Khan's TfL fare dodger purge costs 20 times more than it saves

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

A CRACKDOWN on fare dodgers on London transport cost about 20 times more than it clawed back over the past year, figures show.

Transport for London (TfL) spent nearly £22 million tackling non-payment by passengers on its Underground and bus networks across the capital over the past 12 months. A freedom of information (FoI) request revealed that TfL spent £14.2 million on a revenue enforcement team to tackle fare evasion on the Tube, with a further £7.7 million spent on the bus network.

The organisation admitted that it did not know how much had been spent on the London Overground, Tram network or on the Elizabeth line because those services are operated by franchisees that outsource their enforcement teams.

TfL collected £1.3 million in penalty charges on Tubes and buses – with £638,520 on the London Underground and £707,272 on buses – the FoI inquiry revealed. TfL insisted it takes fare evasion "extremely seriously", adding that its crackdown "provides an important deterrent to potential fare evaders and helps ensure that around 96 per cent of our customers do pay their fares".

In a report last month, Andy Lord, TfL commissioner, said staff were "launching a new fare evasion poster on the network". He said that over the past year TfL investigations had identified 414 people who were habitually avoiding paying for their journeys, totalling more than £363,000 in avoided fares.

> 'We try to ensure that, wherever possible, fare evaders pay the cost not fare payers or taxpayers'

"One case identified an individual who had failed to correctly validate their contactless payment card 193 times, totalling more than £1,200 of unpaid fares," Mr Lord said. "The individual attended court in April and pleaded guilty to all charges. We also identified another individual who was avoiding fares by using a bank card that had insufficient funds.

"Analysis of the card's use showed a failure to validate on every journey made in over a year. We used CCTV footage to help find the offender. The individual attended court and pleaded guilty to all offences and was ordered to pay £1,796 to us."

A TfL spokesman said: "We try to ensure that wherever possible fare evaders themselves, not fare-paying customers or taxpayers, pay the cost of fare evasion.

"We know that our revenue protection work is a cost-effective investment which provides an important deterrent to potential fare evaders and helps ensure that around 96 per cent of our customers do pay their fares correctly.

The penalty charge for fare evasion is £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 21 days.

Israel accuses BBC presenter Mishal Husain of being 'pro-Palestinian reporter of the year'

Corporation's 'partial views on the war in Gaza has left Jews in the UK afraid to walk the streets'

By **Dominic Penna**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL has accused Mishal Husain, the BBC presenter, of pro-Palestinian bias in a row over the broadcaster's coverage of the Gaza conflict.

David Mencer, a spokesman for the Israeli government, repeatedly clashed with Ms Husain as she interviewed him on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

Mr Mencer accused the corporation of taking a "partial" approach to the war that has followed the Oct 7 attacks and said it had left British Jews "afraid to walk the streets". Towards the end of their exchange, Ms Husain asked the spokesman about the destruction of Palestinian homes as well as reports of Israelis posting selfies with blindfolded detainees.

Mr Mencer replied: "So is this your impression of impartial news coverage, Mishal? Because I think you just warrant the pro-Palestinian reporter of the year award, and I congratulate you for that.

"So these are the facts. We were attacked on Oct 7, not in a war that we wanted. We were invaded. They [Hamas] want to destroy our country, it's being controlled by Irna. We have a duty to defend our own people."

He insisted Israel would "always get people out of harm's way" and every civilian death was "a catastrophe".

Husain said that if Mr Mencer felt "that strongly", international media should be allowed greater access to Gaza.

> 'It ends up with cars going up the Finchley Road saying "Jews, we're going to rape your daughters"'

Responding to the criticisms of her interviewing, Husain said: "They're questions. You're speaking for the Israeli government.

"Your job is to answer the questions, not attack the questions. What's the answer to the torture camps of Palestinians?"

Mr Mencer went on to say there was "no such thing", adding the Israeli government had needed to "make accommodations... for tens of thousands of terrorists."

Asked by Ms Husain "accommodating them by torturing them?", Mr Mencer said: "That is an appalling accusation, and without any evidence."

Ms Husain pointed to claims made by human rights bodies including B'Tselem, a Jerusalem-based organisation. The group alleged last week that Palestinian prisoners had been systematically tortured and abused since Oct 7.

"You producing reports on this war, one-sidedly without context, it ends up with attacks on Jews on the streets of Britain," Mr Mencer said.

"It ends up with cars going up the Finchley Road saying 'Jews, we're going to rape your daughters'. That is the result of partial reporting.

"You pandering to fringe elements within Israeli society, that have every right to speak their minds... That doesn't make it fact, that doesn't make it so. You guys just parroting it just produces radicalism that makes Jews in the UK afraid to walk the streets."

A survey in December found more than three quarters of Jewish people believed the BBC's coverage of the war in Gaza was biased against Israel.

The corporation has said it holds itself to "high standards of impartial reporting" and repeatedly rejected suggestions of any bias. Last year it described the conflict as a "challenging and polarising story to cover" and committed itself to providing impartial reporting for audiences both in Britain and worldwide.

Mr Mencer also accused the BBC of relying too heavily on casualty data provided by the Gazan health ministry after an Israeli air strike on a school building over the weekend.

The Hamas-controlled authorities said between 80 and 100 people had died in a 4.30am strike, a number Israel claimed was "massively inflated". "There is a track record of Hamas giving bogus figures," Mr Mencer said.

Ms Husain said if Mr Mencer felt "that strongly", media should be allowed greater access to Gaza "so that we can make our own assessments" from hospitals, morgues and schools.

In December, Ms Husain was challenged by Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister at the time, over her failure to ask him about Israeli hostages taken by Hamas. The BBC was contacted for comment.



Mishal Husain rejected the Israeli claims, saying the media needed to be given better access to Gaza

Three years and five missed opportunities to tackle Nottingham killer's violent psychosis

Litany of errors, omissions, and officials' misjudgments identified in lead-up to stabbing of three people

By **Michael Searles**
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MENTAL health services missed five opportunities to deal with the Nottingham killer's violent psychosis over a three-year period, the health watchdog has found.

A report into the care of Valdo Calocane by the NHS found a litany of "errors, omissions, and misjudgments" in the lead-up to him killing Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both aged 19, and caretaker Ian Coates, 65 in June last year.

Calocane was "acutely unwell" and had been diagnosed with psychosis and paranoid schizophrenia in July 2020. He had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act on four separate occasions.

The families of the victims have said the departments and staff at Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT) responsible for his care had "blood on their hands".

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) identified at least five missed opportunities by mental health services to deal with Calocane's violent psychosis.

Calocane allowed to reject drugs
It had been well documented throughout Calocane's care that he regularly failed to take medication prescribed for his paranoid schizophrenia. He had also rejected therapy and was in denial about his condition. medicine and did not believe he was unwell.

On three of the four occasions he was detained in hospital, doctors considered giving him a long-lasting antipsychotic injection but chose not to because he preferred oral medication.

Such injections release medicine slowly so it lasts in the body for weeks and is recommended for patients who do not comply with taking their medicine, such as Calocane.

The CQC said there was a missed opportunity to change his medication and being sectioned "presented the possibility of changing his medicine to be able to treat his symptoms more robustly".

It said doctors "did not adequately balance" Calocane's wishes with the knowledge that he did not take his medication, which had been made clear by carers in the community and the police, who found six months' supply in his house.

No psychological intervention
The first missed opportunity to stop episodes of violent psychosis occurred on the first day he was arrested and assessed.

Calocane was arrested after breaking into a neighbour's flat believing his mother was being raped there, but then released with a prescription after a mental health assessment.

He was then arrested an hour later after breaking into another neighbour's flat where a woman was so terrified she jumped out of the first-floor flat window, severely injuring herself.

He was sectioned for the first time, but while it was known he was psychotic, the hospital failed to give him a psychological assessment or provide any intervention, which is recommended by medical guidelines.

Staff failed to educate him on relapses, his condition or medication despite him struggling to come to terms with it, the CQC said.

Release into community not planned
After his third admission to hospital under the Mental Health Act and subsequent release, the hospital missed an opportunity to discuss with other care teams why he continued to relapse and needed repeated sectioning.

The CQC said a meeting between doctors, psychologists and carers in the community, would have allowed them to come up with a better plan for his care and establish why his treatment plan was not working.

This could have involved considering the use of a long-lasting antipsychotic medicine to tackle his symptoms, or a community treatment order (CTO) that would have given them the power to force him to take his medicine and attend appointments, for which the report found "there was a clear indication".

Failed to force treatment on him
In January 2022 Calocane was sectioned for the fourth time but only under section 2 rather than section 3 of the Mental Health Act. Detention under section 2 allowed staff to hold Calocane for up to 28 days. However, they could not force him to take his medication.

The watchdog said this was a missed opportunity because under section 3 they could have forced him to take long-lasting antipsychotic injections against his will and kept him in hospital for up to six months. It would have also allowed for a CTO to be given, whereby he would live in a designated place, and if he did not take his medication or attend appointments, he could be easily detained again.

Lost track and discharged him
The final missed opportunity to deal with his condition came when the hospital handed his care back to his GP. After losing touch with him and not having an updated address the community team discharged him for "non-engagement". They did this despite evidence "beyond any real doubt" that he would relapse into aggressive and intrusive behaviour and without consulting the GP or police.

The CQC said staff had failed to inform his GP of the known "risk of him not taking his medicine and the possibility of him having a psychotic relapse as a result".







Top, Grace O'Malley-Kumar, who was stabbed to death by Valdo Calocane, above. Left, his mother Celeste and brother Elias. Inset right, Calocane as a boy



Disturbing reading
Reactions to the report

Victims' families
This report demonstrates gross, systematic failures in the mental health trust in their dealings with Calocane, from beginning to end. Along with the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire police forces, these departments and individual professionals have blood on their hands. Alarmingly, there seems to be little or no accountability amongst the senior management team within the mental health trust. We question how and why these people are still in position.

Wes Streeting
This report makes for distressing reading, especially for those living with the consequences of their loss in the knowledge that their untimely deaths were avoidable. Action is already underway to address the serious failures identified by the CQC and I expect regular progress reports from the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Celeste Calocane, Valdo's mother
There's a lot of Valdos out there at the moment and if we haven't got capacity to care for them I don't know what's going to happen. The system is not fit for purpose.

Warning signs Valdo Calocane's encounters with officials before Nottingham stabbings

May 24, 2020
Valdo Calocane's first arrest. He is sent home following mental health assessment. He was re-arrested one hour after discharge
May 25, 2020
First detention under section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA) at Highbury Hospital
June 17, 2020
He is discharged to crisis resolution home treatment team (CRHT). On June 30, his care is moved to the early intervention in psychosis (EIP) team.
July 11, 2020
Calocane's family contacts EIP team with concerns about his mental health (concerns recorded but no contact attempted)
July 14, 2020
Police incident leads to second detention under the MHA (section 3) at Highbury Hospital
July 31, 2020
Discharged from hospital to CRHT. His care is moved to the EIP team
Oct 9 & 24, 2020
Two contacts by Calocane's family are followed up by the EIP team
May 23, 2021
Concerns raised by Calocane's family and followed up by crisis team on the phone
Aug 19, 2021
Calocane's condition is noted to be deteriorating. He engages with care services until August 2021, but concerns are noted around him taking his medicine
Sep 11, 2021
Police officers execute a warrant under the Mental Health Act at Calocane's home after he evades contact with the community team. Police find a bag of unused medication and Calocane assaults an officer. He is taken to a place of safety under section 2 of the Mental Health Act.
Oct 1, 2021
Calocane moved to independent hospital under section 3 of the Mental Health Act.
Oct 22, 2021
Discharged back into community. His family contacted the EIP team expressing dissatisfaction at not being informed that he was being discharged. The discharge happened on a Friday with no crisis home treatment team input arranged over the weekend. The EIP team attempted to make a referral to the CRHT but they were unable to accept Calocane owing to capacity.
Jan 18, 2022
Detained at a place of safety following alleged assault on fellow student. The following day he was assessed for detention under the Mental Health Act but not detained as the assessing doctor felt he could be managed in the community and was not detainable.
Jan 28, 2022
Fourth hospital admission at Highbury Hospital under section 2 of the Mental Health Act. He is discharged back to the EIP team on Feb 24
April 28, 2022
Care coordination transferred from long-standing care coordinator to two community psychiatric nurses owing to concerns he may pose a risk
Sep 23, 2022
Discharged back to GP owing to non-engagement.
September 2022
Nottinghamshire Police issue a warrant for his arrest after he fails to appear in court in connection with the assault charge.
May 2023
Five weeks before he kills three people, Calocane attacks two people at the warehouse in which he was working.



Calocane was seen outside a care home trying to break in after he stabbed three people on the morning of June 13 last year

Girl, 11, in hospital after West End stabbing

Child put in a headlock and repeatedly knifed, according to witnesses of mid-morning horror attack

By **Janet Eastham**

AN 11-year-old girl has been taken to hospital after she and her mother were stabbed by a stranger in the West End.

The Metropolitan Police said officers went to the scene of a stabbing in Leicester Square, London, where the girl and a 34-year-old were attacked. A witness described the attacker putting the child in a headlock and stabbing her repeatedly.

The force said a man had been arrested and was in custody. Police do not believe the suspect knew the victims and said they did not believe the attack to be terror-related. The girl and the woman have been taken to hospital and their condition is not yet known.

It is the latest knife attack in the UK after the fatal stabbing of three girls at a dance workshop in Southport on July 29.

Abdullah, 29, a security guard at the nearby TWG Tea Shop, claimed he "jumped on" and wrestled a knife from the attacker. He said: "I heard a scream, at that moment I saw there was one person, roughly mid-30s or early 30s, and he was like stabbing a kid. I jumped on him, held the hand in which he was [carrying] a knife, and just put him down on the floor and just held him and took the knife away from him.

"Then a couple of more people joined as well, and we just held him until the police came, it took maybe three to four minutes for the police to arrive and then they just took him into custody."

He said he and his colleagues had given first aid to the child before the police arrived, adding: "I just saw a kid getting stabbed and I just tried to save her. It's my duty to just save them."

He added that he did not know whether the girl was with family members at the time.

Desmond, 45, a street performer who witnessed the stabbing, said he saw a young, white male wearing a black T-shirt and jeans attack the pair. He said the knifeman focused the attack on the girl, putting her in a headlock and stabbing her. Desmond, who performs as Darth Vader on the square "every day", told *The Telegraph* that he was standing outside the Lego store when the stabbing took place.

He said: "I was looking forwards, and when I heard the screaming I had to turn to the side. And when I looked he [the assailant] was attacking the little girl. He was stabbing her with a knife."

Before Desmond could get down off his stand, he said two men who appeared to be passing by intervened.

He said: "The two boys who were passing, they rushed the [attacker], and pushed him to the ground. And the police got there really quickly and handcuffed him and put him in a van."

When police arrived, Desmond told *The Telegraph* that the attacker did not resist as he was put in handcuffs: "He was not fighting or struggling with them, he was not struggling at all."

Rahul, a security guard at Gregg's, said: "I was inside, but I came outside when I heard the noise of the girl crying 'mummy, mummy'. There was a lot of blood, when I went there. On the girl and on her hands."

The manager of a tour bus company kiosk who noticed the suspect more than an hour before the stabbing said he appeared mentally disturbed and "like a homeless man".

Abu Tauhid, manager of the Leicester Square Tootbus kiosk, told *The Telegraph* that the suspect's behaviour caught his eye because he was "standing around" and "talking to himself".

"When I first noticed him around 10am, I saw him standing there outside the M&M store and he was roaming around talking to himself," he said. "He looked like a kind of homeless guy." He added: "Because I've worked here for a long, long time, so I know all the homeless people around here. But today is first time I saw him."

Mr Tauhid added: "He was standing there looking around for a long time. So you can understand that his mental stability appeared questionable."

An hour and a half later, Mr Tauhid noticed the police activity. "Around 11.30 I saw lots of police coming. And then I went down there to see what happened. And then I saw the police arrest him," he said.

Footage of the scene shared with *The Telegraph* shows a man wearing a black T-shirt with what appears to be an Abbey Road logo and black tracksuit trousers. The two officers are seen pinning his arms behind his back.

Det Chief Supt Christina Jessah, in charge of policing for Westminster, said: "This is a horrific incident and our thoughts are with the victims and their family. We will continue to provide support to them over the coming days and weeks."

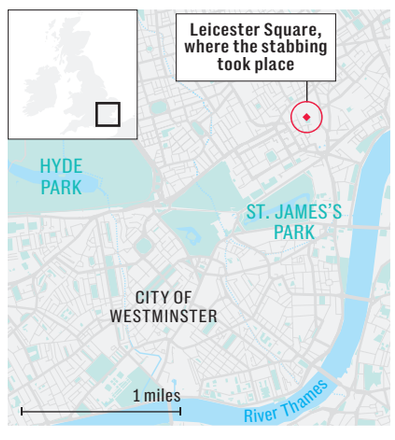
She added: "While we continue to work to establish the suspect's motive, at this stage there is nothing to indicate the attack was terror-related. Detectives will be keen to speak to anyone who was in the area and may have information that can assist with enquiries.



MARCIN NOWAK/LNP

TWG TEA SHOP

'I heard a scream, I saw there was one person and he was stabbing a kid'



Abdullah, who works nearby, said he jumped on the attacker, wrestling the knife from him



Farage: Starmer poses 'biggest threat to free speech in history'

By **Dominic Penna**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR KEIR STARMER poses the "biggest threat to free speech" in British history, Nigel Farage has claimed.

The Reform UK leader accused the Prime Minister of wanting to use the recent riots to potentially restrict civil liberties with new legislation.

Sir Keir is considering placing a duty on social media companies to restrict "legal but harmful" content, while children as young as five will be taught to spot fake news online.

After the Southport stabbings last month, Mr Farage speculated over whether the "truth is being withheld" amid online speculation about the identity of the suspect.

Far-Right riots in the Merseyside town were sparked by false claims that the killer of the three young girls was an asylum seeker who arrived in Britain last year. Speaking to Fox News on Sunday, Mr Farage said: "Nobody should use any social media platform to genuinely spread hate or incitement to violence, and that free speech rule I think all of us would support and agree with.

"But what we are allowed to do on social media, or should be allowed to do, is to speculate, is to ask questions, is to try to put facts out, to put facts out that wake up the rest of the community.

"And when you're engaged in something like that, you can never guarantee that what you say is 100 per cent true ....

"Now, Starmer, by cracking down on that, poses, I think, the biggest threat to free speech we've seen in our history."

Mr Farage said that while he was a believer in critical thinking, he was concerned about the way in which it could be taught to schoolchildren.

"If the parameters that are set are to say to every kid, if you read a post that questions net zero and global warming, it will be extreme content, and a lie, if you read a post that even dares to question levels of immigration, legal or illegal into Britain, that that's extremist, then you start to set a narrative for a future generation that is fundamentally undemocratic.

"So I am very worried that the instincts of a Left-wing Labour Party are to use this crisis to take away our liberties and our free speech, and this is going to have to be fought."

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, has said schools will use lessons to "arm" pupils against "putrid conspiracy theories".

Downing Street flatly denied that Sir Keir was the biggest threat to free speech the UK has seen.

A No10 spokesman said: "He would disagree with that completely.

"Our focus is on working with the social media companies to ensure that what is illegal offline is illegal online, as it should be."

Asked if he was worried he could be arrested in a crackdown on disinformation, Mr Farage said: "Yeah. And this is why I think this is incredibly dangerous."

Boy, 12, 'more involved in riots than anyone' as courts continue to convict violent trouble-makers

By **Albert Tait** *and* **Neil Johnston**

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy who attended two different riots was "more involved in the violence and disorder than any other defendant I've seen coming through these courts, adult or child", a judge has said.

The boy, and another of the same age who was convicted over a different riot, are the youngest people to be charged after disorder across the country,

He pleaded guilty to two charges of violent disorder yesterday at Manchester Magistrates' Court, sitting as a youth court, where prosecutors said he was part of a group that gathered on July 31 outside a Holiday Inn hotel housing asylum seekers.

Tess Kenyon, prosecuting, said the schoolboy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was "seen in footage handing a rock to another youth during the disorder" and was part of a group that attacked a bus.

"He kicks the bus at the side as it drove past him," Ms Kenyon added.

During subsequent disorder in Manchester city centre three days later on Aug 3, Ms Kenyon said the boy was "filmed by police kicking the front window of a vape shop" and was "seen to throw a missile at a police van".

District Judge Joanne Hirst said the case was "very serious", adding it was the first she had dealt with a person "attending both incidents" of disorder.

"He's more involved in the violence and disorder than any other defendant I've seen coming through these courts, adult or child," she added.

The boy was remanded to local authority accommodation and will be sentenced at Manchester Magistrates' Court in September.

Meanwhile, another 12-year-old boy was convicted over a riot in Southport on July 30, after pleading guilty to violent disorder.

The schoolboys are among nearly 1,000 people who have been arrested over the riots. The National Police Chiefs' Council said that as of Aug 11, 975 people had been arrested and 546 charged in the wake of the disorder.

Rioting by far-Right mobs erupted following the deaths of Alice da Silva Aguiar, nine, Bebe King, six, and Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, who were killed on July 29 at a Taylor Swift-themed dance workshop in Southport.

In the hours before the first riot, misinformation had spread online including false claims the suspect was a Muslim migrant who had arrived in a small boat.

Thomas Rogers, 22, who hurled a vacuum cleaner through a Nigerian student's window and later told a police officer "I hope your kids get raped" was jailed for two years and two months for taking a lead role in the rioting, which hit Middlesbrough on Aug 4. In Southampton, a grandfather was jailed after running straight at a police officer "like a rhino" while wearing an England flag.

Ryan Wheatley, 40, admitted running into Sergeant Rob Perry at the demonstration in Southampton on Aug 7. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, half to be spent in custody and the rest on licence.

Others were sentenced for false claims online, including Dimitrie Stoica, who was jailed for three months for posting a TikTok video in which he said he was being chased during a riot.

The 35-year-old Romanian father posted a video which showed him running and saying: "I am running bro because they are running after me. They're coming. Everyone get back."

Appearing at Southern Derbyshire Magistrates' Court, he said the video was a "joke" and he had hoped to get more followers.

In South Yorkshire, a haulage boss who took part in "extremely frightening" riots outside a hotel housing asylum seekers in Rotherham was jailed for two years and eight months.

Ricky Hardman, 41, from Barnsley, was arrested after a picture of him brandishing a piece of wood during the disorder on Sunday Aug 4 was published in a national newspaper, a judge was told.

Recorder of Sheffield Judge Jeremy Richardson KC told Hardman: "There's no question the disorder was racist in character and extremely frightening for anyone who was there."

Ricky Hardman, right, was jailed over a picture of him brandishing a piece of wood during the disorder

'There's no question the disorder was racist in character and extremely frightening'


JOEL GOODMAN/LNP

Whole body deodorants are a hot topic

By **Janet Eastham**

DEODORANT for the whole body may be the answer for those struggling on the hottest day of the year.

Major hygiene brands have flooded the US market with whole body deodorants in the past few months with many firms planning to make these products available in the UK by next year.

One already for sale here is AKT London, launched by two former West End performers who found that no deodorant would keep them fresh during a week of performances wearing the same costumes.

Andy Coxon and Ed Currie met while performing in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

Coxon told *The Telegraph*: "It was here performing eight shows a week under hot lights in the same costumes we realised no deodorant was working."

The pair resorted to making their own product at home, resulting in AKT London's whole-body deodorant balm intended for use "from head to toe".

Whole-body deodorant is already popular in the US, provided by big brands such as Dove, operated by Unilever.

Research previously showed people often using deodorant intended for underarms on other parts of the body including the groin, feet and chest.

Megan Smith, senior manager of personal care R&D at Unilever, said: "We're finding that people are just struggling with body odour in general.

"Men are focused around their chest and private areas but for women, it's under bras."



JULIE SMITH/STORY PICTURE AGENCY

In the pink The Northern Lights make an appearance behind Rothley Castle in Northumberland. In a week of increased geomagnetic activity, the Perseid meteor shower was set to be at its peak last night with about 100 shooting stars an hour.

Pack a nappy to keep valuables safe at beach

By **Madeleine Ross**

BEACHGOERS are hiding valuables in nappies on trips to the beach to stop them being stolen, an insurer has said.

Half of beachgoers hide items such as watches or jewellery in their towel or clothes, with another 37 per cent choosing to conceal belongings in their beach bag, according to a survey of 2,000 people by Churchill, the insurer.

More than a tenth of people – 12 per cent – wrap their valuables in a nappy, it found, while others have opted to hide their possession in fake sun cream bottles and hollow hairbrushes.

The nappy trick has taken off on social media, with one viral video of the "hack" earning more than 570,000 likes on TikTok. The video shows a female influencer wrapping jewellery and money in a clean nappy before rubbing chocolate sauce on the outside to make it look as if it had been used, in an attempt to deter would-be thieves.

Maria Lawrence, of Churchill Home Insurance, said the nappy trick had blown up on social media platforms but warned against using "hacks as there is always the risk with a viral trend that criminals will know where valuables may be hidden".

As many as 2.7 million Britons have had items stolen from a UK beach in the past year, at a cost of £438 million. The average cost of a stolen item is £162.

Another 4.2 million admitted losing personal belongings in the sand or sea, with the average value of lost items adding up to nearly £109, the research found.

How a bowl of water can air-con your home

Placing dishes near open windows and not boiling the kettle can help cool the house as temperature rises

By **Emma Gatten**

KEEPING bowls of water around the house helps it stay cool, experts have said on the hottest day of the year.

Highs of 34.8C were recorded in Cambridge, 27C in Birmingham and 22C in Edinburgh, prompting warnings that people could become sick in their homes. Nearly one in 10 people has reported experiencing hot-house syndrome, according to new figures from campaigners.

They urge households to keep bowls of water around, particularly near a breeze, as they can cool the air through evaporation in a method similar to an air conditioner.

They also suggest people limit their use of appliances such as kettles and fridges, which can create extra heat.

Opening the door causes fridges to use more energy to get temperatures back down inside, creating more heat from the back of the appliance.

Curtains and windows should be kept shut during the hottest part of the day, the campaigners said. Caroline Abrahams, director of Age UK, said it was key to keep the home cool during the day to make it easier to sleep at night.

"As we are starting to have more of this rather extreme heat by our standards, certainly by the standards of what many older people will remember, it's worth looking at what they do in the Mediterranean," she said.

"Closing blinds and windows [and] keeping the home dark, stops all that heat coming in through the day. Then, in the evening when it's cooler, do the reverse."

She added that people should be careful about using their conservatories during the hottest weather because of the risk of overheating.

"There will be lots of people who will have saved up for a conservatory and are enjoying it in their retirement but it's something that is perhaps starting to become not quite so useful."

The research was carried out by Opinium for Warm This Winter, a campaign group that is calling for more support for better insulation, ventilation and heat pumps, which it says can also help keep homes cool in the summer.

"The complications arising from being too warm are especially dangerous among those with pre-existing health conditions and can contribute to summer being as dangerous to health as the winter in some cases," said Dr Isobel Braithwaite, public health doctor and housing researcher. "Without action, high temperatures will herald health fears for millions," she warned.

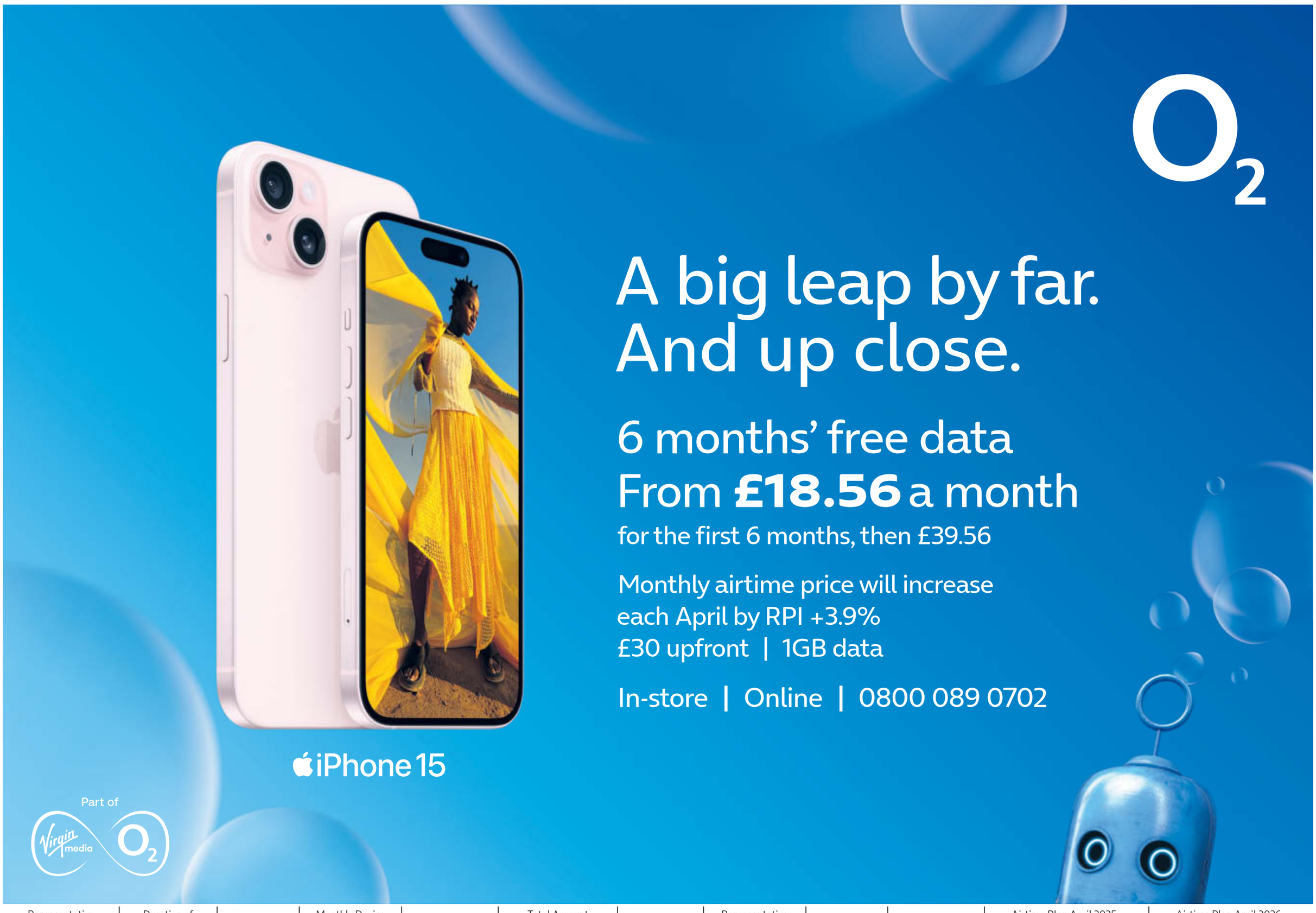
Hot weather can exacerbate conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while extreme heat can also cause heart attacks and strokes, the campaigners said.

High-pressure winds drawing in warm air from Europe have caused temperatures to climb but cooler weather and rain is expected later in the week.

Weather: Page 28

Beat the heat Simple steps to keeping the house cool

- Use a fan. It costs only about 3p per hour.
- Keep windows shut and curtains closed in rooms that get the sun.
- Keep bowls of water around your home.
- Spend more time in north-facing rooms in the home, which tend to be cooler.
- Minimise use of kettles, ovens and fridges.
- On humid nights, use a sheet instead of a duvet.
- Put feet in cool water or a cold towel over your shoulders to cool your body.



Representative Example	Duration of Device Plan	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable for Device	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Cash Price	Airtime Plan	Airtime Plan April 2025 - March 2026	Airtime Plan April 2026 - March 2027
iPhone 15	36 months	£30	£18.56	£668.32	£698.32	0%	0%	£698.32	£21	£21 + RPI announced in Feb 2025 + 3.9% = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2026 +3.9%

RPI rate is the Retail Price Index rate of inflation announced in February each year. Pay £0 airtime for the first 6 months then rolling monthly airtime plan from month 7 for the remainder of your contract. £30 upfront payment required and monthly device plan payment of £18.56 per month applies for the duration of your contract. 6 months £0 airtime offer does not apply to Ultimate tariffs. Subject to availability. Ends 19 September 2024. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. **O2 Refresh custom plans**: Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months (excludes dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. There may be an upfront cost. You can pay off your Device Plan at any time and choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or leave. If you are in the first 24 months of your Device Plan and you cancel your Airtime Plan you will have to pay the remainder of your Device Plan in full. After 24 months you can keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or end it without affecting your Device Plan. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, RG2 6UU. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms

Thorpe took own life after depression 'made him a changed man'



IAN JONES

Above, Graham Thorpe with his wife Amanda and daughters Kitty and Emma. Thorpe played cricket for England, left, from 1993 to 2005

'He was not the same person. It was strange to see this person trapped in the body of Dad'

Family reveals tortured England cricketer believed everyone would be better off if he was not around

By **Tom Morgan** *and* **Will Macpherson**

GRAHAM THORPE, a former England cricketer, died after being struck by a train, it emerged yesterday.

An inquest is due to open today into Thorpe's death, after his family revealed that the 55-year-old took his own life following a long battle with depression and anxiety.

Telegraph Sport understands that Thorpe died last Sunday morning after being hit by a train not far from his home in east Surrey. A spokesman for the Surrey coroner said: "We can confirm that the coroner has received a referral for a Mr Graham Thorpe from the British Transport Police.

"A post mortem examination has been undertaken and Mr Thorpe's body released to his family."

Thorpe made an attempt on his life in May 2022, just four months after the end of his last involvement with English cricket, as assistant coach to the men's national team on an Ashes tour of Australia. Details of mental health struggles were not made public, with his family issuing a request for privacy.

In an interview with *The Times*, Thorpe's wife, Amanda, said: "For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety.

"Mental illness is a real disease and can affect anyone. Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better.

"He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life."

Thorpe's family, according to his 22-year-old daughter Kitty, want to "raise awareness" for the battles he was fighting, but also ensure Thorpe is not defined by them. "It was heartbreaking to see how withdrawn he had become," she said. "He was not the same person. It was strange to see this person trapped in the body of Dad."

The tributes to Thorpe have referenced the struggles he suffered following the breakdown of his first marriage, to Nicola, with whom he had the first two of his four children. He once said: "There came a time when I would have given back all my Test runs and Test caps just to be happy again." He took breaks from the game, notably in 2003, when he spoke about spending months alone at home with the curtains drawn, drinking and smoking.

Thorpe found great contentment with Amanda and in coaching as a batting mentor to England greats such as Joe Root and Ben Stokes, who were among those to pay tribute this week.

He was England assistant coach in 2019, when they won their first men's ODI World Cup. But it was no secret that Thorpe, who had always possessed an anti-establishment streak, struggled with lockdown and the biosecure bubbles in which cricket was played during the pandemic. As Britain briefly emerged from the first lockdown in summer 2020, players and staff were locked down at the Rose Bowl near Southampton, then Old Trafford in Manchester, for matches that stretched their love of the game but ensured that English cricket could "keep the lights on", according to Tom Harrison, the chief executive at the time. That winter, there were tours to South Africa, India and Sri Lanka.



By the time England travelled to Australia, many were at the end of their tether. They were no longer in full lockdown, but they had to quarantine on arrival in Brisbane for the first Test, and were routinely subject to invasive testing. Thorpe was placed in charge of the team for the fourth Test in Sydney when Chris Silverwood tested positive. "It becomes an unnecessary distraction," Thorpe said of the Covid protocols. "I do understand it: Australia is in a very different situation. I'd like to think cricket can find a way around it. England have played a lot of cricket, as well. A lot of our players have been in these conditions and this environment for a while. Looking after their mental state of mind is very important as well.

"That's always been lingering in the back [of players' minds]... The constant testing, day in day out, is a distraction."

The Sydney Test was the only one England did not lose on that tour. His instructions to the players were "to go to the beach and have a swim". Asked about his training sessions, he said: "I've had to let them off a little bit. Enjoy what they're doing. Have fun. Get that tension out of the body."

Sydney was his penultimate Test with England. In Hobart, England were drubbed, completing an ignominious tour. As the sun came up the morning after, at the tail end of a drinking session between the two sides, Thorpe lit up a cigar indoors at the team hotel, which led to the police being called. When they arrived, Thorpe filmed them "just for the lawyers". He had sent the video to just a couple of close friends, but it ended up on the *Sydney Morning Herald*'s website. Thorpe was mortified, contacting players individually to apologise for his part in the negative publicity at the end of a long, joyless tour.

At a time when the game was facing questions over every aspect of its culture, the incident sealed Thorpe's fate, and he was the third senior figure fired in three early February days: first managing director Ashley Giles, then Silverwood, finally Thorpe. A veteran of 30 years in the ruthless world of Ashes cricket, Thorpe was said to be understanding of the situation. He was pipped to the head coach's role at Middlesex by Richard Johnson, before being appointed head coach of Afghanistan in late March 2022. He never took the job, as a result of his first attempt on his life.

'He was so unwell in recent times – he really did believe that we would be better off without him'

English cricket slipped into action to support Thorpe. He was cared for by the NHS for weeks, then with the help of the Professional Cricketers' Association, his county Surrey, the charity Sporting Chance,and more local NHS resources, further mental health provision was sought.

Through it all, Amanda said "there were glimpses of hope and of the old Graham".

Welby 'clearly wrong' for blacklisting gender critical chaplain

By **Hayley Dixon**
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury was "plainly wrong" in dismissing concerns about the blacklisting of a gender-critical chaplain, a leading lawyer working for the church has ruled.

The Reverend Dr Bernard Randall, 52, has been barred from preaching for five years after he gave a sermon at a private school telling children that they could question teaching on LGBT relationships.

He lost his job as chaplain of Trent College in Nottingham, was reported to Prevent, a terrorism watchdog group, and was ruled by the Church of England to be a risk to children. Despite being cleared of wrongdoing over the 2019 sermon, he is barred from preaching as a result of a decision by the Bishop of Derby, the Right Reverend Libby Lane, the church's first female bishop.

The archbishop, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, has repeatedly refused to allow Dr Randall to bring a misconduct case against Bishop Lane, despite being told by a KC that this decision was "plainly wrong".

In judgments seen by *The Telegraph*, Gregory Jones KC, reviewing the case on behalf of the clergy discipline tribunal, said Dr Randall's case was "egregious" and the Church's "error gross".

Dr Randall told *The Telegraph*: "In my case, safeguarding has been weaponised as a political tool against a theological position which is wholly consistent with the Church's doctrine.

"I have been vindicated by a number of secular bodies, but the CofE, who, on paper, share my beliefs and should be supporting me, are refusing to give me my life back."

In a sermon following training from a trans rights group, Dr Randall quoted a question for a student asking why they "have to accept all this LGBT stuff in a Christian school".

Previously a university chaplain at Cambridge, Dr Randall said that he advocated a "balanced debate: freedom of conscience". He found himself sacked for gross misconduct before being reinstated on appeal and given a warning. During Covid he was made redundant.

But Dr Randall has said that he is unable to get another job because Bishop Lane has refused to grant him a licence or a permission to officiate without him going through a risk assessment.

The refusal was made after her safeguarding team concluded that he could pose a risk of harm to children. The group did not claim that the sermon was against Anglican doctrine.

But it raised concerns about how Dr Randall "would speak to and support someone who came to him if they were struggling with their sexuality."

Dr Randall made a complaint on the basis that proceedings were flawed and Bishop Lane "discriminated against me on the grounds of my orthodox beliefs on gender and sexual orientation."

But the case has been blocked by the archbishop, who said that while there were "lessons in this case" there is "insufficient substance" for a case against Bishop Lane. Dr Randall has twice appealed, with Mr Jones saying the archbishop's decision was "plainly wrong" in places and he had "misunderstood the scope of his powers".

Dame Sarah Asplin, president of Tribunals, ruled that while there were "serious errors", Bishop Lane personally did not have a case to answer. She said that the diocese "should look at this matter again and that it might well be appropriate" for an independent team to start from scratch.

Since that judgment in February, Dr Randall has said that he has heard nothing and is now launching a judicial review against Dame Sarah's decision.

Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, which supports the case, said: "Even Jesus, let alone Bernard Randall, would have fallen foul of the Derby dioceses approach to safeguarding and would have been marked a risk to children."

The Church of England and Diocese of Derby said that they could not comment on the matter during an ongoing legal case.

Sepsis victim, 4, sent home three times as hospital staff advised taking Calpol

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy died of sepsis after allegedly being sent home from hospital and told to take Calpol.

Daniel Klosi was taken to north London's Royal Free Hospital four times in the week before his death but was discharged on the first three occasions by medical staff. His parents, Lindita Alushi and Kastriot Klosi, claim that doctors advised them to give their son Calpol and Ibuprofen during the second and third visits.

On the fourth visit, Daniel, who had autism, was admitted to the children's emergency department with sepsis and died hours later.

The couple have enlisted help from specialist medical negligence lawyers at Irwin Mitchell and the inquest into Daniel's death is due to start today at Poplar Coroner's Court.

The inquest is expected to last two days and the family hope it will provide some much-needed answers.

Ms Alushi, a pharmacy assistant and qualified doctor in her native Albania, said: "Daniel was the most adorable little boy and we were so blessed that he was our son. He loved cooking and baking with me.

"He loved animals, listening to stories and playing with his friends. Daniel was very inquisitive and curious," she said. "He was just an absolute delight.

"We kept taking him to hospital and were really concerned about his condition but nothing can prepare you for being told your little boy has died.

"That day our family changed forever. Our days are filled with distress, emptiness and sorrow."

Daniel's parents first took him to A&E at the Royal Free Hospital on March 26 2023. He was sent home only a couple of hours after arriving. Four nights later they returned, concerned about Daniel's breathing, and he was discharged in the early hours the next morning.

Daniel's parents continued to be concerned. They said he had stopped eating, and they took him back on April 1 but they were sent home yet again.

They finally returned with Daniel at around 4pm that day and, after around four hours waiting in A&E he was admitted. However, his condition deteriorated, and he died in the early hours of Sunday April 2.

Lindita Alushi and Kastriot Klosi, right, with their son Daniel, say they were sent away by hospital staff on three occasions

'Time has stood still for us because of the many unanswered questions about Daniel'

Ms Alushi, 44, said: "While time has moved on it has stood still for our family because of the many unanswered questions around what happened to Daniel. Every day we wonder if more could have been done to save our little boy. ... we know that hearing everything again at the inquest will be incredibly difficult but it's something we need to do to honour our son and get the answers we've been seeking for more than a year."

Lucy Macklin, the medical negligence lawyer representing the couple, said: "Attempting to come to terms with Daniel's death and the events leading up to it has been incredibly difficult for Lindita and Kastriot ... understandably, they continue to have many questions.

"If during the course of the hearing issues in the care that Daniel received are identified, it's vital lessons are learnt to improve patient safety for others."

A spokesperson for the Royal Free Hospital said: "We are deeply saddened by the death of Daniel and, once again, would like to send our sincere condolences to his family."



IRWIN MITCHELL / SWNS

Grouse off menu after an Inglorious Twelfth

Restaurants unwilling to charge diners £70 as shortage of birds sees retail rates go sky high

By **Daniel Sanderson**
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

GROUSE has been taken off the menu for many restaurants on yesterday's Glorious Twelfth after a shortage of birds sent prices soaring to £70.

London restaurateurs said they had been quoted extortionate prices for a single bird, leaving them unable to honour a tradition in which birds shot in Yorkshire or Scotland on the morning of the start of shooting season would be sold that night.

An unusually cold breeding season was blamed for the shortage, which has led some sporting estates to cancel shoots altogether.

Others offered only "walked up" grouse shoots, rather than "driven" shooting where birds are flushed out of hiding into the sights of waiting guns, a method that typically leads to far more being killed.

Gary Foulkes, chef-patron of the Cornus restaurant in Belgravia, said the prices quoted would have meant a menu price of up to £70.

He told the Restaurant Online website that he had been told by his game supplier "not to bother" putting grouse on his menu this year.

Meanwhile, Andy Rose, executive chef and operations director at Boisdale restaurants in London, said he hoped to have grouse on his menu later this week, but said he had initially been quoted unrealistic prices of up to £35 per bird.

"For the last two years we haven't been able to get really good grouse until the first week in September," he said. "We've had grouse counts in and they are reported to be significantly down.

"My first price at the beginning of last week was £35 a bird from a Yorkshire supplier, which is unheard of. I was paying £7 a bird for the whole of last season. By Wednesday it went down to £15 and by Friday it was estimated to be £12.



A cold breeding season has been blamed for few grouse. A shooting party on moors near East Lothian yesterday, below

"So, it has been horrific. There is certainly an issue with weather conditions, but I think come September, we'll definitely be able to get grouse and I'm hoping it won't be extortionate."

This year is the first in which a licensing regime for grouse shooting has been introduced in Scotland, a controversial measure brought in by the SNP government.

Scottish Land & Estates said that some landowners had been unable to acquire licences in time as a result of bureaucratic wrangling with authorities, meaning some had not been able to run traditional grouse shoots.

Ross Ewing, director of moorland at Scottish Land & Estates, said a "staple piece of British culinary magic" could be missing from menus owing to what he described as a "one-off" shortage.

The tradition of having grouse on the menu on the 12th, with birds immediately sent south by train, is believed to have been dwindling over recent years, with several London restaurants saying it would be available from Wednesday at the earliest.

The Carlton Club, which had advertised a Glorious Twelfth dinner yesterday, did not respond to inquiries about whether it was going ahead.

'This year is a historic low. Hopefully next year, normal service will resume'

"People do book restaurants on or just after August 12 with a view to savouring grouse," Mr Ewing said.

"If that's not there it's sad, but I would say this year is a historic low. Hopefully next year, normal service will resume and we'll see lots of chefs offering grouse on the 12th or just after. There's a huge shortage this year so sadly we'll see less grouse on the restaurant tables."

The historic Wiltons restaurant, in St James's, is known for its game and had traditionally served grouse on the 12th. The establishment has a "fun race" annually with the Ritz over which can get in on to menus first.

However, it was missing yesterday and will also not be served today, with a parasite affecting birds earlier in the year another factor behind the shortage.

Jason Phillips, director of Wiltons Holdings, said: "Wiltons has every intention of serving grouse on the 14th."

Editorial Comment: Page 15



JANE BARLOW/PA

Minister pledges to tackle 'dodgy' websites reselling driving tests

By **Nick Gutteridge**

"DODGY" websites which book up driving tests and resell them for a profit are unacceptable, the Transport Secretary has said.

Louise Haigh said some brokers were charging hundreds of pounds for a test which officially costs just £62.

She encouraged learner drivers to only use the official government website to ensure that they are not getting ripped off by third party firms.

The waiting times to get a test in many parts of Britain soared after the Covid pandemic, with the average current waiting time standing at four-and-a-half months.

Some learners are even being forced to travel hundreds of miles to take their test because they cannot get one at a local centre.

Ms Haigh said cutting through the backlog, which has been fuelled by a rise in demand, was a "key priority" for the Government.

"Learners are understandably fed up with long waiting times, dodgy sites reselling expensive tests, and having to trek to test centres on the other side of the country," she said.

"It's unacceptable, and tackling the backlog is a key priority for this government.

'Learners are fed up with long waiting times and dodgy sites reselling tests'

"That's why, only weeks into the job, I've already met with the DVSA chief executive Loveday Ryder to discuss how we can ensure learners can access a test easily, quickly, and close to where they live."

Just before the general election, Sir Keir Starmer said that his government would "sort out the situation", which he used as an example of broken Britain.

All learners can book a test through an official government website at a cost of £62. But some other private firms, run by brokers who block-book slots in advance, are offering much speedier appointments at hugely inflated prices.

The companies use automated software, powered by digital bots, which allows them to book tests across the country faster than a human can.

While reselling tests is not illegal, officials have said the practice "exploits" learners.

Ms Ryder urged people not to use such sites. She said that using the official government website to book was the only way to "keep your data safe, help you stay informed and save money".

"You should always keep your driving licence number secure. It could be invaluable to those looking to steal your identity," she said.

"DVSA does not run, approve or endorse any cancellation finder apps or services and we encourage learners only to book their driving test when their instructor agrees they are ready."

'Don't take the risk, use the proper booking channels, make sure you're ready for your test'

The National Associations Strategic Partnership, which represents driving instructors, also urged young drivers to steer clear of third party sites.

In a statement it said: "Taking short cuts to queue-jump and book an earlier test could come back to bite you, by losing your money, your test slot and even the potential loss or misuse of your personal data.

"Don't take the risk, use the proper booking channels, listen to the advice about making sure you're ready for your test and becoming a licensed driver, and get and take your test the correct way."

Captain sacked after making sex video on nuclear sub and sharing with junior sailor

By **Danielle Sheridan**
DEFENCE EDITOR

A NUCLEAR submarine captain has been sacked after making a sexually explicit video.

When he made the video, the former officer was in command of a Vanguard-class nuclear submarine armed with Trident Two weapons.

The captain, who was fired after his superiors saw the footage, had shared it with a junior sailor who served aboard the same submarine.

According to *The Sun*, crewmates claimed the pair had a physical relationship while the submarine was at sea.

The officer, whose identity has not been revealed but who, according to *The Sun*, was awarded an OBE for his work, was also accused of sending explicit selfies.

He had moved on to a desk job when the footage and photographs were revealed and was sacked under the Ministry of Defence's zero-tolerance approach to unacceptable sexual behaviour.

The Navy has been blighted by a series of allegations of inappropriate behaviour on board its submarines. In October 2022, Adml Sir Ben Key, the First Sea Lord, was forced to launch an investigation into "abhorrent" claims of bullying, misogyny and sexual harassment against female submariners.

'Anyone found culpable will be held accountable for their actions regardless of their rank or status'

Sophie Brook, one of the first women to join the service after it lifted its ban on female recruits in 2011, warned that the fleet is "no place for women" and claimed she was assaulted as she slept in her bed by a colleague of a higher rank.

Earlier this month a court martial heard that Able Seaman Liam Pritchard, a Navy chef, lured a sailor into a warship's scullery before locking the door and sexually assaulting him.

Defence sources said the welfare of military personnel was its "highest priority" as they stressed reporting mechanisms had improved to allow personnel to feel safe and supported when raising issues.

A Royal Navy spokesman said it would be "inappropriate to comment" on the case due to common law and the Data Protection Act.

The source added: "All forms of unacceptable behaviour are taken extremely seriously and anything which falls short of the highest standards will not be tolerated. Anyone found culpable will be held accountable for their actions regardless of their rank or status."

Phone thief used 50mph electric bike to snatch 24 mobiles in less than an hour

By **Martin Evans** CRIME EDITOR

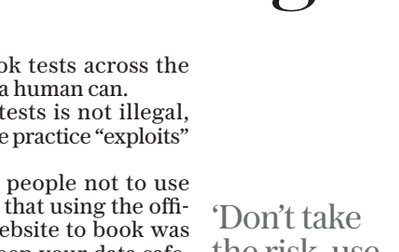
LONDON'S most notorious phone snatcher, who used an electric bike to steal 24 mobiles in less than an hour, has been jailed for two years.

Sonny Stringer, 28, targeted victims across the capital, stealing from unsuspecting tourists and commuters. He used his high-powered e-bike to get away as he mounted pavements, narrowly avoided pedestrians and reached speeds of 50mph to escape the police.

Stringer sped through busy city streets running red lights as he was pursued by a police patrol vehicle.

He was eventually caught when officers who had tracked his movements using CCTV used an unmarked car to knock him from his bike.

Stringer and an unknown accomplice embarked on their spree on 26 March, stealing 24 phones from people across the capital in less than an hour.



Sonny Stringer, London's 'most notorious phone snatcher', according to the police

City of London Police, who brought him to justice, described him as the capital's "most notorious phone snatcher".

The decision to knock him from his bike – known as a tactical contact – was taken after officers assessed he was about to mount the pavement in the direction of a family pushing a buggy.

Hurtling along Cheapside in the City towards the Bank of England, Stringer overtook a bus before veering towards the pavement to evade the police. But the unmarked car clipped his back wheel, bringing the pursuit to an end.

Stringer came off his bike and attempted to run away but was quickly arrested. As officers approached, he threw away a bag containing 22 phones, while another two were found close by.

Appearing at Isleworth Crown Court, Stringer admitted snatching 24 phones in an hour. He received 20 months in prison for theft with an additional four months for dangerous driving.

Chief Supt William Duffy said: "Phone snatching has a significant impact on victims and it is right that Stringer received a custodial sentencing for snatching mobiles on London's streets."



Along for the ride Banksy unveiled the eighth artwork in his animal-themed collection in London, a silhouette of a rhinoceros appearing to climb on top of a car in Charlton.

White police lost out on job after order to 'make it happen' and pick an Asian

Three officers win discrimination case after force 'jumped the gun' to improve staff diversity

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

THREE white police officers have won a discrimination case after an employment judge ruled that they were passed over for promotion because of their race.

Det Insp Phillip Turner-Robson, Insp Graham Horton and custody inspector Kirsteen Bishop claimed that Thames Valley Police "directly discriminated" against them in an effort to improve the diversity of its senior staff.

The tribunal heard that a superintendent from the force was told to "make it happen" by appointing an "Asian" sergeant to the rank of detective inspector.

This was despite warnings about the legal risks of not holding a competitive process. The three experienced officers brought employment tribunal proceedings against the force, claiming to have been disadvantaged because of their race – described by the tribunal as "white British".

They had been working with Thames Valley Police, which covers the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, for between 19 and 26 years when they were blocked from applying for the role, a tribunal heard.

In August 2022, plans were discussed for a job advert for a detective inspector in the force's "priority crime team" at Aylesbury, the hearing was told.

Having been made aware of the vacancy, Mr Turner-Robson expressed his interest on the same day, the Norwich tribunal heard.

But the following month, Supt Emma Baillie decided to move Sgt Sidhu, whose forename was not provided, into the role without any competitive process or advertising the vacancy to staff, the tribunal was told.

The sergeant had not been promoted to inspector at the time she was made detective inspector, the tribunal heard, after Dept Chief Constable Jason Hogg and the superintendent had "jumped the gun" and given her the senior role.

Mr Hogg, who joined Cleveland Police in 1995, became Thames Valley Police chief constable in April last year.

The superintendent had been told to "make it happen" by the deputy chief constable and "took the decision without thinking it through", the tribunal said.

"Supt Baillie was only focused on 'making it work' rather than carrying out a balancing exercise of competing factors and considering whether her actions or the respondent's actions were proportionate," the tribunal said.

She then tried to "retrospectively justify" the decision by saying the appointment came under a "Bame progression program which clearly did not exist at the time".

Employment Judge Robin Postle concluded that the three white officers were directly discriminated against by reason of the protected characteristic of race.



Lynam: Female pundits are wrong for men's football

By **Craig Simpson**

DES LYNAM has said female football pundits do not have the experience to comment on men's football.

The broadcaster, who hosted *Match of the Day* for 10 years, suggested female pundits lack sufficient experience in "the men's game".

The 81-year-old argued that experts giving their opinions on air should have played the standard of football they are commenting on.

He has previously praised female sports pundits and Clare Balding, Hazel Irvine and Gabby Logan, who all fronted the BBC's coverage of the Olympics, are all "very capable, experienced and enthusiastic."

Speaking to *Radio Times*, he said: "I've got no gripe with female presenters, but when you're a pundit and you're offering opinions about the game, you have to have played it at the level you are talking about – ie, the men's game."

His comments follow a large increase in the number of female pundits covering football for the BBC and ITV, with the likes of Alex Scott and Eni Aluko regularly providing analysis.

The broadcaster's comment also followed controversial claims made by former player Joey Barton, who claimed Scott "didn't' have a clue" about football.

The former Bristol Rovers manager also made a string of social media posts criticising Aluko, claiming that she was "under qualified".

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister at the time, weighed into the row, saying that the debate about female pundits was "ridiculous".

Lynam has said the consideration of experience in the men's game is merely "my view". The presenter, who was the face of *Match of the Day* from 1988 to 1999 has voiced his concerns with other aspects of the modern game, including VAR, and the influx of international players into the premier league.

He told *Radio Times*: "I've supported Brighton all my life, but I can't name the team now. There's only about two I know, the others are all foreign boys who have come from South America and all sorts of places."

He spoke positively of Gary Lineker, his *Match of the Day* successor, who took the helm in 1999 and now earns a BBC salary of £1.35 million.

Lynam said: "I know he's not everyone's cup of tea, but for my money I think he does a first-class job."



The former Match of the Day host said pundits should have played at the level they comment on

"I don't suppose you can justify it in terms of what a nurse or firemen does, but it's the market – that's what the BBC feel they have to pay to get his services."

He added that Lineker is a "very lucky chap" to be making the money he does presenting *Match of the Day*.

Lynam said that at the time of his departure in 1999, he was being "overworked" by the BBC, which he took as a compliment, but found himself exhausted. He moved to ITV to front coverage of events such as the Champions League. Lynam has said that if *Match of the Day* was to be cancelled or move channels, the BBC would be "finished".

Israelis hounded out of Fringe comedy gig

By **Craig Simpson**

ISRAELI theatregoers were booed out of Reginald D Hunter's comedy gig at the Edinburgh Fringe after they objected to a joke comparing the Jewish state to an abusive spouse, witnesses said.

The American stand-up, 55, was heard telling the two audience members to leave his Fluffy Fluffy Beavers show last night after they heckled him over the joke, calling it "not funny".

The pair were met with jeers as they left the Assembly George Square Studios before Hunter told a joke about the *Jewish Chronicle* website putting a review of one of his past shows behind a paywall, witnesses claimed.

The incident began when Hunter referenced a Channel 5 documentary *My Wife, My Abuser*, about an abusive partner who publicly claimed that her victim was guilty of abusing her. Witnesses said he told the audience: "When I saw that, I thought, my God, it's like being married to Israel."

Two people in the audience, who said they were Israeli, objected to the joke, saying it was "not funny". A protracted exchange followed in which Hunter asked them to leave, while they faced boos and calls to go from other members of the audience.

The comedian continued in their absence, recounting that he was once told the *Jewish Chronicle* would be reviewing his show. After the show, Hunter said his partner sought out the review, but could not access it online because of a paywall, saying: "'Typical f---ing Jews, they won't tell you anything unless you subscribe'".

The Assembly Festival said its team supported the member of the public. Hunter was contacted for comment.

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ROMAN PILIPEY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The 'white triangle' striking fear into Russia

Symbol is Ukraine's answer to dreaded Z marking that has become synonymous with Vladimir Putin's war

By **Joe Barnes**

AS UKRAINIAN armoured vehicles maraud around the Russian countryside, they all sport the same symbol – a white triangle.

Tanks, trucks and Nato military gear bearing the marking, daubed in paint or stuck on with tape, have forced the evacuation of some 180,000 Russian citizens from their homes.

It is enough for some to brand the first invasion of Russian soil since the Second World War Operation Triangle.

In Ukraine's Sumy region, a T64 tank with a triangle on its front was seen edging down a dirt road near the border.

More than 13 miles inside Russia, near the town of Cherkasskoe Porechnoe, a tank and other armoured vehicles carried the mark.

And when Ukrainian troops drove into the village of Guevo to replace the Russian flag with theirs, they drove in on a pickup truck with a white triangle.

The battle marking was first spotted in June being used by the Operational Command West group of forces stationed near the border with Belarus.

Ukrainian sources say the tactical marking is no more than a way for Kyiv's forces to avoid friendly fire as they operate behind enemy lines in a chaotic, fast-paced mission.

Markers such as the triangle are a common part of modern warfare, especially when both sides use much of the same equipment and wear similar uniforms. Ukrainian forces will strap yellow or blue bands made from gaffer tape over their fatigues and helmets.

When Russian tanks and armoured vehicles invaded Ukraine in February 2022, many were daubed with Z symbols in white paint – a marking that, in Russia, has become synonymous with support for Vladimir Putin's war.

Kyiv's incursion into Kursk entered its seventh day yesterday. Panic spread to the Belgorod region, and its governor announced that residents of the Krasnaya Yaruga district, located on the frontier with Ukraine, would be evacuated because of military activity.

Belgorod neighbours the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces began their cross-border raid on Aug 6.

Yesterday, Tass, the state news agency, reported that 11,000 people had been evacuated. "It has been an alarming morning," said Vyacheslav Gladkov, the Belgorod governor. "There has been enemy activity on the border."

Mr Gladkov said Russian soldiers would be able to "cope with the threat that has arisen", but added: "To protect the lives and health of our population, we are starting to move people who live in Krasnaya Yaruga to safer places."

Russian sources said Ukrainian troops launched an attack on the Kolotilovka checkpoint, a border crossing between Belgorod and Ukraine's Sumy region, in the early hours of yesterday.

It was claimed that Ukrainian troops, using armoured vehicles, tanks and artillery, opened fire at the checkpoint.

Ukrainian reserves are waiting at the rear, near the village of Pokrovka, ready to join the fight as a second echelon force if a breakthrough is made. Rybar, an authoritative Russian military blogger, wrote on the Telegram messaging app: "Apparently, the Ukrainian armed forces are not abandoning their plans to stretch our defensive lines, create the maximum number of points of tension and attempt to break through to the east with the aim of cutting off Belgorod from the north."



ROMAN PILIPEY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Artillery in action on the front line, top, and, above, white triangle on an armoured personnel carrier

The fighting in Kolotilovka is about 25 miles south of Sudzha, where Ukrainian forces have been advancing since last Tuesday as part of the surprise cross-border raid.

Alexei Smirnov, Kursk's regional governor, told Russian president Putin yesterday that Kyiv controlled 28 villages and towns in the region. The area controlled was 7.5 miles deep and 25 miles wide, he said. Twelve civilians had died and at least 121 others had been injured since the fighting broke out, he told the Russian president. "As of today, 121,000 people have left and been evacuated," the official said, adding that 59,000 more needed to leave the area. Russian authorities were yesterday preparing "safe zones" for the Kursk residents displaced by the fighting.

Russia has been bringing in reserves in the hope of quashing the incursion, but on Sunday its military conceded that Ukraine had advanced 20 miles into Russian territory in some places.

Ukraine's army chief said yesterday his forces had captured about 1,000 square kilometres. The Institute for the Study War (ISW), a US-based think tank, said many Russian response forces had been hastily assembled and included units that were poorly prepared to stage a fightback.

> 'Occupying large areas is no longer a privilege of Russia – the war is now one on its soil as well'

Ukrainian troops equipped with top-end night vision goggles have staged several raids under cover of darkness, taking advantage of their technological superiority.

Battlefield footage geolocated by ISW analysts showed they had made gains in areas where Russian sources had said the situation had been stabilised.

Russia's defence ministry claimed that 260 Ukrainian troops had been killed and 31 armoured vehicles destroyed, including a tank and eight US-made Bradley fighting vehicles.

The ministry said its forces were "continuing to beat back the attempt by Ukraine's armed forces to invade Russian territory". However, it did not claim to have liberated any of the land lost in the Ukrainian advance.

In Ukraine, the battle has provoked rare joy among a population increasingly beaten down by war.

Emile Kastehelmi, an intelligence analyst, said: "The best case scenario for Ukraine would probably be that Russia decides it's not acceptable to leave any areas to Ukraine and will divert significant resources, even from the most critical places, to get every square kilometre back, despite the losses.

"This would ease the pressure in other directions and maybe even make it possible for Ukrainians to improve the tactical situation in the east. Regardless of whether the Ukrainians continue their advance, they have proved that occupation of relatively large areas is no longer a privilege of Russia. The war is now a war on Russian soil as well."

Kyiv seizing a sliver of Russian land has fundamentally altered this war

Analysis



By **Dominic Nicholls**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (DEFENCE)

GIVEN Ukraine's repeated demonstration of its ability to adapt and innovate over the two and a half years since the start of Russia's full scale invasion, its breathtaking cross-border strike perhaps shouldn't have been so surprising.

We have watched as Kyiv's troops – and the wider society that largely comprises this civilian-in-uniform army – have shown their ability to field and support the most sophisticated military hardware that external supporters can provide. Even so, the scale of the imagination, preparation and execution needed to launch the first invasion of Russia since the Second World War has caught most observers unawares.

Of course, the one caught most unaware, and with most to lose, is Vladimir Putin. The incursion has sent the value of the rouble spiralling down but Russia's president will be more concerned by three consequences that can impact his position at the top of the fetid system he has created.

First, unlike other headline-grabbing border incursions by pro-Ukrainian outfits, such as the Freedom of Russia Legion, this attack has done actual military harm to Putin. Like all autocrats, a large part of his power is drawn from the idea that for all his ills (known but ignored by many, out of self-preservation) he is the one best able to provide security and keep the barbarians from the gates. Ukraine's seizure of some 10,000sq km of Russian soil will dent that image. That is an outcome dictators can seldom survive if repeated. So, not only will Putin insist Kyiv's troops are forced off every inch of captured territory but he will also demand that no such episode ever happen again, possibly with a few senior sackings.

General Valery Gerasimov, head of Russia's armed forces, is looking very vulnerable right now, having insisted after the initial incursion last Tuesday that everything was under control.

That gives Ukraine an edge to exploit and leads to the second thing Putin will fear: uncertainty. Ukraine barged their way over the border through a clever combination of military tactics, using its limited electronic warfare assets to blind Russian reconnaissance drones and interfere with the radio networks so vital in bringing order to the chaos of the battlefield. Next, they pushed tanks and other armoured vehicles through this electromagnetic "black hole", with their path cleared of enemy units by Kyiv's own attack drones.

The tactics have proven that such things can be done. So, why not elsewhere, at a time and place of Ukraine's choosing? Which means Moscow can never be certain exactly when and where it will hit next.

Suppose next month Russian troops on the border of Kharkiv oblast suddenly report a massive electronic warfare and drone attack. Should they rush additional forces to the area? What a very economical way for Ukraine to keep Russia guessing. In all likelihood it will force the Kremlin to divert some assets while minimising their own exposure. There is some evidence already of Russian military units being taken from the Kharkiv and Kherson fronts to bolster the defence of Kursk.

After all, Putin can't allow any of the Motherland to be held by Kyiv.

In this way Russian air defence, electronic warfare and anti-tank weapons may have to be redeployed back into Russia, not to mention the personnel to use them – the conscripts and Rosgvardia (a type of internal national guard) standing on the border won't be sufficiently trained.

The third reason for Putin to worry is that Ukraine has shown the ability to employ "combined arms manoeuvre", in which all the parts of the military orchestra – tanks, infantry, engineers, and so on – can be made to operate in tune and not descend into a garbled mess. This will give confidence not only to Kyiv's forces and the folks back home but to Western backers who can see a return on their investment of military hardware. Then, against an increasingly loud backdrop of calls for negotiations, Ukraine may plan another border incursion, in order to be sitting on a chunk of Russian land just as the ceasefire is called, thereby strengthening their bargaining hand.

The loss of ground in Russia's southern border region may be limited and temporary but the longer Ukraine's forces are there, the greater the peril for the man who thought, 900 days ago, that his forces would be sitting in Kyiv within 72 hours.



As Kyiv's troops advance in Russia images emerged of alleged damage reported at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Ukraine, left

World news

Israel military on high alert for Iran attack

White House says it expects Tehran and its proxies in Middle East to launch assault this week

By **Jotam Confino, Paul Nuki** *in Tel Aviv and* **Tony Diver** *in Washington*

THE Israeli military was on high alert last night amid reports Iran has ramped up preparations for a large-scale attack.

The White House said that both the US and Israel expected Iran and its proxies in the Middle East, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, to launch an assault this week.

Iranian missile and drone units are reportedly being prepared for a direct attack on Israel in retaliation for the assassination of the Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Israel's allies, including the US, have said they will help defend it from any strike, including with the use of an American guided missile submarine deployed to the Middle East yesterday.

The strike could come within days, intelligence officials believe, and may take place before renewed ceasefire talks are held in either Doha or Cairo on Thursday.

John Kirby, the White House's national security spokesman, told reporters: "We have to be prepared for what could be a significant set of attacks.

"We share the same concerns and expectations that our Israeli counterparts have with respect to potential timing here. [It] could be this week."

The assessment reverses the view taken last week that Iran was backing away from direct action against Israel and that an attack by its terrorist proxy Hezbollah in Lebanon was more likely.

An Israeli official said: "We expect there will be an attack in the coming days. Iran has the most to lose in this."

> 'We expect there will be an attack in the coming days. Iran has the most to lose in this'

Herzi Halevi, the Israeli military's chief of staff, approved plans yesterday and said offensive and defensive preparations were under way, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Yoav Gallant, Israel's defence minister, said: "We are in the days of vigilance and readiness. The threats from Tehran and Beirut may materialise and it is important to explain to everyone that readiness, preparedness and vigilance are not synonyms for fear and panic."

Israeli officials said the coalition ready to support Israel was as strong as in April, when the US, Britain, Jordan and other countries backed an anti-missile and drone effort above the country.

The US has said it will use all means at its disposal to protect Israel against an Iranian attack and the alliance of nations is expected to play a role in bringing down Iranian missiles and drones should they be fired again by Iran at Israel. After a call with Mr Gallant on Sunday, Lloyd Austin, the the US defence secretary, ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the region and said he was "accelerating" the dispatch of a second aircraft carrier group to bolster Israel's defences.

The US deployed a separate warship to the Middle East last week, the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, in the wake of Israeli assassinations of Hezbollah and Hamas leaders in Beirut and Tehran respectively. Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, an IDF spokesman, said there were no changes to emergency guidelines for civilians in Israel.

Joe Biden spoke to Sir Keir Starmer and the leaders of Germany, Italy and France yesterday and discussed their "support for the defence of Israel against Iranian aggression and against attacks by Iran-backed terrorist groups", according to a joint statement. "We called on Iran to stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel," it said.

> 'Readiness, preparedness and vigilance are not synonyms for fear and panic'

A Downing Street spokeswoman said Sir Keir spoke to Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's president, last night and expressed his deep concern over the risk of miscalculation in the region.

"He called on Iran to refrain from attacking Israel, adding that war was not in anyone's interests," she said.

Ceasefire negotiations encountered another setback after Hamas said it would not participate in planned talks on Thursday, instead calling on Egypt, Qatar and the US to implement a ceasefire deal presented by Mr Biden in May.

Mr Biden told CBS News his plan, endorsed by the G7 and the UN Security Council, "is still viable". "I'm working literally every single day... to see to it that it doesn't escalate into a regional war. But it easily can," he said.

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REUTERS

Strike point The moment an Israeli missile hits a building in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City yesterday. The attack reportedly killed one Palestinian and wounded several others.

Walz accused of using 'back door' to avoid military service in Iraq

By **Raoul Simons**

TIM WALZ has been accused by his former superior officer of using a "backdoor process" to get his military retirement approved.

Sgt Maj Doug Julin also suggested Mr Walz knew about an impending deployment to Iraq prior to the approval of his retirement in 2005.

The claims follow increased scrutiny on the Democrat's 24 years of service in the National Guard after he was selected as Kamala Harris's running mate in November's presidential election.

Having risen to the senior rank of command sergeant major, Mr Walz retired in 2005 to embark on a political career, later becoming governor of Minnesota.

The timing of his retirement, in the months leading up to his unit's deployment to Iraq, has been criticised by Republican opponents.

JD Vance, Donald Trump's running-mate, said: "When Tim Walz was asked by his country to go to Iraq, he dropped out of the Army and allowed his unit to go without him. I think that's shameful."

In an interview with CNN, Mr Julin, formerly of the First Brigade 34th Infantry Division combat team in the Minnesota National Guard, recalled the build-up to a possible deployment in Iraq.

He said: "In approximately February of 2005, my boss ... scheduled a meeting at Camp Ripley Minnesota, getting everybody together so all the [officers] and their staff would get to see each other and start the team-building there. At that meeting was Governor Tim Walz."

After the meeting, Mr Julin said Mr Walz asked for a one-on-one discussion and told his superior officer he would be running for Congress but had not been nominated yet.

In March or April of 2005, according to Mr Julin, they had another meeting at Camp Ripley, in which Mr Walz was present, during which they spoke in detail about the Iraq mission.



Tim Walz's former superior officer said he used a 'backdoor process' to get his military retirement approved

Mr Julin explained that Mr Walz then told him after that meeting that he had not been nominated and that he was "going forward with the battalion".

While Mr Walz retired from the military in May, though Mr Julin says he was not informed until June 2005.

"The issue that had come out of this was, first of all, how did Tim Walz quit without discussing [it] with me - because I was his next level of leadership," said Mr Julin.

"The other issue ... was that the individual that approved this was two levels higher than myself in the enlisted corps and should have had Tim Walz come back to me and discuss why he was going forward or not going forward now, after he already told me he was going forward."

Mr Walz was a senior officer and should have known the protocol for exiting the military, according to Mr Julin.

"Tim Walz knew the process and procedures, he went around me and above and beyond me.. basically went in there to get somebody to back him... It was just a backdoor process."

Mr Walz won his primary in September 2006 and his congressional seat in November of that year.

In a statement recently given to Fox News, the Minnesota National Guard said that Mr Walz's unit was not given deployment orders to Iraq until July, and he had submitted his retirement papers five to seven months prior to retiring in May 2005.

Father charged with murder after two-year-old girl died in hot car as he played video games in house

By **Tony Diver**
US EDITOR

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl died after allegedly being left in a hot car by her father for three hours while he played video games indoors.

Christopher Scholtes, who has been charged with first-degree murder, was accused of leaving his daughter in a car as temperatures reached 42C after he became "distracted" inside the house.

A video released yesterday shows police trying to save the girl, who her father said had been left in the car because she was sleeping.

In the footage, Mr Scholtes can be seen holding his head in his hands and dropping to his knees as police fought to revive the toddler.

"I can't believe this," he said. "Oh my God."

On Thursday he was charged by a grand jury in Arizona with first-degree murder, after police said he went inside the house and "got distracted by playing his [video] game and putting his food away".

Police had removed a PlayStation from the home as evidence.

The girl is alleged to have been left alone in the car for up to three hours on July 6, when temperatures at their home in Marana, Arizona reached 42C.

Mr Scholtes said he did not want to wake his daughter after a car journey and had left her inside the vehicle with the engine and air conditioning running.

The 37-year-old father told police he arrived home at 2.30pm, and that his wife had arrived at 4pm.

However, police detectives said local surveillance footage revealed he actually left her alone at 12.53pm, while local prosecutors said he knew the car's engine and air conditioning would shut off after 30 minutes. The video footage "does not show Christopher checking on his vehicle or daughter during this time-frame," said a complaint by the Pima County Attorney's Office.

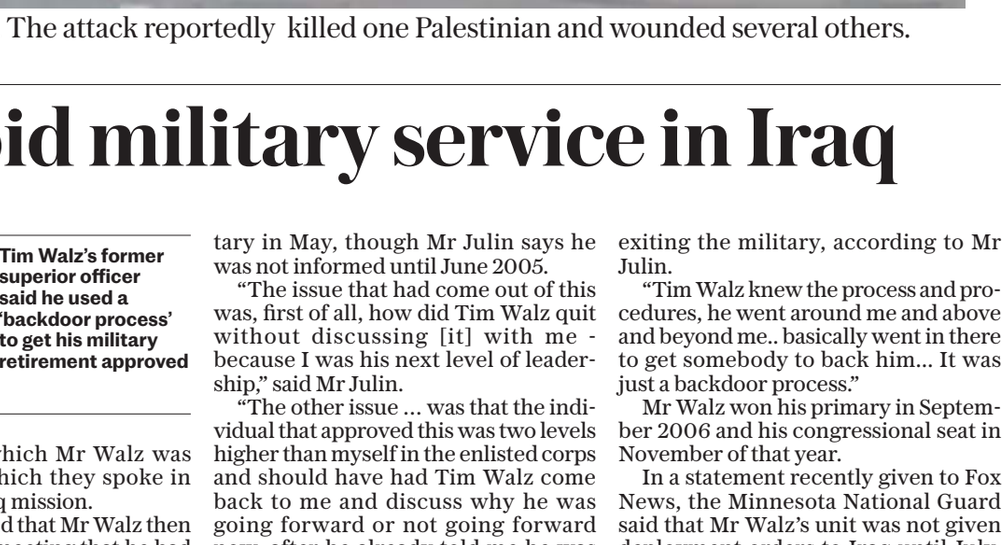


Christopher Scholtes was charged with first-degree murder after leaving his two-year-old daughter in a car for three hours

It said that Mr Scholtes' wife asked about the girl when she returned to their home, and that he realised she was in the car. He discovered her "unresponsive in the back seat still strapped [in] her child restraint system," the filing said.

Mr Scholtes was arrested on July 12 on a lesser charge of second-degree murder last month, but the charge was later upgraded, suggesting prosecutors believe her death may have been intentional. He pleaded not guilty in court.

Detectives said the couple's two other children, aged 9 and 5, told police that he "had left all three children alone in [the] vehicle regularly".



Athens forced to evacuate as 80ft wildfires rage across Greece

Patients scramble to leave children's hospital and residents flee as blaze heads towards the capital

By **Our Foreign Staff**

HUNDREDS of firefighters are battling a major forest fire on the outskirts of Athens where 80ft high flames have forced the evacuation of hospitals and homes in the area.

The country's worst wildfire this year spread into the Athens suburbs yesterday, as it torched trees, homes and cars overnight and choked busy roads with smoke and ash.

The government called in help from fellow EU members to tackle the fire that is burning out of control for a second day, fanned by gale force winds that pushed it from the wooded hills north of the city.

Firefighters said flames, threatening apartment blocks, schools and businesses, had reached the deepest into the capital for over two decades.

Thousands of people living around Athens fled their homes yesterday as the huge wildfire crept closer to the capital despite efforts to contain the blaze, officials said.

At least 30 areas were forced to evacuate residents, government officials said, along with at least three hospitals, and power cuts occurred in parts of the wider Athens region.

A children's hospital and a military medical facility in Penteli were evacuated at dawn, while residents in two monasteries and a children's home were also told to move to safety.

Police have so far helped evacuate more than 250 people, and some residents spent the night in shelters.

The fire department said 700 firefighters backed by volunteers, 190 fire engines and 33 waterbombing aircraft were battling the flames with 15 helicopters providing aerial support.

French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said France would send a helicopter, 180 civil security personnel and 55 fire engines.

Greece's civil protection authority said Italy was sending two water-dropping planes and the Czech Republic was sending 75 firefighters and 25 vehicles, while Spain and Turkey were also finalizing reinforcements to send to Greece.

A 20-mile long wall of flames, more than 80 feet high in places, is moving towards the capital, the ERT public broadcaster reported.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the prime minister, cut his holiday short and returned to Athens on Sunday evening to deal with the crisis.

The fire is burning mainly on two separate fronts, with some parts in particularly difficult to reach areas on a mountain north-east of Athens, Vassilis Kikilias, the climate crisis and civil protection minister said.

Authorities are faced with "an exceptionally dangerous fire, which we have been fighting for more than 20 hours," Kikilias said.

Greece's coast guard ordered all ferries going to and from the nearby port of Rafina, which serves mainly the Cycladic islands and Crete, to be diverted to the port of Lavrion because of the fire.

Authorities in nearby suburbs opened at least one sports hall and were providing rooms in hotels for evacuees, while yet more suburbs were put on standby for potential evacuation.

Thirteeen people have been hospitalised with smoke inhalation and authorities opened the Olympic stadium in northern Athens to house those fleeing.

"Civil protection forces battled hard throughout the night, but despite superhuman efforts, the fire evolved rapidly," fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said.

"At this moment it has reached Mount Pentelicus and is headed in the direction of Penteli," he added.

The historic town of Marathon is among the areas evacuated. Mayor Stergios Tsirkas said the town was facing a "biblical catastrophe".

"Our town is engulfed in flames and going through difficult times," he told the Skai television channel.

Brick homes on roads leading out of Marathon had huge black stains up the sides of their walls left by the flames. The roofs on many had been burnt away.

"Everything is burning," said Giorgos Tsevas, a resident of Polydendri village.



ANGELOS TZORTZINIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Residents flee the approaching inferno in Dione yesterday, on the outskirts of Athens



CHRISTOPHER VICTORIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Hitting a high note Singer Grace Jones performs at this year's Outside Lands Festival in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. In a 60ft long black-and-white skirt, she towers over her band from a raised platform.

Police call off search for doctor missing after fall in Pyrenees

By **Vivian Song**

POLICE have called off their search for a retired British doctor who fell during a hiking trip in the French Pyrenees.

French authorities have spent five days conducting land and air searches for Tom Doherty, 67, who was hiking and camping alone near Col d'Escots last week.

His family issued an urgent appeal last Tuesday after Mr Doherty, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, texted: "I've fallen and I can't [m]ove" at about 7pm.

It was the last time his family heard from him. His daughter, Rachel Doherty, said last week that a search party has recovered his tent and car.

But authorities have called off the official search after failing to find him.

A magistrate from the public prosecutor's office said yesterday: "The search operations have been suspended. After five days, we have not managed to find him. The search on the ground will not resume today, but the investigation into the worrying disappearance is continuing."

The search effort had been hampered by low visibility because of fog. About 20 to 50 gendarmes had been deployed to comb the mountainous area in difficult weather conditions.

French authorities said they could not gather geolocation data from Mr Doherty's phone as the area in which he sent his message had weak reception.



Tom Doherty sent wife Anne Lyons, a final text saying he had fallen and couldn't move

Since retiring almost a decade ago, Mr Doherty has spent most of his time in France in the department of Lot-et-Garonne. Family members described Mr Doherty as an experienced hiker who often embarks on solo hikes.

But his wife Anne Lyons said he did not know the Pyrenees mountains well and did not hike with equipment. Ms Lyons flew to France with her daughter the day after receiving her husband's message and alerted French authorities.

Ms Lyons told local news channel France 3 Occitania upon her arrival last week: "When I arrived in France, I hoped that they had found him and that we would be in the hospital.

"But, in the afternoon with the fog, we lost confidence, especially for a 67-year-old man spending a second night alone in these conditions. We have a lot of worries, but we have not lost hope."

Bologna has beef with US paper over surge in mortadella shops

By **Nick Squires** *in Rome*

AN ITALIAN city renowned for its rich gastronomic traditions has reacted with indignation to a *New York Times* article that claims it is now a "tourist hell" that has been overrun by cheap, faux historic delicatessens flogging mortadella, one of its best-known delicacies.

In a story headlined "My Beloved Italian City Has Turned Into Tourist Hell", Italian-born journalist Ilaria Maria Sala said traditional shops selling stationery, hand-bound books and jewellery have closed down, to be replaced by outlets adorned with pig symbols that sell mortadella, the finely-sliced pink ham speckled with cubes of white fat for which the city is famous.

A decade ago, Bologna was not on the radar for most visitors to Italy but that has been transformed by social media, cheap flights and short-term holiday rental platforms, said Ms Sala, who is from Bologna originally but is now based in Hong Kong.

After independent shops, bars and cafés went out of business during the pandemic, there has been an influx of chains selling mortadella and other pork products to tourists, she said.

Shops purporting to be traditional, even "ancient" butcher's shops, have in fact cropped up just in the past few months, she said.

The city is now buckling under the pressures of overtourism and visitors are being encouraged to indulge in "the consumption of mind-numbing, heart-stopping amounts of mortadella".

The opinion piece has caused a stir in Bologna, a city in the wealthy northern region of Emilia-Romagna which claims to have Europe's oldest university.

"I want to express my strong indignation towards those who would insult the city, depicting it as a giant feed mill of mortadella," said Matteo Lepore, the mayor. In a long post on Facebook, he claimed that many of the traditional shops that Ms Sala lamented had disappeared had, in fact, closed down "more than 20 years ago".

Mr Lepore said that as mayor he had "fought for years" to bring in laws to reduce the number of short-let rental properties.

Listing Bologna's many attractions, he said "no one should ever think to define Bologna as a city with its brain, heart and eyes clogged up with mortadella".

Overtourism is a challenge faced by many cities in Europe and for that reason the council does not spend a single euro on promoting Bologna as a destination, he said.

Matteo Di Benedetto, a city councillor from the centre-Right League party, said: "So what if there are lots of shops in Bologna that sell mortadella? That's not a bad thing. It's one of the most successful products of Bologna's culinary traditions, along with many others."

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Comment

Rural Britons are victims of the tyranny of the urban majority

JAMIE BLACKETT



Back in 2002, I was one of the 400,000 revolting peasants who protested in Parliament Square against the ban on natural hunting, judged at the time to have been the largest civil rights march in British history. We felt that we were a powerless rural minority being victimised by the Blair government – a lump of red meat being thrown to the Labour backbenchers.

Were we so wrong? The official who drafted the Bill subsequently expressed his discomfort at the way a virtue-signalling government had imposed a moral judgment on a minority in such a way that he questioned whether we are a parliamentary democracy or a parliamentary dictatorship.

The huge irony was that hunting of foxes with hounds is very similar to the predatory function fulfilled by wolves in a natural ecosystem; if it hadn't been for the centuries-old culture of red-coated squirely customs, the faux environmentalist lobby might well have been baying for fox hunting to be made mandatory to replace less ecologically sound methods that ignore the laws of natural selection.

And, while they gleefully stopped British people from continuing to hunt in the way that their ancestors had done, Labour's class warriors would have been horrified by any culturally imperialist attempts to stop, say, the Masai tribesmen of southern Kenya from doing the same. But the Labour Party has developed a habit of ruthlessly purging British culture where it doesn't fit its world view. And I can't think of anything that is more deeply ingrained in British rural culture, in the language and in the community gatherings under fading hunting prints on the walls of country pubs, than fox hunting.

The tragedy is that the Hunting Act preceded the Equality Act of 2010. According to advice provided to a new countryside organisation, Hunting Kind (on whose advisory panel I sit), by a leading human rights KC, had it been the other way around, the ban would have come up against the protected minority status of hunting folk.

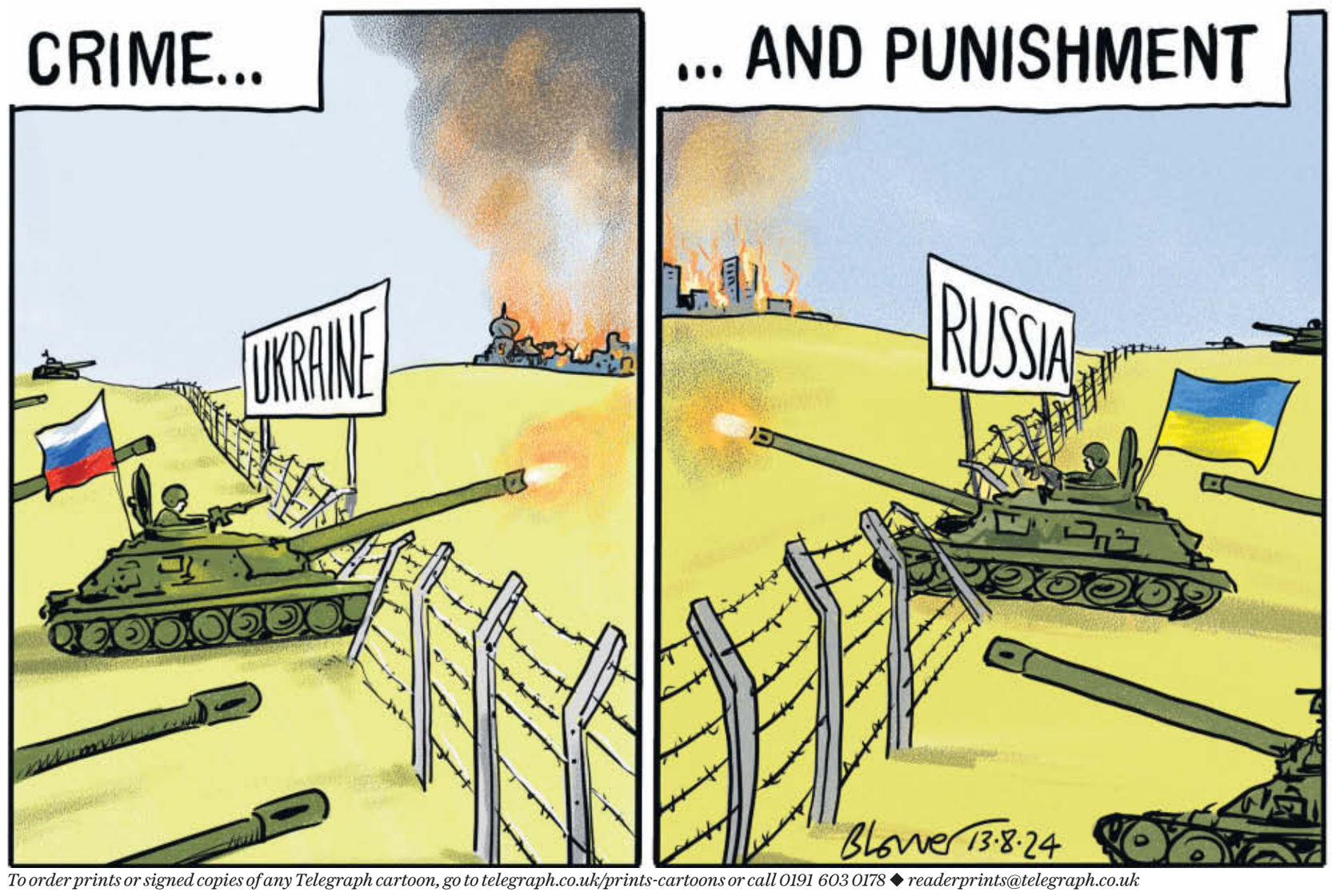
The hunting community may be able to demonstrate that it meets all the criteria of other protected minority groups. It is therefore possible that the debanking of hunts or the cancellation of hunt balls by hotels on judgmental grounds could soon be ruled discriminatory.

If rumours of an incipient private member's bill are true, there will soon be headlines about banning trail hunting, an equestrian sport that has nothing to do with natural hunting. There will be absurd arguments about whether it is permissible to chase a sock doused in fox scent or one soaked in aniseed. The Countryside Alliance appears to have forgotten its original raison d'etre, to defend real hunting, and has allowed itself to be drawn on to this ground

Politicians should be reviewing the Hunting Act instead of wasting parliamentary time on banning trail chasing. Not only did it infringe on the human rights of a sizeable rural minority, it has also demonstrably failed the fox, which has – according to wildlife vets – suffered grievously through going from conserved quarry species to persecuted vermin.

Jamie Blackett is a farmer and the author of 'Red Rag to a Bull' and 'Land of Milk and Honey' (Quiller)

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Britain is being pushed to the brink by official neglect of the white underclass

The idea that the riots were caused by working-class anger at immigration is insulting and inaccurate

SHERELLE JACOBS



One of my earliest childhood memories is of walking through Lower Gornal, then a white working-class village in the Black Country, counting the "pretty" front gardens in between the "yucky" ones on the way to my grandparents' house. This was back in the 1990s – long after the nearby steelworks had closed – and the defiant immaculacy of such neighbourhoods was starting to fray.

There were still enough homes with hanging baskets of shocking pink pansies, theatrical stagings of garden gnomes and hopefully high hedges to make the counting game worthwhile – though the number of houses with closed curtains, cordoned off with chicken wire, was considerable. At one point, I passed a teenage girl rocking the pram of a baby I assumed was her younger brother or sister. I nodded and was delighted when I got a half-smile back. My grandma – of poor but proud background – called them "wrong-uns".

I share this anecdote to make a simple point: an underclass has always rubbed awkwardly alongside the working class. But the metropolitan commentariat's understanding of this basic distinction is fitful. George Osborne ruthlessly tapped into it during austerity when he empathised with the shift worker "who looks up at the closed blinds of their next-door neighbour sleeping off a life on benefits". Tony Blair, too, when he tried to purge shopping centres of hoodies – to many as powerful an emblem of estrangement from the mainstream as the niqab. Since the Brexit wars, however, and the dichotomous struggle between the maligned masses and metropolitan middle class, our appreciation of such basic social nuances has faded.

Some were quick to dub last week's riots as an upswell of "working-class anger" over immigration. Such a framing is quite insulting to working-class people who feel ignored, but abhor disorder and remain committed to peacefully pressuring politicians into change through the ballot box. It is also inaccurate: it seems clear from court reports that many of those involved were textbook underclass – some with extensive criminal records, no fixed address and behavioural disorders.

It is true that the white underclass is angry about elite betrayal over immigration. However, their rage has a different, more disturbing timbre. Conservatives are exasperated by the failure of some immigrants to integrate and aghast at chaos at the border. The underclass, in contrast, is incandescent that the priority "ancestral claim" they believe indigenous Anglo Saxons have to the fruits of the land is being siphoned off by "scrounging immigrants".

Far-Right groups are adept at telling such people what they want to hear, rather than what they need to hear, manipulating feelings that oscillate between self-entitlement and self-loathing. They do not challenge, but indulge, a culture of dependency, pushing leaflets through the letterboxes of council houses that bear slogans like "charity starts at home". They blame family breakdown on LGBTQ+ culture, rather than broaching the way that the welfare state can incentivise couples to break up. They are careful not to pass judgment on white criminality, merely claiming that people should have the right to defend their property.

It would be a mistake then to interpret the riots as merely a backlash against immigration. Nor are these Thatcher's devils, writhing in the ruins of neoliberalism, as the Left wants to think. A white underclass has grown steadily since the 1960s, due to two catastrophic errors. One is the collapse in the crime clean-up rate amid the ascendance of the ill-evidenced view that "prison doesn't work". The second is that the welfare state appears to have incentivised an explosion in single-parent families.

We were warned that this would happen. In the 1980s, the controversial American sociologist Charles Murray cautioned that, unless such trends abated, Britain would end up with a permanent societal underbelly very similar to America's black urban "underclass" – a substratum of stick-em uppers, welfare queens, chain snatchers and near alcoholics that had exploded by the 1980s.

Catastrophically, the prophecies appear to have come true. A preoccupation with deprivation and criminality among ethnic minority groups has distracted from the bedding in – and possible expansion – of the white underclass. Worklessness among white young men has risen, as it has plummeted among other groups. Men of Bangladeshi heritage are less likely to be unemployed than white British men. Black African women are less likely to be unemployed than white British women. In the north, those convicted of drug dealing are often white.

Nobody has a clue how to put the genie back in the bottle. It may not be a simple case of reversing cataclysmic liberal policies. The underclass is held back not simply by its deprivation or welfarism but its own despairing belligerence – what is known as the "culture of poverty" by academics.

Given that many parents reject menial work, slashing benefits may just push more children into care and yield even higher crime. We can build more prisons – but there is growing evidence of a link between poverty and being brought up in environments where you do not develop proper "executive function". Put simply, if dinner consists of standing at the refrigerator eating whatever happens to be there, and there is no order or pattern in a young person's life, they may not develop basic self-control, understanding of cause and effect, or an ability to plan for or anticipate the future. The court cases we are hearing of grown men crying in the dock after participating in violent disorder are consistent with a collapse in basic executive function in certain quarters.

Of course, we need to create more compelling opportunities in post-industrial areas. But the elephant in the room is that nobody knows how. And let's be real. There is little hope of a meaningful revival in left-behind places until Britain decisively transitions from a former manufacturing powerhouse to a knowledge-based economy. And even when the AI revolution finally arrives, it will demand an unprecedented level of skill, education and creativity of the average worker, which many in the underclass as it stands will not be equipped to take advantage of.

In short, the prognosis is dire. The crisis of the British white underclass is likely to become yet another super-wicked problem that politicians strenuously ignore. The recent riots may just be the start of a societal catastrophe that is only beginning to unfold.

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Too many are held back not simply by their deprivation but their despairing belligerence

Way of the World Michael Deacon

During last week's riots, so many thugs disguised themselves using masks that the Government is now considering a ban on the wearing of face coverings at protests. According to a report in the *Sun*, however, exceptions would be made for "people in religious dress".

If true, we may end up confronted by an unlikely sight. Mobs of violent Islamophobes, all clad in burkas.

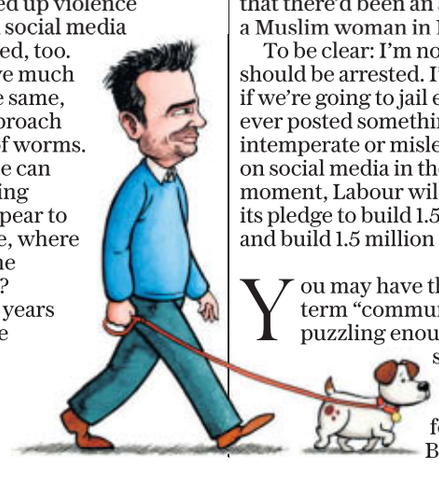
For the time being, at least, the authorities are focused on dealing with those responsible for the unrest. But punishment isn't solely reserved for people who committed violent acts. People who stirred up violence through posts on social media are being punished, too.

It's hard to have much sympathy. All the same, I fear such an approach may open a can of worms. Because, if people can be jailed for posting messages that appear to promote violence, where does that leave the Health Secretary?

In 2009, some years before he became a Labour MP, Wes Streeting responded to a controversial column in the *Daily Mail* by tweeting, of the woman who wrote it: "There would be nothing natural about Jan Moir's death if I shoved the bigoted old bag under a train." In 2022, a spokesman for Mr Streeting apologised, acknowledging that his tweet was "in bad taste". An apology, however, would not have been enough to save those jailed in the past week for their behaviour online.

While we're on the subject, another Labour MP has apologised for a historic post in which she complained about "f---ing Estonian retards". And a third Labour MP has deleted a post which shared an unfounded claim that there'd been an acid attack on a Muslim woman in Middlesbrough.

To be clear: I'm not saying these MPs should be arrested. I'm just saying that, if we're going to jail everyone who has ever posted something foolish, intemperate or misleading on social media in the heat of the moment, Labour will have to abandon its pledge to build 1.5 million homes – and build 1.5 million prisons instead.



You may have thought that the term "community leaders" was puzzling enough. But now it seems there's another curious new buzzword for us all to learn. Because the Crown Prosecution Service has announced that, to help "drive our response" to last week's unrest, it's "meeting with local panels".

But hang on a moment. What exactly are these mysterious "local panels"? What's their remit? Who's on them? And how do you get a place on one?

Perhaps "local panels" are simply composed of an area's "community leaders". Or perhaps they're put together like juries. Out of the blue, randomly selected members of the public receive a stern-looking official letter, informing them that they are required to sit on their local panel.

Personally, though, I think that if local panels have the ability to influence the actions of a body as important as the Crown Prosecution Service, membership of them should be elected. We, the great British public, must have the right to decide which of our fellow citizens represent us on these august panels.

To ensure that my plea reaches the relevant authorities, I intend to go straight to my community leader. Just as soon as I've found out who on earth he or she is.

Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting, the two competitors who comfortably won gold in the women's Olympic boxing, have had to endure endless cruel allegations that they aren't biologically female. Of course, this whole unhappy row could have been avoided if all prospective competitors in the women's Olympic events had been required (as they were in the past) to undergo a simple cheek swab test beforehand, to confirm their biological sex. Supporters of the two boxers, however, argue that this would have been hurtful, humiliating, invasive and dehumanising.

Very well. But by the same logic, we should abolish Olympic drugs testing, too.

After all, think how invasive and dehumanising it must feel for Olympic athletes, to be forced to urinate into a container so that their bodily fluids can be inspected by a complete stranger. Also, how hurtful and humiliating it must seem – because the very act of being made to undergo drugs tests implies that the athletes could potentially be cheats. Why can't we be kind and compassionate, and take it in good faith that Olympic athletes would never dream of cheating in order to win a gold medal?

I think it's high time we stopped policing athletes' bodies in this callous, intrusive and unnecessary manner. And if an athlete just happens to complete the marathon in 20 minutes, or hurl the javelin half way to Berlin, let's all stand up and applaud an incredible sporting achievement.

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ESTABLISHED 1855

Right way to restore respect for the police

Many people will agree with the observation by Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, that Britain has lost respect for the police. The contempt with which the thugs who rioted last week treated the brave officers required to restore order, often under a hail of missiles, is appalling.

It is nothing new to see the thin blue line become a target for rioters, most of whom are just looking for any excuse for violent activity. It is also good to see the courts handing down swift and condign jail sentences and to know that Labour ministers are apparently now converts to the notion that "prison works".

Ms Cooper, writing in this newspaper, said: "As well as punishing those responsible for the last fortnight's violent disorder, we must take action to restore respect for the police, and respect for the law."

But is she drawing the right lessons from these events? Her answer is to reverse "the collapse in community policing" by deploying more warranted and support officers on the streets.

What does the Government mean by "community policing"? If it means pandering to local cultural and political leaders, this could simply exacerbate the tensions caused by a perception, rightly or wrongly held, that different groups are policed in different ways. Ministers and the police have rejected any accusations of "two-tier policing", yet that is what happens when law and order are not upheld in an equal manner.

Policing in this country is based on consent, so bringing people along with the decisions taken is an essential component. But it must be seen to be even-handed. Moreover, when the police appear to focus greater energy on following up online comments rather than investigating burglaries, the public is entitled to ask where their priorities really lie.

The police have good reason to blame politicians, who piled more and more duties on them until they became more an arm of social services than a force for order. Constabularies even call themselves a "service" nowadays.

The public is fed up with being fobbed off with new ways of policing when the old worked well – officers on the beat providing a visible deterrent to trouble-makers, knife-carriers, muggers, shoplifters and the rest. Officers' approach to policing should not be tailored to suit the prejudices and requirements of local leaders but the entire country, equal under the law.

Deterring Iran

While Western military strategists ponder the consequences of Ukraine's incursion into Russia, another immediate crisis is brewing in the Middle East. Iran appears to be preparing to launch a strike against Israel in reprisal for the assassinations recently of Hezbollah and Hamas leaders.

America has sent a guided missile nuclear submarine to the region and also expedited the despatch of a carrier strike group in a bid to deter Iran. Washington said it was committed "to take every possible step to defend" Israel from a potential attack. It is the second such stand-off in recent months.

In April, after Israel bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing a senior commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Iran vowed to retaliate. Then as now, warnings were issued, yet Tehran went ahead and fired hundreds of missiles at Israel, most of which were shot down by air defences. France, Germany and Britain have again called on Iran to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate tensions.

Since Hamas terrorists invaded Israel on October 7 last year, the prospect of a wider regional conflict has been ever-present. Iran has mostly preferred to operate through proxies, like Hezbollah, which has been firing missiles into Israel for months, and the Houthis in Yemen, which continue to disrupt shipping.

Tehran claims it has a right to take an "appropriate and deterrent response", deploying a somewhat Biblical eye-for-an-eye rationale rather than a self-defence argument. Since most of the dislocation in the region is caused by Tehran's belligerence, this should cut no ice with anyone.

Inglorious Twelfth

The grouse season that opened yesterday is set to be the worst for at least 20 years. The menus of the refined London eateries that like to satisfy their customer's pursuit of the rare meat – at equally refined prices – are wholly bereft of the delicacy. Spring showers, or, rather, unceasing rain, may be to blame. The drenched and frozen young, with an acute shortage of insects to feast on, could not make it through. Restrictions on the burning of heather may have made matters worse. Moors are reporting they have no harvestable surplus of the fowl; shoots that could charge guns £250 for a brace (that's where the income lies, they only receive a few pounds from game dealers for each bird) have had to cancel much of their season. Those without limitless funds to spend on the unmistakable flesh may have to wait for a predicted rebound in numbers next year.

Letters to the Editor

The police's failure to tackle everyday crimes has eroded public trust

SIR – Although I agree to some extent with the opinions expressed by Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary ("We need to restore respect for our police", Comment, August 12), she demonstrates that she is out of touch.

People have become used to the police failing to investigate crime. Car theft is not pursued; nor, in many instances, is burglary. Reporting such incidents is widely considered to be a waste of time.

While an increased police presence on the streets would be welcome, a greater focus on solving crimes would also help to restore respect.

Margaret Joscelyne
Knutsford, Cheshire

SIR – Is it any wonder that people have lost respect for the police? Shoplifting appears to have become the norm, and if you ring to report a crime they don't turn up to investigate – they just give you a crime number for the insurance.

The police's cause has not been helped by politicians. It is worth remembering that Sir Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner were photographed "taking the knee", presumably to show how in-touch they were. I don't know if they were aware at the time that the Black Lives Matter movement was calling for the police to be defunded. But if they fail to show respect for the police, why should we?

Charles Penfold
Ulverston, Cumbria

SIR – While the police have been resourcing a team to scour social media for potentially offensive messages ("Officers hunt down 'hate influencers' for stoking riots", report, August 11), another needless stabbing has taken place in central London ("Girl, 11, stabbed in Leicester Square", telegraph.co.uk, August 12).

Sadly, such things have been happening for years. The police have painted their cars in rainbows and danced for likes on TikTok, but have failed to confront the fact that serious, violent crime is on the increase in some areas. Make our streets safe, protect our property and punish criminals: that is what we ask of our police, and that is how they can regain our respect.

Andrew Holgate
Nether Alderley, Cheshire

SIR – The police started to lose respect at least 20 years ago. Did they not notice, for example, how motorists stopped giving way at road junctions to (non-emergency) police cars?

Richard May
Horncastle, Lincolnshire

SIR – I can only imagine that Graham Sharpe (Letters, August 8), who praises sector policing, was involved in its introduction. The fact is that the system was a disaster, and was quickly recognised as such by rank-and-file officers. As a uniform sergeant I went from parading 18 officers for night duty to four, because many PCs deployed for sector policing did not work nights.

Frederick Crowley
Bishops Nympton, Devon

The volunteer void

SIR – My wife and I are both retired (Letters, August 12). I'm the treasurer of my local Rotary Club and parish church. My wife is a member of Inner Wheel and also volunteers at the church. We enjoy being busy and spend many hours each day fulfilling our responsibilities. Of course, being retired, we can take days off, or longer holidays, more or less when we choose.

The Government seems intent on increasing the tax burden for people like us, on the basis that we are not "working people". I'd suggest that my wife and I, and many other volunteers, are indeed "working" – the only difference being that we don't receive an income from our activities. In fact, we often put our hands into our own pockets to support organisations.

If our income is so reduced by taxation – on top of having received paltry returns on our savings for many of the past 10 years – we may decide that we can no longer afford to be volunteers. What plans does the Government have to fill the void?

Brian Stickland
Weybridge, Surrey

SIR – The impact of Labour's policy to add VAT to school fees (report, August 11) is already being felt. I spent the weekend with close friends who have just had to tell their sons that they will be moving schools next term, causing them great upheaval as they start their A-level and GCSE years respectively.

Their parents are an Army officer and a NHS nurse. Are these the elites that the Chancellor had in mind?

Claire Wright
Colerne, Wiltshire

Support after sport

SIR – I was very sorry to read that Graham Thorpe, the former England batsman, took his own life (Sport, telegraph.co.uk, August 12). Sadly, middle-aged men are particularly at risk, and as well as improving access to mental health services we need to address other issues.

After sports stars quit they should receive ongoing support from their professional bodies to help them adjust to a new life in retirement, which is a big change and can lead to feelings of loneliness and worthlessness.

Dr Robert McKinty
Darlington, Co Durham

SIR – Graham Thorpe was my cricketing hero. There was something about his presence at the crease that I just loved to watch. It made my day to see him do well – even if England lost.

I remember his knock in the final innings of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge in 1997. England lost by plenty and had long since surrendered the Ashes, but Thorpey made a serene 82 not out, described by Christopher Martin-Jenkins as "flawless". The Aussies couldn't lay a glove on him – and somehow defeat hurt less.

He showed defiance and class in an era containing the greatest collection of Test match bowlers the game has ever seen. Ambrose, Walsh, McGrath, Warne, Donald, Pollock, Wasim, Waqar, Muralitharan – the list of greats goes on. To average nearly 45 against such titans, often on difficult wickets, speaks for itself.

He also made tough runs. When the chips were down, when England really needed it, he would so often stand up. On the relatively rare occasions England plundered big totals, he tended to miss out, as if reserving his resources for harder times.

I never met him, but felt an affinity for him that I can't altogether explain. I hope his family realise that, for all the tributes that have rightly been paid to him by the great and the good of cricket, he touched the lives of supporters too.

James Benson
London N5

Education in prisons

SIR – Regarding Fraser Nelson's article ("The British migrant dream is thriving. It's poor white boys who are in trouble", Comment, August 9), I spent 10 years with the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP The Verne on the Isle of Portland in Dorset.

It was evident that the ethnic-minority prisoners were much more interested in the education facilities than the white British ones. They saw the practical courses in painting and decorating, for instance, or domestic electrical installation, as offering the best chance of "going straight" when they had completed their sentences.

There was also some evidence of an "anti-boffin" culture among the white British prisoners. Those enrolled in academic courses (including reading) would be jeered at by their peers. That attitude was, I presume, also prevalent in the schools they had once attended.

John Neimer
Stoborough, Dorset

Savers' prospects

SIR – I have received an email saying that the interest on my savings account will be going down on September 2 – a month after the Bank Rate was cut.

I recall it took much longer for the building society to increase my interest when the rate went up.

Charles Simon
Leicester

Best of the BBC

SIR – Alan Tyers, discussing the stars of the BBC's Olympics coverage (Sport, August 12), fails to mention the exemplary Clare Balding. She held things together, introducing the various presenters and experts with her usual calm efficiency.

Enid Marten
Dormansland, Surrey

The naming of cats

SIR – Cats (Letters, August 12) don't have owners or indeed a single home. They simply have gullible humans.

Each of our two had a name given by us, to which they answered if minded to. However, we discovered by accident that one also answered to the name Cocoa, and the other to the name Custard. One came running at the smell of cheese, and both appeared when they could smell bacon.

After an elderly lady two doors down died, "our" cats mourned. It transpired that they had been going there for a full English breakfast every morning.

Sue Doughty
Reading, Berkshire



MARK THOMAS/ALAMY

Winston Churchill's *Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque* (1943) at an auction in 2021

Inspired by Churchill to take up painting

SIR – I was interested to read Jane Shilling's article (Comment, August 12) about politicians' hobbies, particularly Winston Churchill's love of painting.

Two years ago I came across a book by Churchill called *Painting as a Pastime*, which explains how he started painting and how it helped him escape the pressures of office. I found it so inspiring that, at the age of 70, I took it up myself. I have very little talent but have enjoyed it immensely, and found it thoroughly absorbing and mentally relaxing – despite not having to deal with anything like the pressures that Churchill did.

I recommend the book and the hobby. You are never too old to learn.

Dr Catherine Keech
Guildford, Surrey

The victims of Labour's war on landlords

SIR – My grandson and his partner live in rented accommodation. He is a police community support officer and she is a mental health nurse.

They are saving to buy a house, but it will be some years before they can afford it. Their flat is not suitable for a family, so a move is essential before they can start one. However, since the general election, the supply of rental properties of any kind has evaporated.

Another couple we know want to give up a family home that they don't need and release capital to help their grandchildren get on to the housing ladder. Yet for them, too, the option to rent somewhere while they look for a smaller permanent home has gone.

If the Chancellor wishes to achieve fairness, has she considered that, in these cases, her ideological dislike of private landlords simply means equal unhappiness for all who actually want or need them ("Landlords sell up over fears of Labour tax raid", report, August 8)?

Philip Stevens
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire

SIR – Labour will reintroduce green targets that require property investors to improve homes to a minimum energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of C by 2030 (report, August 12). The last government scrapped a 2025 target partly because the EPC system was flawed and only looked at energy costs rather than green factors.

As a landlord of several mid-terrace properties built in the 1910s, after the 2017 requirement to get a D rating I improved the glazing with modern doors and windows, installed new boilers, deepened loft insulation, switched to 100 per cent LED lights – and was just about successful. The construction of properties of this age precludes cavity-wall insulation, and, where solar might be an option for one or two, others don't have the necessary aspect to benefit.

What am I to do? Evict tenants and sell because I am unable to meet the EPC requirements, despite providing nice homes to decent people? Beware the law of unintended consequences.

Jonathan Baker
Askett, Buckinghamshire

Vladimir Putin's hubris has finally met its nemesis

Ukraine's incursion into Kursk could be a turning point in history, just like the original 1943 battle

HAMISH DE BRETTON GORDON



History has long weighed heavily on the mind of Vladimir Putin. His original justification for the invasion of Ukraine was laced with false ideas about the past, including the suggestion that Ukraine did not have a legitimate claim to exist as an independent nation.

But in the exquisite Ukrainian counter-manoeuvre in Kursk, southern Russia, history has come back to bite President Putin. On much the same ground in 1943, vast Soviet forces turned back the Nazi hordes in a battle rightly considered to be one of the turning points in the Second World War. But whereas once Kursk could be assured a special place in the pantheon of Russian pride, Ukraine's current "tactical" operation there means it may now come to be remembered as a source of Russian humiliation. And if the West allows Kyiv to exploit its successes, it may prove to be the locus of another turning point in Russian history, too.

The Ukrainian troops operating inside Russian territory are not some rag-tag force, but an army that for the first time in this conflict has demonstrated effective combined arms manoeuvre, the "Western" way of fighting. With a small force of determined and evidently well-trained soldiers, and a small number of tanks, they routed a bunch of unwilling conscripts whose shouts and screams will have rattled the windows of the Kremlin, and are now being heard in the homes of the rank and file in Russia, who hitherto have been fed a diet of Putin's military brilliance.

This is also a harsh lesson for those armchair commentators who, without a whiff of combat experience, have sought to use the Ukraine war to condemn the art of soldiery, of tank warfare and of combined arms manoeuvre, assuring us that the future is drones and cyber and electronic warfare. Perhaps seduced by the devastatingly inept attempt by "elite" Russian forces to conduct armoured manoeuvre at the start of the war, they swallowed the idea that tanks et al are history.

But those of us with a modicum of experience of land warfare saw very quickly that the original Russian attack failed not because the idea behind it was obsolete. It was thwarted because the Russian tank crews were poorly trained and badly led, with tanks being destroyed in their thousands, often by the British NLAW anti-tank weapon.

What Ukraine has proved instead is that the Principles of War – the bible for successful warriors since time immemorial, drawing on the lessons of everyone from Carl von Clausewitz to Napoleon – are very much alive. The principles of surprise, offensive spirit and concentration of force worked for the Soviets in 1943, and are working for Ukrainian forces today. If you had listened to the drone fanatics, you would have thought it impossible to achieve surprise on today's "transparent" battlefield. They forgot that the drone is only as smart as its operator and that both sides of a conflict have a say in the outcome.

The current Ukrainian move will harm Putin in at least three ways. First, it means that he will have to divert forces to defend against other incursions across the border, which are no doubt planned to further unbalance the Russian aggressors. Kyiv has introduced an extra element of jeopardy into Russian planning. It is now also clear that Russia possesses no mobile reserve to plug gaps in its defences, and there is certainly no sign that the locals have any desire to pick up scythes and picks to slow the Ukrainian advance.

Second, it is deeply embarrassing and might help to destabilise Putin's rule. The Kremlin cannot defend Russia's own territory, let alone beat Ukraine, and for the first time this appears to be getting significant airtime in mainstream media.

Third, it demonstrates that Ukraine does not need anything like the same number of men or arms as the Russians to change the military facts on the ground. Back in 1943, the Germans attacked with hundreds of thousands of men and thousands of tanks. The Ukrainians have seized a few hundred square miles with a few thousand men and a handful of tanks. In other words, victory for Ukraine is by no means unachievable.

Europe and the United States might now be looking more to the Middle East than Ukraine, but the latter is much more important to our own security. Instead of fretting about "escalation", the West should ensure that Ukraine can reinforce its tactical successes in Kursk as a means of forcing Russia to the negotiating table. Indeed, this is an opportunity to shorten the war, one that no doubt Churchill and Roosevelt would have grasped. Sadly, we do not have their calibre today, but it is a chance for Sir Keir Starmer to make his mark and Joe Biden to leave a decent legacy.

But it is also a big signal to the UK's new Strategic Defence Review that warfare has not been fundamentally changed by cheap drones. The officials running the review should not listen too much to the brilliant academics who seem to know every inch of every battle but little of fighting in one. They should canvass the opinions of those of us who have actually won a few.

Hamish de Bretton Gordon is a former commander of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment

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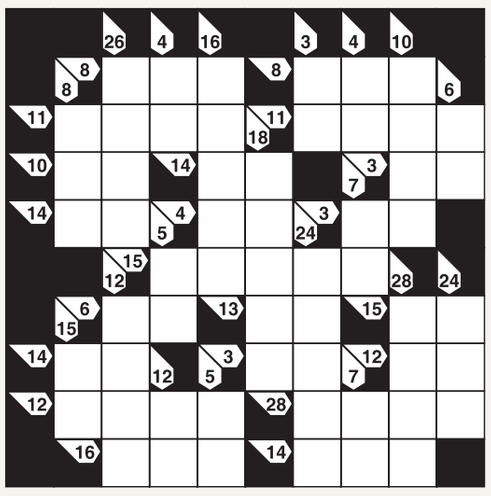
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Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

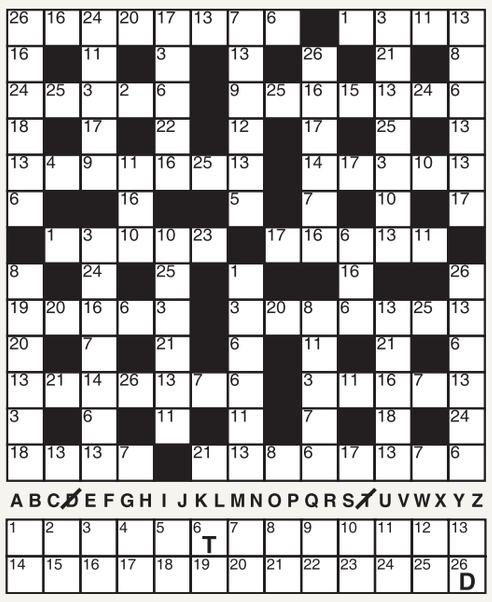
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

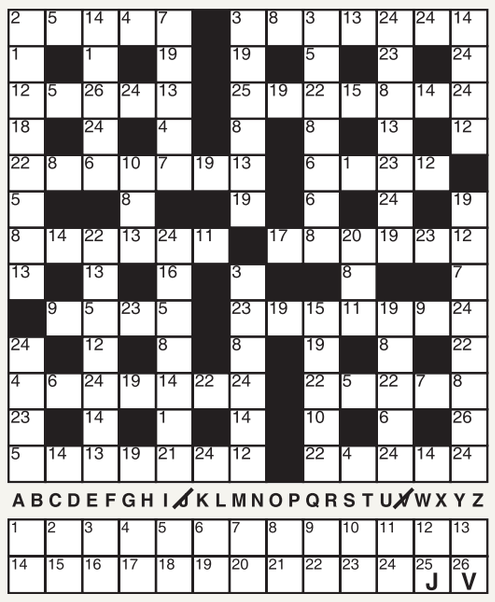
GENTLE NO 5111



CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*



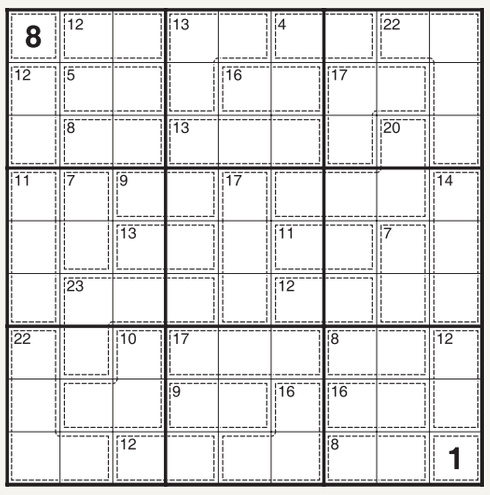


For today's **right-hand** codewords solutions call **0905 757 0131**. For up to five extra letter clues call **0905 757 0130** or text **DTCODE** (leaving no spaces) to **64343**. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE



SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6681

6			4	5				
		7	6	8	3			1
					7			
	8	9			4	5		
	6						9	
		5	3			4	6	
			5					
1			2	4	6	3		
				1	9			5

TOUGH NO 6681

5		1			7	9		
	7			5			3	
					2			
		7				6	1	
	1		3		8		2	
	4	8				7		
				6	9			
		6	8			4		1

Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call **0905 757 0136.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon – Fri. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term relating to physics. *Solution tomorrow.*

GIMME ANTS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

HORSY GITTERN _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

LION IN BIG TOP _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

MIND GYM

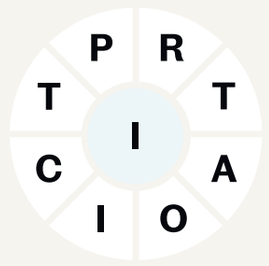
NO 4387

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER									ANSWER
9	x6	TRIPLE IT	-74	7/11 OF THIS	DOUBLE IT	3/4 OF THIS	÷7	X BY ITSELF	+37	
INTERMEDIATE										ANSWER
96	÷6	x11.5	TRIPLE IT	-318	HALVE IT	÷9	X BY ITSELF	-57	13/14 OF THIS	
ADVANCED										ANSWER
368	7/8 OF THIS	-146	TRIPLE IT	4/11 OF THIS	÷3	√	x19.75	+216	÷17	

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*

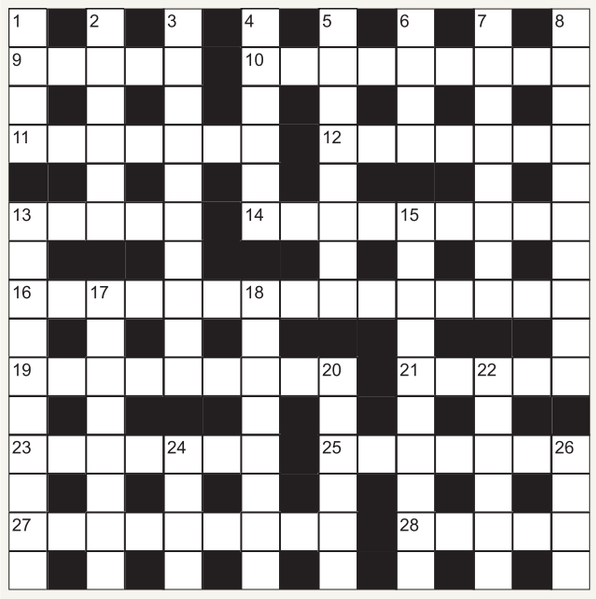


Up to 7 words - Word Finder, 8 - Wordsmith, 16 - Word Wizard, 24 - Word Master, 32 - Word Genius, 41 - Word Perfect

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3321

DONNYBROOK



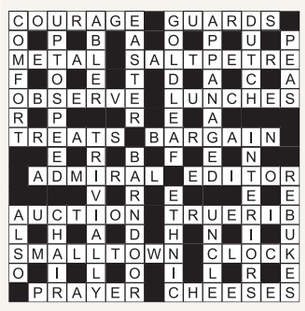
Across

9 Go round with zero speed? (5)
10 Smooth and white party in atomic plant (9)
11 Corrupt, like Mr Putin, at last in his citadel (7)
12 In East, travelling around old nation (7)
13 Wait with North American Democrat (5)
14 Sweet-sounding line by the writer causing hatred (9)
16 Were Eden folk got in trouble by this? (4,2,9)
19 Rely on offence being taken in studies (5,4)
21 Sip beer regularly in teetotal land (5)
23 Boy keeping rodents back in tens (7)
25 Musician who may require a grand opening? (7)
27 Banish out-of-practice princess are we told? (9)
28 Dull sound from strong man on time (5)

Down

1 *See 3 Down*
2 Threaten little devil with death (6)
3 & 1 Down Just after stopping US hit men, look out for 25: 14 28 they called him! (10,4)
4 Confining antelope Geordie mother shows bottle (6)
5 Station attendant leaving one little room (8)
6 Sail back with wife (4)
7 Place outside behind Californian university (8)
8 Paper's byline initially hard to see when changed (10)
13 Struggled again losing million in racket (10)
15 Italian poet embracing one Latvian amateur (10)
17 Expert in possession, be carrying ball and run about (8)
18 Relationship with regal lunatic in drama (4,4)
20 Sea hawk over small creature hunted (6)
22 We hear coastal road comes to port (6)
24 Cause serious harm month after month in France (4)
26 Rough-mannered person in County Kerry (4)

Toughie No 3320



Help with clues
Single clues 0905 757 0126.
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
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PUZZLES
SORTED
~~RELIEF~~
RESOLVED
SATISFYING
RETIREMENT
~~IT TAKES AVIVA~~
SAVINGS
RELAXED
TAKEN CARE OF
FEELGOOD
HAPPINESS
ORGANISED

Helping solve your financial puzzles?

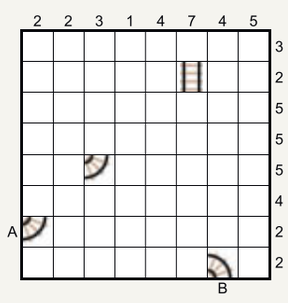
It takes Aviva.

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AVIVA

TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE NO 4154

	6				
		4	3		
			2		
					4
		2	4	3	
				5	

PLUSWORD

NO 814

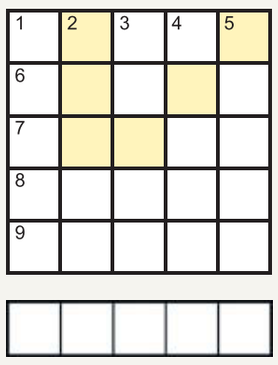
Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

Across

1 Last Greek letter
6 Gore ___, writer; ___ Sassoon, businessman
7 Outcast
8 Direct elsewhere
9 Dalliance

Down

1 Obvious; trove (anag.)
2 Kitchen appliance; bartender, potentially
3 Strengthen, spiritually
4 Strong winds
5 Watchful, attentive



Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

DECANT, EMBITTERED, SMUDGE, SCOWL, MUMBLE

BLUE
POST

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THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6680

6	7	8	5	4	1	9	3	2
9	1	5	8	3	2	4	7	6
2	3	4	9	6	7	1	5	8
5	6	1	4	2	9	3	8	7
7	8	9	3	5	6	2	4	1
4	2	3	7	1	8	5	6	9
3	9	6	1	8	4	7	2	5
8	4	7	2	9	5	6	1	3
1	5	2	6	7	3	8	9	4

6	1	2	7	4	9	5	8	3
8	7	3	1	2	5	6	9	4
4	5	9	8	3	6	1	7	2
7	8	6	2	9	3	4	5	1
2	3	1	4	5	7	9	6	8
9	4	5	6	8	1	2	3	7
1	9	8	5	7	2	3	4	6
3	2	7	9	6	4	8	1	5
5	6	4	3	1	8	7	2	9

Word Ladder: Cure, cute, mute, mite, mine, mind, mend.

Anagrams: 1. Phenomenal 2. Surprising 3. Significant.

Panagram: Mentioned, nominee, mention, eminent, toneme, omened, monied, minted, itemed, emoted, emetin, demote, dement, timed, nomen, monte, mined, meted, emote, emend, denim, demon, demit, tome, time, teem, omit, omen, nome, neem, mote, mode, mite, mint, mine, mind, mien, mete, meno, mend, meet, meed, item, emit, dome, dime, demo, deme, deem.

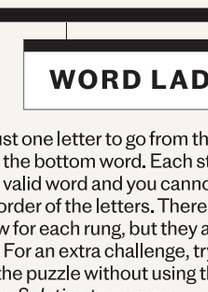
Today's Mind Gym
Beginner: 181 **Intermediate:** 104 **Advanced:** 22

PlusWord No 813

B	E	A	K	S
E	L	B	O	W
A	G	O	R	A
R	A	V	E	R
D	R	E	A	M

Vowed

Train Tracks



Killer Sudoku

6	4	8	1	5	7	3	2	9
7	5	3	2	6	9	4	1	8
1	9	2	8	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	9	4	8	2	1	7	3
3	8	7	9	1	6	2	4	5
4	2	1	5	7	3	8	9	6
8	1	6	7	2	5	9	3	4
2	3	4	6	9	8	7	5	1
9	7	5	3	4	1	6	8	2

Mini Sudoku No 4153

5	2	6	1	3	4
1	3	4	5	2	6
6	5	2	4	1	3
4	1	3	2	6	5
2	6	5	3	4	1
3	4	1	6	5	2

Codewords 1 and 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Q	F	P	S	Y	J	Z	N	A	O	K	H	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	C	R	U	B	T	X	M	E	L	G	W	D

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	I	P	H	D	O	K	J	L	Z	V	E	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	U	S	T	R	G	Y	W	N	F	M	C	B

Kakuro No 5110

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	5	1	3	4	■	5	7	9	■
■	1	3	2	8	■	7	9	8	6
■	■	■	5	7	9	8	■	6	2
■	1	6	7	■	7	9	3	■	■
■	5	8	9	■	■	■	2	8	9
■	■	■	8	9	6	■	1	2	6
■	1	8	■	8	2	1	4	■	■
■	8	9	6	7	■	2	5	1	3
■	■	5	8	6	■	6	7	3	9

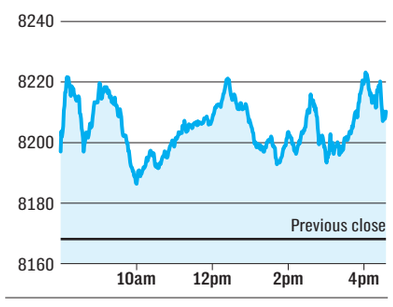
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Business



MARKETS

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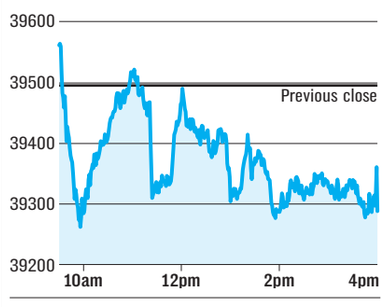
8210.25
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52WkHigh	8474.41	
52WkLow	7215.76	
Yield	3.73pc	-0.02
P/E Ratio	13.30	+0.07

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BT Group
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+11 (+8.43pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
JD Sports Fash
120⅜p
-5⅛ (-4.07pc)

DOW JONES



39357.01
-140.53 (-0.36pc)

52WkHigh	41376.00
52WkLow	32327.20

FTSE 250	20677.19	+52.01 (+0.25pc)
FTSE All Share	4486.47	+21.43 (+0.48pc)
FTSE All Share Yield	3.67	-0.02
FTSE Eurotop 100	3938.13	-5.85 (-0.15pc)
Nikkei 225	35025.00	No Change
EURO STOXX 50	4671.88	-3.40 (-0.07pc)
S&P 500	5344.39	+0.23 (+0.00pc)
Nasdaq	16780.61	+35.31 (+0.21pc)

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Change
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COMMODITIES

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(October)
+2.64 (+3.31pc)

Page 22

Hard lesson
Failing universities are a drag on Britain — but bailing them out is wrong
Matthew Lynn

Page 21

Hidden crisis
Domestic abuse was long seen as solely a working-class problem – now senior women in the City are revealing they are victims

Page 18

BT billionaire eyes role in UK-India trade talks

Sunil Mittal looks to foster closer ties between Delhi and London after buying 25pc of telecoms company

By **James Warrington**

AN Indian telecoms billionaire is vying to broker a UK-India trade deal after buying a stake of almost 25pc in BT.

Sunil Bharti Mittal is said to be keen to assist discussions between the two countries after striking a deal to become the largest investor in the former British monopoly.

Mr Mittal, who is one of India's richest men with a reported net worth of as much as $19.7bn (£15.4bn) and a close ally of prime minister Narendra Modi, has previously called for closer ties between the UK and India.

He held a meeting with David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary, and Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Secretary, during a trip to India prior to the election. He also met Sir Keir Starmer and other Cabinet ministers at a Downing Street reception after Labour's victory.

In a statement, Mr Mittal said: "This investment in BT Group aims to support the commitment of our Hon'ble Prime Minister towards his vision in elevating and broadening the India-UK ties."

Bharti Global, the investment arm of Mr Mittal's Bharti Enterprises conglomerate, yesterday said it had agreed to buy a 24.5pc stake in BT from the embattled French tycoon Patrick Drahi.

The transaction will take place in two parts, with Bharti initially acquiring a 9.99pc stake, followed by a further 14.51pc stake once it has received national security clearance from the Government. The deal makes Mr Mittal the largest shareholder in BT and puts him just shy of a blocking stake. However, he will not take a board seat and has insisted he has no intention of making a formal bid to acquire the company.

Mr Mittal founded Bharti Global in 1976 and grew the company into one of India's largest conglomerates, with interests spanning telecoms, media and space. He has a long-standing relationship with BT, which previously held a 21pc stake in Bharti Airtel between 1997 and 2001 and held two board seats.

Allison Kirkby, BT's chief executive, is looking to accelerate cost-cutting at the telecoms behemoth after taking up the role earlier this year. She has pledged to strip £3bn of costs out of the business and scale back heavy investment on its broadband network.

Mr Mittal said he was supportive of Ms Kirkby's strategy and would be encouraging management to follow it "even more boldly". He added: "What we see in BT is nothing but outstanding and I think the investor community will start to recognise the excellent job that is being done."

Mr Kirkby said: "We welcome investors who recognise the long-term value of our business, and this scale of investment from Bharti Global is a great vote of confidence in the future of BT Group and our strategy. "BT has enjoyed a long association with Bharti Enterprises, and I'm pleased that they share our ambition and vision for the future of our business."

Karen Egan, head of mobile at Enders Analysis, said the Indian tycoon had likely seen BT as "an investment opportunity that wasn't fully appreciated by the market". She added: "I don't think that he has a very different agenda to the current management. I really think that he will be very supportive of what the company is pursuing. I don't think he's looking to take it in a different direction, quite unlike Mr Drahi."

Simon Johnson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said: "Bharti have made their name on low-cost access and being very competitive in India, but also parts of Africa. If this is a foray into lowering the cost of telecoms in the UK, that could be very attractive for consumers."

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the stake is worth roughly £3.2bn at last week's closing prices.

Shares in BT jumped 7pc following the announcement. While the telecoms giant's market value has slumped in recent years, its share price has rallied by more than a quarter since Ms Kirkby took over the role in February.

Mr Mittal added his investment in BT represented a vote of confidence in Britain, which he said offered an "attractive, stable investment destination and great home for long-term capital".

Analysis: Page 19



KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE

Social butterfly Adele's record label has struck a deal with Meta. Universal Music Group agreed a multi-year partnership to license songs on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Boris Johnson approached for Telegraph job by Zahawi

By **James Warrington**

BORIS JOHNSON has held talks about a role at *The Telegraph* as part of former Tory chancellor Nadhim Zahawi's takeover bid.

The former prime minister had informal discussions with Mr Zahawi, who is assembling a consortium to buy *The Telegraph* as part of an auction process, about a possible job if he is successful.

A source close to Mr Johnson downplayed the talks, saying that no substantial discussions had taken place. That is despite speculation that Mr Johnson could be made the *Telegraph*'s global editor-in-chief.

The former prime minister has close ties to the newspaper, having served as its Brussels correspondent before becoming a columnist.

He now writes a weekly column for the *Daily Mail*, for which he reportedly earns a six-figure salary. Mr Johnson was also due to join GB News earlier this year to help helm its election coverage, but never took up the role.

Mr Johnson appointed Mr Zahawi as chancellor in the final days of his administration in 2022 following a string of high-profile resignations. He held the position for just two months. The involvement of Mr Johnson, which was first reported by Sky News, could help to drum up interest from investors.

Mr Zahawi is thought to have approached a number of billionaires as he seeks to assemble a consortium to table a bid for *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator*, which has also been put up for sale by Abu Dhabi-backed fund RedBird IMI.

He is one of a handful of suitors to have made it through to the second round of the auction, which is being overseen by bankers at Robey Warshaw and Raine.

Rival bidders include Sir Paul Marshall, the hedge fund tycoon behind GB News, who has backing from billionaire Republican donor Ken Griffin and is also the frontrunner to buy *The Spectator*.

David Montgomery, the veteran newspaper executive who owns titles including *The Yorkshire Post* and *The Scotsman*, has also advanced to the second round, although it is not clear how he would fund any bid.

Two unidentified overseas investment groups are understood to be in the running as well. Lord Saatchi, the former advertising tycoon, was rebuffed after tabling a £350m offer.

RedBird IMI, which is majority backed by the United Arab Emirates, was forced to put *The Telegraph* up for sale after ministers intervened to block its takeover owing to concerns about the impact on press freedom.

A spokesman for Mr Johnson declined to comment. Mr Zahawi did not respond to a request for comment.

Blow for Xi as foreign investors pull record amount out of China

By **Melissa Lawford**

FOREIGN investors have pulled a record £12bn out of China in an economic blow for President Xi Jinping.

Fears over the future of the world's second largest economy prompted foreign investors to withdraw $14.8bn (£11.6bn) between April and June, data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange show.

It was only the second time more foreign money has been withdrawn from China than invested since records began in 1998, and was a massive swing from the net $10bn pumped in during the first three months of the year. It came as the Saudi-led Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) cut its forecast for oil demand growth, citing concerns over the Chinese economy. Opec said in its monthly report that it expects world oil demand to be lower by 135,000 barrels a day, although it insists this will still expand this year by a "healthy" 2.1m barrels a day, to average 104.3m a day.

It said the "slight revision reflects actual data" for the first and second quarters, "as well as softening expectations for China's oil demand growth in 2024".

Economists said the outlook for China had worsened as a result of geopolitical tensions, an ailing domestic economy, a slump in the value of the yuan and low interest rates. Foreign direct investment in China last turned negative in the autumn of 2023, when investors pulled out $12bn. Chinese companies also invested a record $71bn overseas between April and June, up 80pc year on year.

Combined, this meant China suffered a record net outflow of $86bn in direct investment.

Duncan Wrigley, chief China economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said: "I think what is going on is that foreign investors are selling assets and exiting China or pulling profits out of China."

Western businesses exporting to the US have been "nearshoring" production to friendlier states such as Vietnam and Mexico in order to reduce risks to their supply chains.

£12bn

Amount overseas investors withdrew from China from April to June. In the first quarter nearly £8bn was invested

Mr Wrigley said: "Companies who have got export factories are worried about geopolitical tensions with the US."

On top of this, domestic consumer demand in China has been anaemic since the country reopened after lockdown, as the nation's property crisis has eroded people's wealth and hit confidence.

Mr Wrigley said: "Consumers generally have been downgrading their purchases by buying cheaper stuff.

"There has been a limited return of spending in some areas like tourism and there is just not as much appetite for buying big items as before."

While other major economies have been raising interest rates to tackle inflation, Beijing has been cutting rates in an attempt to boost the economy.

Max Zenglein, chief economist at the Mercator Institute for China Studies, said China is no longer an attractive place for investors. The yuan is at historical lows against the US dollar and China has been cutting interest rates, lowering the prospect of returns for cash investors.

Mr Zenglein said: "The pipeline of new investments into China is drying up. The Chinese government is struggling to build confidence overall in the economy, and there is an expectation that geopolitical frictions are going to rise.

"There might be collateral damage in response to, for example, measures like the EU imposing tariffs."

The European Union will vote at the end of October on whether to introduce new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

Heathrow visits hit by £10 travel fee

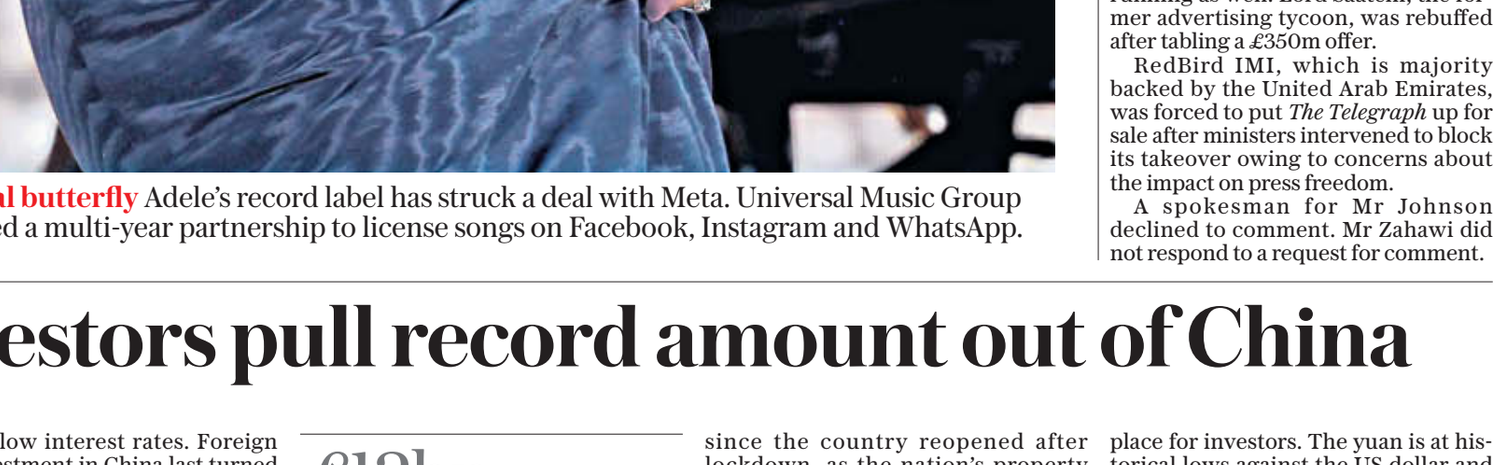
By **Chris Price**

HEATHROW airport has suffered a 90,000 decline in the number of passengers travelling from the Middle East, blaming a new £10 per person charge for people coming to Britain.

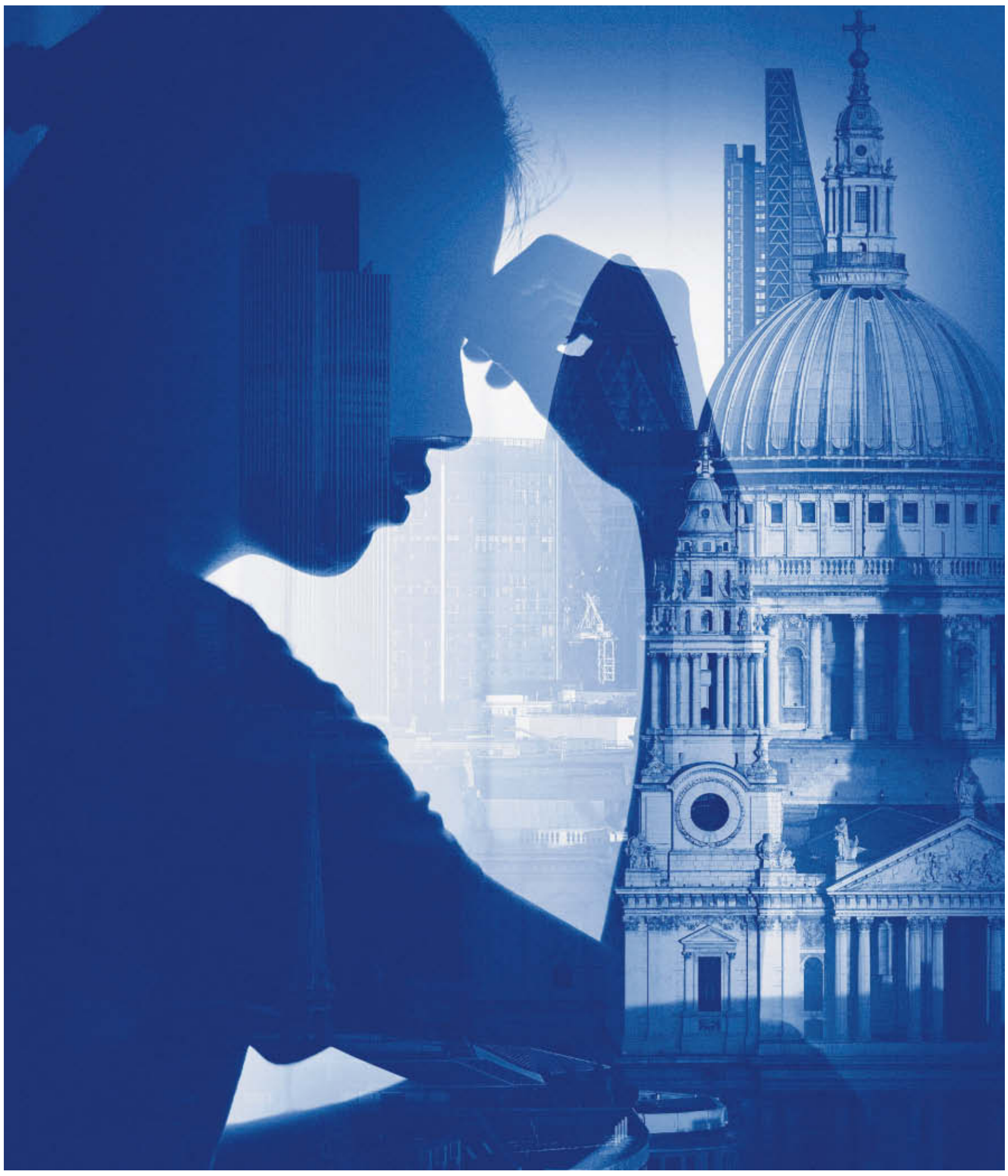
The airport described the electronic travel authorisation (ETA) system as "devastating for our hub competitiveness". The previous government introduced ETAs in November 2023 for people entering or transiting through the UK without legal residence or a visa. ETAs are required for nationals of Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The programme is scheduled to be extended to the rest of the world this autumn, although for travellers from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland it will be introduced early next year.

In a statement, Heathrow said that "the latest data following the introduction of the ETA shows that Heathrow has lost 90,000 transfer passengers on routes operating to and from the seven countries included in the scheme, since its introduction in 2023". It added: "We urge the Government to review the inclusion of airside transit passengers."



‘I was a top lawyer – but I was terrified of my husband’



Even for the most powerful women in business, the threat of domestic abuse remains, reports *Lucy Burton*

High-powered lawyer Lara appeared to have it all. The first female corporate partner in her firm’s history, she was an “archetypal strong business woman” who had made a name for herself in the cut-throat world of dealmaking.

But behind the scenes she was starting to realise that she was in an abusive relationship with her husband – an outwardly charming, high-powered finance executive who had her living in terror. “I was scared he would kill us,” she says.

Years earlier, she had set up a domestic abuse policy at her firm, which dozens of staff went on to use. She never thought she would one day need it herself.

“I remember sending an email to my boss and the first line was, ‘I feel like a bit of a lemon’,” she says. “I’d introduced this amazing programme and never thought I’d be affected.”

Lara is among a number of senior women in the City who spoke to *The Telegraph* about their experience of domestic abuse, explaining that they are eager to “bust some myths” about who is impacted and who the perpetrators can be.

Domestic abuse, say these victims, is too often dismissed as a problem that mostly affects working-class women.

But it happens in the Square Mile too – and there is the same stifling pressure to remain silent.

“There’s a great taboo about it, and the higher you are in an organisation the harder it is. You’ve got to be bloody tough to be a partner at a ‘big four’ accounting firm, a law firm, or to be high up at a bank,” Lara says. “I never thought I’d be the person reaching out for help, I was as surprised as anyone.”

The controlling behaviour crept up on her slowly. From the outside she appeared to have a happy marriage with a jet-setting financier who was “the life and soul of the party”.

He would drink a lot, but in her industry this was part and parcel of a successful career and didn’t raise any alarm bells. However, after he stopped working in the early years of their marriage, he became increasingly resentful of her success and became more and more controlling. “I couldn’t dance in the kitchen with my kids, because if I was seen to be relaxing or having fun then I’d pay the price,” she says. “I had to be seen to be busy. If he saw me playing solitaire on an iPad while I was waiting for some pasta to cook, he would suggest I was being idle.”

A few years later, he became “physically very intimidating” by throwing things and slamming doors.

Lara is far from alone. Amy, who was a managing director at one of the biggest investment banks in the world, spent years hiding bruises and broken bones from her bosses. She met her partner online, and believes she was targeted because she was “financially attractive”.

The relationship moved fast, and when friends raised eyebrows about a wedding so soon after meeting her partner she said it was a “no brainer” because she had just landed a £200,000 bonus. In the following years he took control of her finances, isolated her from her children and became physically abusive, breaking her nose, her back and two ribs.

“This is rife in our society and nobody talks about it. It’s the hidden horror of our society,” Amy says. “I’m an educated woman who was very successful and able to retire early. The external me was formidable.

> ‘There’s a great taboo about it, and the higher you are in an organisation the harder it is’

“There’s an attitude in banking that ‘this wouldn’t happen to our people, they’re way too smart’. We’re taught to be strong, articulate ambassadors to the company. It’s almost unthinkable that someone like me who was that ambassador was hiding bruises.

“I’ve got a big message to give to these companies: don’t think this isn’t happening to your people and your executives, because it is.”

Amy believes high-paying companies such as banks deliberately “search out these alpha individuals who sweep into companies and look the part”, which can leave staff feeling pressure to appear a certain way – no matter the reality.

“Someone walking in with their face all beaten up, it’s not going to happen is it,” she said. The company’s image is almost encouraging a ‘paper over the cracks’ attitude.” Amy’s abuse was so bad that the only way she could hide it was by working from home and turning her camera off. She says: “I was in a global role, so it was easy to work from home and easy to hide.” After her nose and facial bones were broken, a surgeon told her that he had “only seen these injuries before on a dead person”.

It is not just banking and law where senior staff are struggling. Leaders in other industries who have been in abusive relationships talk of feeling pressure to put on a brave face at work.

Oil giant BP has just introduced a policy to help staff escape abusive relationships by offering free accommodation and legal advice.

More than 2m people experience domestic abuse each year across England and Wales, with official statistics showing that around 25pc of women and almost 15pc of men are likely to be affected in their lifetimes.

“If you think Covid was an epidemic, look at this,” warns a senior leader in the rail industry who grew up in an abusive household and faced domestic abuse in her 20s. It took her years to find her voice at work, unsure how her ordeals would be perceived “in a male-dominated environment with ego and testosterone”.

She says: “My survival mechanism was not to speak, and that held me back for so long in my career”. Once she did feel able to talk about her struggles in the workplace, she told a director whose shouting made her so uncomfortable that when he raised his voice in a meeting room it “felt like I was being strangled”. She was surprised by how well he took it.

“Once I did that, everything got unblocked. He could have said ‘it’s not my problem’, but he listened”.

Susan Bright, the chief executive of the Employers’ Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA), believes that raising awareness is crucial. Companies don’t need to spend huge amounts of money on flee funds – they can just put posters on the back of toilet doors or give affected staff the flexibility to come and leave work at different times or from another location.

“A myth is that this only happens to certain people, certain communities, women – none of that is true,” she says.

“In a workplace it’s important for businesses to understand that it can happen to the most junior person and it can happen to the most senior person. You would be staggered.

“The number of people who have said to me, ‘I just wish someone asked me if I was OK, I wish someone just asked’.”

Names have been changed

Battle with inflation is not over yet, warns Bank of England official

By **Chris Price**

THE battle against inflation is not yet over, an interest rate setter at the Bank of England has warned.

Catherine Mann, an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee, said Britain must not be “seduced” into thinking that the pace of price rises had been contained. Ms Mann said she was still concerned that inflation will rise again despite falling back down to the Bank of England’s 2pc target over the past two months.

Speaking ahead of the release of data on wages and inflation this week, Ms Mann said that recent survey evidence suggested that companies were still expecting to make relatively big increases to both wages and prices.

The data “says to me right now I’m looking at a problem for next year”, Ms Mann told the *Financial Times*. In the latest round of annual pay deals, “some people at the bottom got quite a bit of an increase, rightfully so, but the ones above them didn’t. Which means next year they will”, she added.

The latest data on wage growth will be published by the Office for National Statistics today, with figures on inflation, growth in the economy and retail sales following later in the week.

Economists expect the inflation figures will show that prices grew at an annual pace of 2.3pc, in what would be the first increase this year. Analysts at Citi said yesterday they expect “the slew of data this week to show UK disinflation to be broadly on track”. However, they predicted the Bank would adopt “a cautious approach to further easing” of interest rates.

2.3pc

The inflation rate economists expect to be announced tomorrow, which would mark the first increase this year

Ms Mann, a former OECD chief economist, was one of four policymakers who voted to leave rates unchanged at the last meeting, at 5.25pc, a 16-year high. She was outvoted, and the Bank cut rates for the first time in four years.

Speaking to the *Financial Times*, Ms Mann also suggested that recent volatility in global stock markets had the potential to add upward pressure to inflation and could force the Bank to keep rates higher for longer.

Ms Mann said the volatility “has implications for our terminal [interest] rate. In my view, the terminal rate is higher because of an inflation premium that is associated with volatility in markets, especially volatility in inflation. So in that context, monetary policy is not as restrictive as you might think.”

Savers urged to lock in 5pc deals before they disappear

By **Joe Wright**

INDECISIVE savers yet to squirrel money away in longer fixed-term accounts run the risk of missing out on hundreds of pounds in interest.

Interest rates on savings have remained relatively stable since last week’s Bank Rate cut, but experts believe it is only a matter of time until things change. It means savers have a shrinking window of opportunity to take advantage of healthy rates.

Rachel Springall, of Moneyfacts, said: “Savers sitting on the fence to invest their cash with a fixed-rate bond may wish to do so quickly, as the top rates are not guaranteed to be there for long.

“Those waiting for their bond to mature and cannot yet grab a new deal would be wise to brace for impact as rate cuts could be on the horizon.”

A handful of one-year fixed bonds above 5pc remain, while the leading two-year fix comes in at 4.91pc. The best three-year term is 4.71pc, while the leading four-year term is 4.31pc.

For the biggest returns, a saver putting down a £20,000 deposit in the leading five-year fixed bond of 4.55pc from Al Rayan Bank would earn £4,983 on maturity. But with markets pricing in another Bank Rate cut by November, providers could slash offers in the coming weeks. Should the leading account drop to 4pc, returns on a £20,000 deposit would fall by £630. If it were to fall by 1 percentage point to 3.55pc, potential interest would plummet by £1,172.

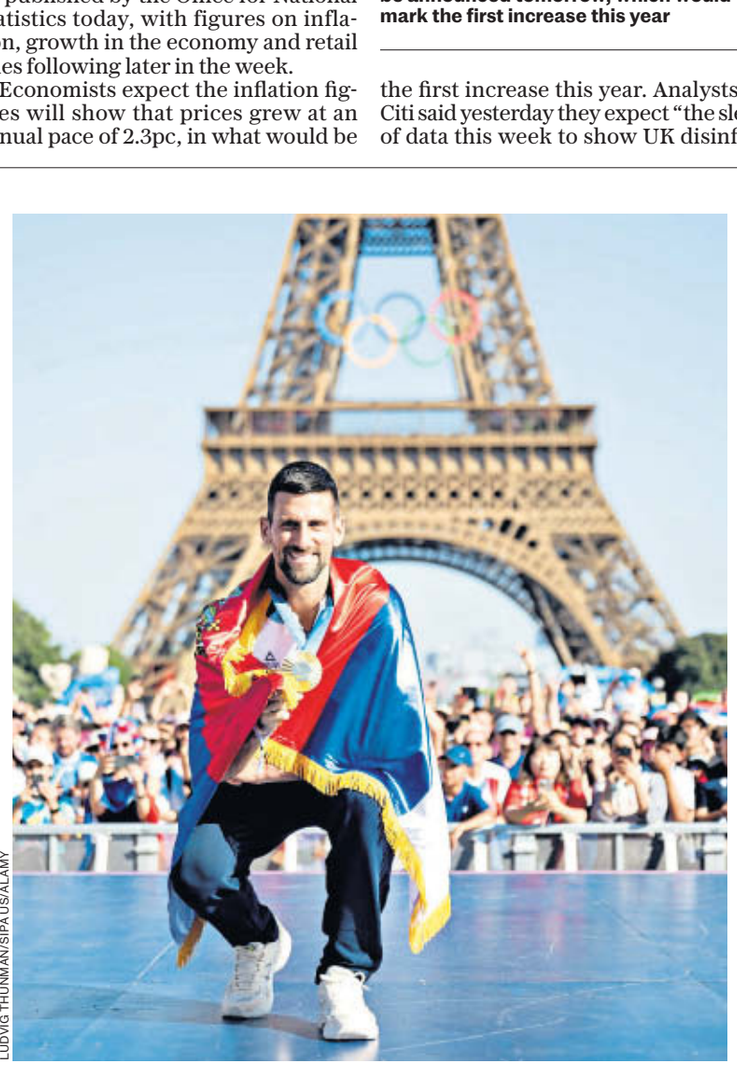
Moneyfacts data show so-called challenger banks are holding the top rate positions in the market, and one-year bonds continue to be the most popular options taken on by savers.

Ms Springall added: “There may be presumptions among some savers that competition is lacking across fixed-rate bonds, but that would be untrue. There have indeed been brands readjusting their position in the market to better manage the flow of funds or in a reaction to their peers dropping rates, but in contrast there are also brands very keen to grab the spotlight to draw in deposits.

“Savers need to act now to grab a new deal, or they could be left disappointed.”

Shawbrook Bank said those nearing retirement age (55 to 68-year-olds) are neglecting the role savings accounts could play for their retirement pot, with 34pc planning on using cash savings to supplement their retirement income.

There are, however, tax implications to be aware of as longer fixes increase the likelihood of breaching the personal savings allowance, which is £1,000 for a basic-rate taxpayer and £500 for a higher-rate taxpayer. Top-rate (45pc) taxpayers have no allowance at all.



LUDVIG THUNMAN/SIPA US/ALAMY

Top spot Novak Djokovic’s Olympic tennis gold medal match helped Discovery owner Warner Bros hit a record for European viewers, with 600m minutes streamed.

Row over plans to use AI to answer taxpayer complaints

By **Madeleine Ross**

THE Treasury is locked into a row with the civil service union over plans to use artificial intelligence to answer taxpayer complaints.

Letters and emails to the Treasury are being read by an AI tool that summarises the contents and suggests responses. The Government is in talks to use AI across more departments, *The Telegraph* understands.

A government spokesman said: “We make no apology for exploring innovations which improve public services.

“This tool has already been in use for four months and has increased productivity by 30pc, helping us save taxpayers’ money by stopping the need to use expensive contractors during busy periods. Staff at the Treasury will continue to write all public correspondence and make decisions on cases. This tool, which was developed by data science experts in the department, helps civil servants respond to thousands more questions quickly and on time.”

But the Civil Service trade body, the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, warned that the AI tool could be developed “on the cheap”, leading to correspondence being misread.

Fran Heathcote, PCS general secretary, said that while the union has no objection in principle to AI, training the tool “properly takes a long time and considerable resources”.

She added: “Further, in anticipation of AI working well, staff numbers are cut so you get the worst of all worlds: a poorly functioning AI system with too few humans left behind to pick up the broken pieces.”

More than 70pc of government bodies are piloting AI tools, a report from the National Audit Office in March found. More than £101m will be spent by 2028 to 2029 to introduce more AI projects, such as a chatbot, which was trialled on the gov.uk website earlier this year, the report said.

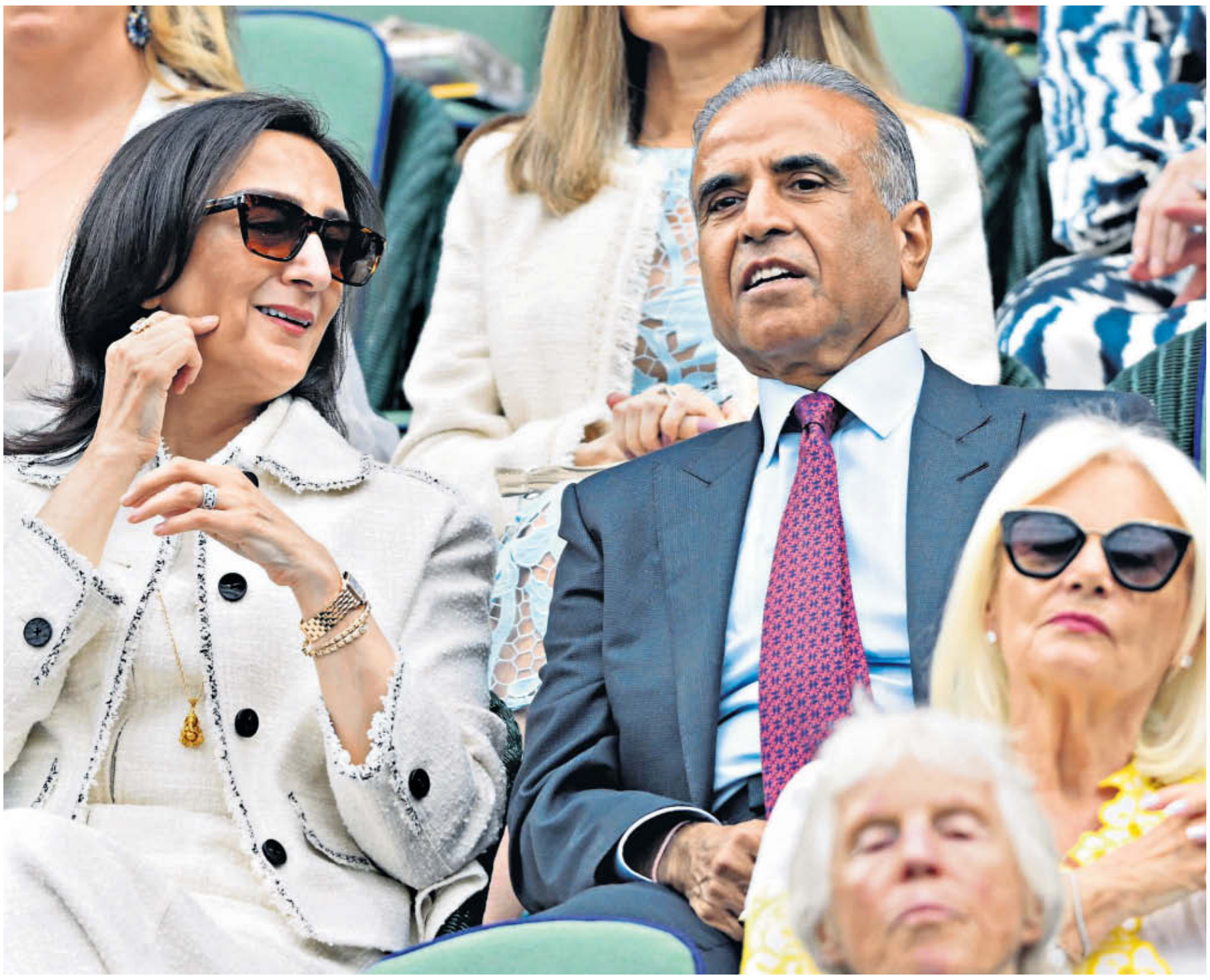
It comes as Whitehall struggles to hit its customer service targets as call handlers work from home. HM Revenue & Customs hung up on 55,922 taxpayers last year after leaving them waiting on the phone for more than 70 minutes, *The Telegraph* reported last month.

Labour has so far refused to recommit to targets introduced in an efficiency drive by the previous Conservative government, which required civil servants to work from the office for at least 60pc of the time.

A government spokesman said: “The Government’s entire focus is on the work of delivering change. We will support the Civil Service with the necessary tools to ensure it can deliver that for working people.”

The 'risk taking' billionaire who is betting on BT

Matt Oliver and *James Warrington* examine what Sunil Mittal's stake means for the telecoms giant, and for Britain



KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE

Sunil Mittal, a known Anglophile, attends the 2024 Wimbledon Championships with his wife Nyna

A young Sunil Mittal had every reason to be delighted as he posed obligingly for photographers next to BT's then-chairman Sir Iain Vallance.

The Indian tycoon had just signed a deal in which the British telecoms giant would take a 21pc stake in his upstart business, Bharti Cellular, and gain exposure to the Indian market. At that point in 1997, the Anglophile Mittal and his siblings seemed content to be junior partners.

But today it is the 66-year-old – now one of the world's richest men, and an investor in UK assets including the luxury Gleneagles Hotel – who is returning as the benevolent shareholder, ready to dispense pearls of wisdom to a much smaller BT.

His business empire, Bharti Global, revealed yesterday that it was acquiring a 24.5pc stake in the British company from embattled French tycoon Patrick Drahi – making Mittal its new top shareholder.

The deal marked a "significant milestone" for Bharti, a statement from Mittal said, while underscoring the billionaire's confidence "in BT and in the UK".

Insiders say it is also viewed as a significant coup within BT's London headquarters after Allison Kirkby, BT's chief executive, personally led a months-long charm offensive to secure Mittal's support.

"We welcome investors who recognise the long-term value of our business, and this scale of investment from Bharti Global is a great vote of confidence in the future of BT Group and our strategy," she said.

In replacing Drahi on the share register, BT will be hoping it has swapped an aggressive activist with a friendlier ally who is happy to support the existing strategy.

That is because Mittal, a self-made entrepreneur, already knows the business and some of its executives well, including Harmeen Mehta, BT's head of digital, who previously worked at his own company.

Like Drahi, Mittal also made his name in telecoms, which still forms the core of the massive Indian conglomerate he and his brothers built from a bicycle parts supplier they started in the 1970s.

But while Drahi built an empire on debt-fuelled deals and cost-cutting, Mittal – though seen as a wily operator – has a reputation for backing his executives to "play for the long term".

He told India's *Business Standard* two years ago "When it comes to risk taking, I have my neck to offer.

"When the CEO of my company needs to take a risky decision, I will understand and put my neck in front of the shareholders, stakeholders, board etc. This combination is very powerful."

At home, he is one of the few telecom tycoons left standing after the dawn of services in the 1990s, having navigated a series of battles with the Ambanis, India's most prominent business family.

In the mid-2000s, Airtel successfully fought off a challenge to its market leadership from the much bigger Reliance Communications, owned by Anil Ambani.

According to Indian press reports, Mittal told staff to knuckle down and focus on service quality and wait for their rival to make a mistake – a strategy that duly paid off.

He has also extended his business interests into another fast-growing frontier for telecoms – space – with investments in low-orbit satellite operator OneWeb, a potential challenger to Elon Musk's Starlink service. Through OneWeb, Mittal's links with the British government – which joined him to bail out the UK company in 2020 – have also been thrust into the spotlight.

OneWeb was later merged into Eutelsat but the Indian tycoon remains a major shareholder.

At the moment, Mittal's ambitions for BT remain shrouded in mystery – but it is possible he could seek to steer the British company towards a partnership of some kind with OneWeb.

He has also arrived at a pivotal moment at BT, as the former state monopoly – which retains roughly three quarters of the UK's telecoms infrastructure through subsidiary Openreach – finally starts to reap rewards from a years-long, multibillion-pound investment in nationwide fibre broadband services. Meanwhile, Mittal's links with the British establishment are only growing.

He became the first Indian citizen to secure an honorary knighthood during the reign of King Charles III this year, for services to UK and India business relations.

His British business interests include the luxurious Gleneagles hotel and resort in Scotland, as well as the more middle-market Hoxton hotel chain, which is run by Sharan Pasricha, his son-in-law.

The knighthood may have been a nod to the tycoon's consistent and vocal calls for closer UK-India trade ties, amid an ongoing but stalled process to strike a bilateral free-trade deal.

In March, he warned Conservative ministers that the moment of glory was at risk of slipping away. "There have been many times it appeared to me that it is a done deal," Mittal told *The Telegraph*. "My view is it can be done quickly. The question is, will the British Government be able to do it before [India's] elections.

"I must say Labour have also been very proactive.

"We have had a number of visits from the UK shadow ministers. The message from Labour was the same: UK and India must deepen their ties."

> 'The message from Labour was the same: the UK and India must deepen their ties'

Yesterday, Mr Mittal banged the drum for closer relations again, as he suggested the BT deal aimed to "support the commitment of our honourable prime minister [Narendra Modi] towards his vision in elevating and broadening the India-UK ties".

It was yet another reminder of the billionaire's journey from a young hopeful, in a photograph three decades ago, to geopolitical power broker.

As his ties with Britain deepen, there may be even more to come.

Sunil Mittal
Who is the BT shareholder?

Born in Punjab in 1957, Sunil Bharti Mittal set up his first business aged 18, making bicycle parts after securing a small loan from his father, an Indian MP. Mr Mittal later moved to Mumbai with his two brothers and started a company that would become one of India's largest conglomerates, spanning media, telecoms and space. Bharti Airtel, one of India's largest mobile network providers, is the jewel in the crown, with more than 500m customers.

The 66-year-old Anglophile owns assets in the UK including the luxurious Gleneagles resort in Scotland and the Hoxton hotel chain.

Mr Mittal has held board positions at firms such as Unilever and SoftBank. A close ally of Indian prime minister Narendra Modi, Mr Mittal this year became the first Indian citizen to secure an honorary knighthood under King Charles III.

Customers left stranded by collapse of John Lewis-based carpet seller

By **Hannah Boland**

A CARPET seller based in John Lewis stores has collapsed into administration, leaving customers across Britain unable to get their deliveries.

The Floor Room said it had been left with no option but to appoint administrators after sister company Carpetright failed last month.

The business, which had 34 concessions across John Lewis stores and a dedicated store in central London, said it had been dependent on Carpetright for support services. While Carpetright was later rescued by its founding family via rival company Tapi, the deal covered a small number of its stores, logistics hubs and its intellectual property.

Outstanding orders with the Floor Room will not be fulfilled, administrator PwC said, with customers urged to contact their card provider about the possibility of a refund.

Adam Seres, joint administrator at PwC UK, said that while "management worked to find an alternative solution", its "financial position meant that it was impossible for the business to continue trading".

Almost all of The Floor Room's 201 staff have been made redundant, with a handful of workers retained to help wind down operations. Its concessions and its London store have closed.

A spokesman for John Lewis said: "As the Floor Room is not owned by John Lewis, we are now working urgently to understand what this means for the Floor Room's customers and colleagues in what is a rapidly evolving situation. We know that this will be very worrying for customers of the Floor Room. If anyone has an outstanding order with the Floor Room, we are committed to doing everything in our power to help and support them."

£345m

The amount owed by Carpetright when it collapsed, a PwC report showed, much of which is unlikely to be repaid

It comes as the latest sign of pressure on the homeware market, with PwC saying Carpetright had been hit by the downturn in people spending on their homes after the pandemic.

A report from PwC earlier this month revealed that Carpetright had debts of almost £345m when it collapsed, the majority of which the company is unlikely to repay.

Carpetright's rescue deal for 54 stores and its intellectual property means it is once again being steered by the Harris family. Lord Harris of Peckham founded Carpetright in 1988 and established a name for himself as the "Carpet King". He stepped back in 2014.

His son, Martin Harris, went on to set up rival carpet seller Tapi in 2015, growing it to become Carpetright's biggest competitor.

As well as the Tapi deal, other Carpetright stores have been snapped up in recent weeks.

Bensons for Beds earlier this month said it had bought 19 Carpetright stores and would be reopening them under its own brand.

TalkTalk swerves collapse after lifeline from founder

By **James Warrington**

TALKTALK has avoided collapse after securing an emergency lifeline from its billionaire founder.

Sir Charles Dunstone and other shareholders have agreed to inject £65m into the struggling broadband business immediately to avoid a looming debt default. This will be followed by a further £170m, while assets including the Virtuall subsidiary and Ovo and Shell internet brands will also be rolled into the group.

Shareholders Toscafund and Ares Management also took part in the refinancing, which is worth more than £400m. In return, lenders and bondholders have agreed to extend existing debt deadlines in November 2024 and February 2025 until September 2027.

TalkTalk said: "The proposed transaction will leave the company well-funded to deliver the respective strategic plans of PlatformX Communications and TalkTalk, continuing to capitalise on their strong positions in the market."

The bailout offers a crucial reprieve to the business, which last month warned it could collapse within weeks as it struggles under a £1bn debt pile. The company, which has 3.6m UK customers, had been in talks about selling a stake worth up to £500m in PlatformX, its wholesale division, to Australian investor Macquarie, but talks broke down and Sir Charles is pumping his own money into the business.

TalkTalk previously sold its business division to a group of existing shareholders for £95m and is also exploring a potential sale of its consumer arm as part of a wider break-up.

The firm's troubles have been compounded by lacklustre trading as the broadband provider grapples with surging inflation and tough competition. It lost 334,000 customers last year and pre-tax losses rose from £70m to £127m.

TalkTalk's financial difficulties have come under close scrutiny from regulator Ofcom, which has begun drawing up plans for a "supplier of last resort" regime. Larger rivals including Virgin Media O2, which held early-stage talks with TalkTalk earlier this year, have also been monitoring the situation.

It threatens to mark a rare setback for Sir Charles, a serial entrepreneur who also founded Carphone Warehouse. He took TalkTalk private three years ago in a £1.1bn debt-fuelled deal.

In addition to the refinancing, TalkTalk also confirmed that Dame Tristia Harrison will step down as chief executive next month. She will be replaced by James Smith, the current finance chief. Sir Charles will continue in his role as chairman.



ICONICAUCTIONEERS/BNPS

Little blue limousine A BMW Isetta 300, a three-wheeled 1950s microcar beloved by Elvis Presley, is up for sale for £15,000. Built in Brighton, it has done over 46,000 miles.

Boost healthcare to fix worklessness crisis, Reeves told

By **Szu Ping Chan**

RACHEL REEVES has been told she must turbocharge tax breaks for staff healthcare to help solve the worklessness crisis and deliver a £2.7bn boost to the economy.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said more generous tax relief for employer-funded mental health support and medical treatment would in effect pay for itself through higher productivity and fewer sick days.

The lobby group claimed such spending would generate up to £10 for the economy for every £1 spent by the Chancellor on the policies.

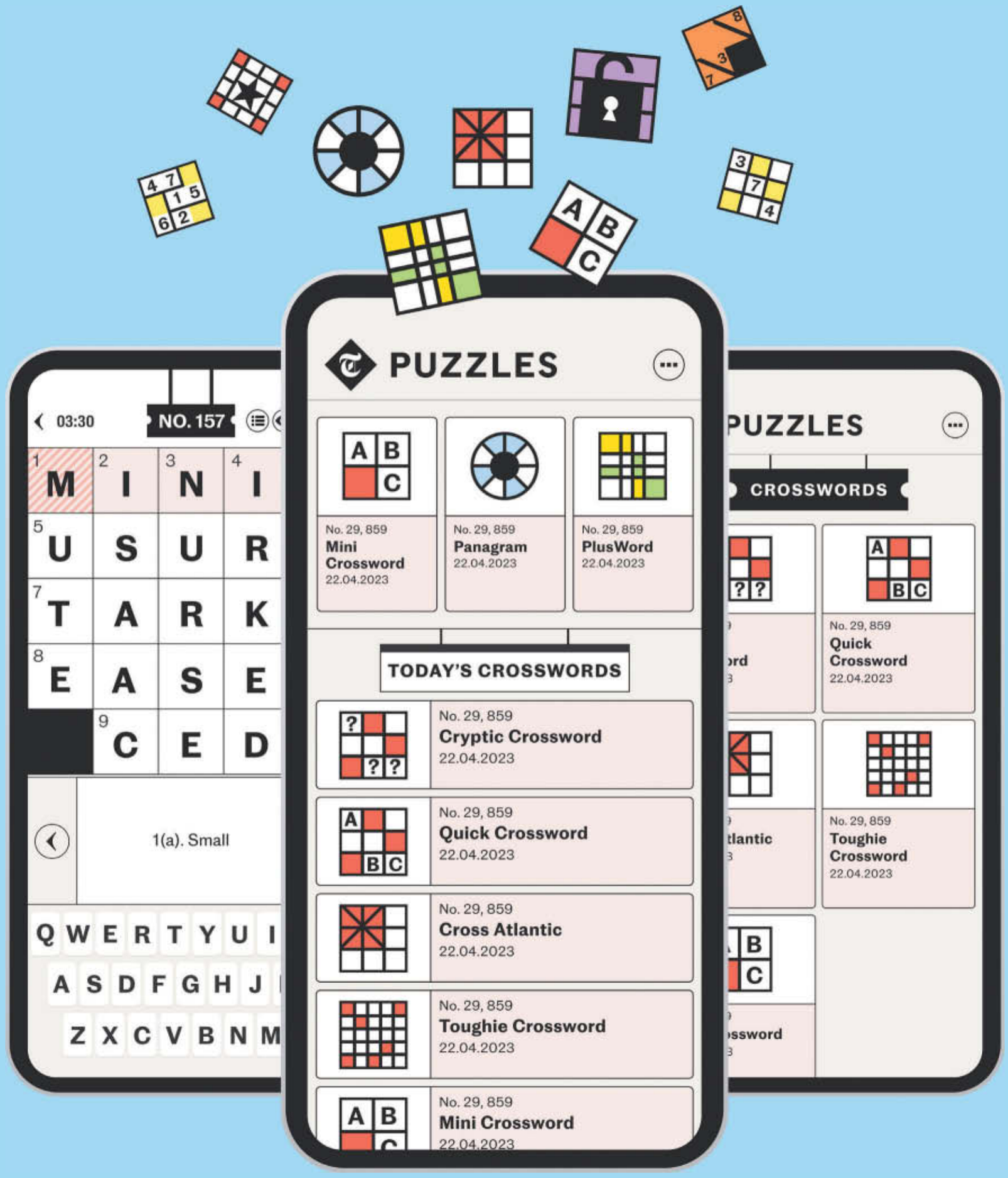
Productivity improvements would be equivalent to adding almost half a million more people to the workforce, the CBI claimed.

Rain Newton Smith, the CBI's chief executive, said: "Taken together, the measures for employee assistance programmes and occupational health referrals alone could boost the economy by £2.65bn over the next four years, putting the UK economy on a more sustainable path to growth."

A government spokesman said: "Prevention is better than cure, which is why this government will make it our mission to shift the focus of healthcare from simply treating ill-health to preventing it in the first place."

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Struggling universities must be allowed to fail



MATTHEW LYNN

The higher education industry is imploding and risks bringing the country down with it

Britain's university industry expanded massively over the past 20 years, resulting in hundreds of thousands of extra places for students, glittering new campuses and huge salaries for an elite class of administrators. Many institutions are now in deep financial trouble, however, and they are getting desperate.

But bailing them out is the last thing the country needs. Universities should be allowed to go bust, or else be forced to reinvent their business models the same way any other failing enterprise has to – and the sooner that happens, the better for everyone.

The evidence of the financial crisis facing universities is now everywhere.

A-level results day, which comes on Thursday, is always nail-biting for students and their anxious parents as they wait to see if they have achieved the grades demanded for the university course of their choosing.

This year, however, it might be a little less tense than usual. There are reports that missing that A in maths or history by a mark or two may not be such a catastrophe. Many institutions are said to be prepared to relax their rules and will offer you the place anyway. They are so desperate to fill all the places, and collect the fees they earn for each one, they seem prepared to lower standards.

In the background, the number of places at top institutions offered through "clearing", reserved for students who didn't quite make their grades, has almost doubled over the past few years. We are not quite at the stage where some nice potato painting and a proven ability to tie your own shoelaces are more than enough to get you into a Russell Group university. But it is probably not far away. It doesn't stop there. One of the major drivers of the huge recent rise in immigration has been the universities handing out places in the hundreds of thousands so they could collect generous overseas student fees for what were often little more than backdoor work visas. While the previous government clamped down on that, some institutions are already grumbling and the new Labour administration will come under intense pressure to open up the system again.

And there are lots of rumours that one or more universities will demand a bailout, threatening that they will have to close their doors if they don't get some cash from the Treasury.

But that's crazy. We all understand that higher education, at least when it is properly run, is a major British export industry, and one that deserves our support. It brings money into the country, creates international links that will last a lifetime and, of course, nurtures centres of excellence that are the envy of the rest of the world. And yet, just because there are some good things about the sector that does not mean we should ignore all its flaws. There are three big problems with all the demands it is making.

First, lowering standards would just be cynical. Perhaps it does not matter if you narrowly missed an A-star in biology. But there is no point in encouraging 18-year-olds who have not made their grades to sign up to a three-year course that will land them

> 'Immigration policy can't be driven by universities, any more than it can be driven by any other sector'

with £40,000-plus of debt if they are not genuinely up to the challenge.

The jobs they will realistically be able to secure are never going to justify that; indeed the returns on mediocre courses are already pitiful. It is a cruel deception to play, and one that should be called out for what it is – a scam perpetrated by a handful of idle institutions interested only in milking people for as much money as they can. Next, immigration policy cannot be driven by the demands of the universities, any more than it can be driven by any other industry. Lots of foreign students might be good for higher education, just as cheap workers are great for the food delivery apps or the building trade, but it also imposes strains on healthcare, housing costs and transport infrastructure.

As for bailouts, the blunt truth is this: with taxes already at a 70-year-high, with total state debt close to 100pc of GDP and a number of pensioners having their winter fuel allowances cut, there are far better uses for whatever money might be available than keeping a few universities afloat.

The harsh truth is that universities expanded too quickly, took on too many students, built too many extra facilities and paid their administrators too much. If the vice-chancellors presiding over the whole sorry mess wanted a genuine solution, perhaps they should consult their economics departments. A few should be allowed to go bust, freeing up resources of land, buildings, capital and people that could be redeployed easily in private industry, and would contribute far more to the growth of the economy.

Others should focus on vocational training, much as the old polytechnics that were later turned into universities were meant to. After all, in areas such as construction, the country is desperate for skilled workers, especially if we ever manage to reform our deranged planning laws, and the same is true of many other trades.

Other universities should simply downsize, until they can make ends meet. If a hall of residence has to be turned into flats, or a lecture room into office space for small businesses, that would hardly be the end of the world.

Very quickly, supply and demand would match again, just as the textbooks in any university library would tell you. As businesses, many of them don't work anymore. They are dragging themselves down, and the country with them – and it is time the special pleading was brought to an end.

Dust bowl
A farmer ploughs a field in Eschbach near Frankfurt, Germany, yesterday, as his tractor churns up clouds of dust. Unusually high temperatures have been forecast for the area, with the German Meterological Service warning that the elderly could be at risk of "extreme strain". The heat is also putting strain on farmland.



AP PHOTO/MICHAEL PROBST

The Government's energy policy is economically and environmentally illiterate



ANDREW BOWIE

If Labour abandons the UK's homegrown oil and gas industry, the effects will be disastrous

I recently visited the offices of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce. In the heart of the energy capital of Europe, ostensibly they should have much to be confident about.

Surrounded by companies developing the new energy technologies; home to one of the highest-skilled workforces in the world; on the edge of an oil and gas basin at the time of a boom in oil and gas production (earlier this year US oil and gas production smashed records, while surging prices led to producers across the world reporting record profits), Aberdeen and the north-east of Scotland should be booming.

However, on my visit I was shown a quite terrifying graph illustrating the industry's confidence in the UK continental shelf (UKCS) versus confidence in oil and gas worldwide.

Whereas for the past 20 years, net confidence in the UKCS has largely mirrored that in the global industry, over the past two years there has been a clear divergence, with confidence plummeting here as it grows overseas. So much so that over a five-year horizon, while confidence in overseas stands at plus 50pc, in the UK it sinks to minus 69pc.

Why is this? Recent fiscal instability, punitive windfall taxes (for which we Conservatives must take blame) and a negative atmosphere around business investment in oil and gas in Scotland (for which the SNP must take the flack) is being exacerbated by a Labour Government whose eco-zealotry will result in our domestic oil and gas industry all but ceasing to exist.

This will not only impact the UK economically as the sector shrinks and provides less revenue to the Treasury, but will weaken our energy security and, in an irony totally lost on our new Government, hamper our journey to a cleaner energy mix.

This might sound counter-intuitive, but let me explain. Globally, last year Shell posted profits of $28bn (£22bn), but only £1.4bn (that's 5pc) from the North Sea.

The North Sea is a mature basin – operations are trickier and more expensive than in other fields. This is combined with a restriction on new drilling and exploration proposed by the Government, an increase in the profits levy (Shell already pays $500m on its UK profits) and a removal of investment allowances that were brought in to encourage development in the North Sea in spite of a high taxation regime (such as Norway's).

It is very easy to see why energy companies – multinationals with headquarters in Houston, Riyadh or Abu Dhabi – are looking at the UK and concluding that the costs outweigh the benefits.

Harbour Energy and others have already done so – reducing their operations and cutting their workforce in the north-east of Scotland. Capital is mobile and it will move to basins and countries with more welcoming and stable tax regimes and where exploration and drilling continues and increases.

But for the real negative impact of these decisions, you need to look beyond the producers. It is in the supply chain – those hundreds of companies based in and around Aberdeen, employing some of the most skilled energy workers in the world, developing some of the most innovative new technologies to power the transition – that the damage will really be felt.

As the producers reduce their footprint here, the work for the UK-based supply chain will similarly decline. Companies based in Aberdeen are already seeing business overseas outweigh demand here in the UK. As this continues, there is nothing to prevent those businesses following their producer cousins in moving overseas.

This would be devastating to the north-east of Scotland in particular, given the sharp reduction in high-wage, high-skilled jobs and investment in the region, as well as to the wider UK. It is acknowledged, even by the Climate Change Committee, that we will be reliant in part on fossil fuels for a significant part of our energy mix for at least the next 40 years.

So we will clearly have to increase imports of fuels vital to keeping the lights on. This increases the UK's exposure to volatile prices and unstable regimes, and we don't need to look far to see how quickly and effectively energy supply can be weaponised.

But the biggest irony of this entire move is the negative impact it will have on our transition to a cleaner energy mix. For it is the very companies, either producing, exploring, servicing or supplying the oil and gas industry, in the North Sea today that are investing in new clean technologies, building new offshore wind farms, developing carbon capture and creating the jobs of tomorrow that will get us to net zero.

If we drive these companies from the UK, we suffer economically, we damage our security and we impact our drive towards a cleaner future.

The UK has led the world in development and deployment of new energy technologies. We have reduced our emissions by 50pc, the fastest of any G20 nation, while growing our economy.

We have ended the use of coal for power generation. We have built the five largest offshore wind farms in the world. And we have done all this because of the foundations built by a profitable, successful and homegrown oil and gas sector.

To abandon it, to drive it out of the country, to throw it on the pyre of eco-zealotry simply because it makes a good slogan or placates the radicals you rely on for support, is short-term, closed-box thinking. It's time for some realism, some truths in this debate. Before it is too late.

Andrew Bowie is the shadow minister for energy security and net zero

Paternalistic lending rules 'holding UK back'

By **Michael Bow**

SIR KEIR STARMER has been urged to scrap "paternalistic" rules over lending or risk putting investors off Britain.

S&U, a specialist lender run by a former Tory MP, says "constantly changing" financial regulations has made the country a less attractive place for international investors who crave stability.

The lender urged the Government to address the situation to help drive Britain's "feeble" economic growth.

It said: "Labour ministers must change the restrictive and constantly changing regulatory regime in this country, and the paternalistic mindset behind it.

"Otherwise, the reluctance of both domestic and international funders to invest in a sector, widely recognised as more severely regulated than its international counterparts, will continue." S&U said Britain's regulatory culture was stacked against lenders who offer loans for people struggling to access mainstream lending.

"Affordable access to credit for working people and their families and help in managing it has been S&U's objective and mission for nearly 100 years," it said.

"The welcome (at least for now) election of a Labour Government with a strong majority and a stated commitment to restoring Britain's feeble rate of growth, will, we hope, gradually lead to a more pragmatic and realistic approach to regulation."

S&U has come under increased scrutiny from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in recent months over its lending practices. Its main division, Advantage Finance, which offers loans to people buying second-hand cars, has become embroiled in an ongoing investigation into the motor finance sector.

The FCA is examining whether customers were unfairly treated when they took out car loans and whether they were given the correct information.

The company is 52pc owned by the Coombs family, which includes Anthony Coombs, the ex-MP for Wyre Forest. Mr Coombs served under Margaret Thatcher and John Major before losing his seat in the 1997 election.

S&U was founded in 1938 by Clifford Coombs and joined the London Stock Exchange in the 1960s, making it one of the longest-listed companies in Britain.

Mr Coombs said: "We remain confident and determined for the year ahead."

The FCA declined to comment. The Treasury was contacted for comment.

Harland & Wolff suspends work on accounts

By **Chris Price**

THE shipyard that built the Titanic has suspended work on its annual accounts as management scrambles to stop the business sinking.

Harland & Wolff said it does not believe it can finalise its 2023 accounts "on a going concern basis and, therefore, work to complete its unpublished accounts has also been suspended".

The Belfast-based company will instead focus on working with investment bank Rothschild, which has been hired to "assess strategic options" for the troubled company. A potential sale is likely to be one of them.

The London-listed company was plunged into crisis after the Government declined to provide a £200m loan guarantee. The company's shares were suspended after it failed to file an audited set of accounts by a deadline last month. Its woes deepened last week after the Falkland Islands withdrew from £120m contract talks for work on a new floating dock.

John Wood, the Harland & Wolff chief executive, departed at the end of last month.

The crisis has thrown into doubt whether Harland & Wolff will be able to undertake a £1.6bn contract to build three fleet solid support (FSS) warships for the Royal Navy.

Russell Downs, a turnaround expert who has been named interim executive chairman, said: "We remain focused on working with interested parties and key stakeholders to ensure that we can navigate through this uncertainty preserving the underlying value in the yards and the FSS contract for its employees and other stakeholders."

Mr Downs has been forced to take emergency action, including cancelling Harland's ferry venture in the Isles of Scilly. As well as constructing the Titanic, Harland & Wolff built 140 warships and more than 500 tanks during the Second World War.

A Harland & Wolff spokesman said yesterday: "The company continues to work on its existing order book to the fullest extent possible, while at the same time working with interested parties to find a solution that supports the long-term ambitions and prospects of the business.

"The company remains reliant on the support of its existing lenders, Riverstone, who continue to support the group through the provision of short-term liquidity and under its existing structure of guarantees, share pledges and secured debentures."

Markets

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Government securities

52 week High	Low (£)	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Flat Yield	Rdm Yield
102.30	99.20	Treas 5¾ 25	100.28	-0.00	4.99	4.53
112.21	100.63	Treas 6¾ 28	109.12	-0.06	5.50	3.69
106.59	92.22	Treas 4¼% 32	103.19	+0.04	4.12	3.77
106.09	94.06	Treas 4¼% 36	101.94	+0.02	4.17	4.04
110.73	96.88	Treas 4¾% 38	106.03	–	4.48	4.19

Index Linked Securities

352.43	328.96	Treas 4½% IL 30	345.78	+0.15	1.19	0.30
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% IL 35	250.18	+0.22	0.80	0.62

10-year Government Bonds

	Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs T-Bonds
France	2.92	+0.70	-0.99
Germany	2.22	-	-1.69
Japan	0.86	-1.36	-3.05
Great Britain	3.91	+1.69	+0.00
United States	3.91	+1.69	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence +1.14%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
575	367¾	Babcock Intl ●	523½	+5	1.0	15.9
1415¼	953⅜	**BAE Systems**	1303½	+26	2.4	21.3
491	292¼	QinetiQ ●	471¾*	+3¾	1.7	19.5
503	196½	**Rolls-Royce**	486¾	+1¾	–	16.9
183	141⅜	Senior ●	163¾	+1¼	1.5	21.7

Banks +0.16%

241¾	128½	**Barclays**	220½	+1¾	3.7	7.9
911½	278	Close Bros ●	470	-2¾	–	8.7
725¼	572¼	**HSBC**	643¾	+1¾	7.4	7.2
64⅝	39⅜	**Lloyds Bk Gp**	56¾*	-⅛	5.1	7.5
372¼	168	**NatWest Group**	334½*	+1¾	5.2	7.0
423	285	Santander	343½	-1½	3.5	20.1
796	571	**Standard Ch**	722*	+6¾	3.2	8.5

Beverages +1.03%

3409	2275	**Diageo**	2451½	+25	3.3	14.9

Chemicals -0.08%

5656	3787	**Croda Intl**	3829	-2	2.8	31.3
1917½	1428½	Johnson Mat ●	1577	+1	4.9	26.9
1577	1006	Victrex ●	1036	-4	5.7	14.6

Construction +0.58%

437⅝	291½	Balfour Beatty ●	407¼	–	2.8	11.5
582½	384½	**Barratt Dev**	524½	+¾	5.3	9.9
2904	1972	Bellway ●	2816	+68	3.9	9.5
5360	3832	**Berkeley Grp**	5070	+50	2.5	13.6
237	170	Boot H	224	+6	3.3	11.4
90¾	44½	Costain	85⅞	-⅜	1.4	10.5
1089⅝	737¼	Grafton Gp ●	1006	-¾	3.6	14.5
3010	1768	Morgan Sindall ●	2930	+10	4.1	11.5
1618¼	925	**Persimmon**	1577½	+½	3.8	19.7
765	434⅜	Redrow ●	747½	+2½	3.3	8.2
163¼	102¼	**Taylor Wimpey**	158	+⅛	6.1	16.0

Electricals +0.35%

238	135	Dialight	184	+1½	–	–
816	586	discoverIE Grp ●	627	+8	1.9	38.7
2750	1802	**Halma**	2527*	+1	0.9	40.7
4500	2823¾	Renishaw ●	3535	+40	2.2	22.1
2489¼	682¾	XP Power	1416	+20	–	-31.2

Electricity +0.24%

666½	395¼	Drax Group ●	645	+4½	4.0	4.5
1052⅞	645	**Nat Grid**	978⅜	-⅜	6.0	17.2
1932½	1485	**SSE**	1878*	+16	3.2	12.0

Engineering / Industrial +0.34%

103⅜	64¼	Coats Group ●	97⅜	-1⅛	2.3	35.4
832½	212	Cropper J	250	–	1.2	-6.0
8860	4500	Goodwin ●	7260	-280	1.8	32.3
1911	1429	**IMI**	1760*	+24	1.7	19.2
1719⅜	1304	**Mondi**	1423	-6	4.2	15.4
84¾	48¼	Severfield	81⅛	-¼	4.5	15.7
1791	1517½	**Smiths Gp**	1743	+9	2.4	26.6
464¾	260½	**Smith (DS)**	444	+5¼	4.1	15.9
3910	2528	Smurfit Westrock	3058	+2	3.1	–
11280	7640	**Spirax Gp**	7715	+55	2.1	30.9
2210¼	1652½	**Weir**	1904	+15	2.0	21.6

Food producers -0.34%

2765	1907½	**Ass Brit Fds**	2435	-22	2.2	18.1
2890	2065	**Coca-Cola HBC**	2708	+24	2.9	18.3
4795	3158	Cranswick ●	4575*	-25	2.0	21.7
957	634	Hilton Food ●	915	-5	3.5	22.5
99	48	REA Hldgs	85½	+3¾	–	-3.3
4920	3680½	**Unilever**	4714*	-16	3.1	21.4

Gas & Water +0.62%

173¾	120¾	**Centrica**	127¼	+4	3.3	1.8
775	532⅞	Pennon Gp ●	587½*	-5	7.6	-163.2
2801	2243	**Severn Trent**	2514	-16	4.6	49.3
1139½	896¾	**Utd Utilities**	988¾	-1¼	5.0	53.2

General financial +0.94%

234¼	156¼	Ashmore ●	166⅞	+2¾	10.1	13.5
300⅝	164¾	Bridgepoint Grp ●	275	+¾	3.3	30.6
1169	676⅞	**Hargreaves L**	1102	–	3.9	17.8
953	600½	IG Group ●	933	+16½	5.0	11.8
2448	1244⅜	**IntermediateCp**	2018	+27	3.9	12.2
620½	429⅜	Investec ●	579½	+3	6.0	5.5
61½	35⅜	IP Group ●	37½	+⅝	3.4	-2.3
865	519	Liontrust	626	+9	11.5	-114.7
73⅜	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	56	–	2.1	12.7
11080¼	7936	**Lon Stock Ex**	9938	+110	1.2	71.5
241⅛	182⅞	**M&G**	203⅞	+2¼	9.7	-3.1
279¼	200½	Man Group ●	214*	+⅝	6.0	13.8
142	75	Quilter ●	141¼	+¾	3.8	45.6
2400	1750	S & U	1840	-45	6.5	8.8
447⅝	327	**Schroders**	337¼	-⅝	6.4	13.7
134¾	42¾	Vanquis Banking Gp	55⅝	+1¾	10.8	-23.1

Healthcare -0.98%

378	308⅛	**Haleon**	373¼	-3¾	1.7	32.7
1245¼	887	**Smith & Nep**	1156	-10	2.5	48.9

Household goods -0.19%

2275	667¾	**Burberry**	671	-13¾	–	9.1
145	31⅛	McBride	123	-½	–	-18.6
168¾	81½	PZ Cussons ●	102⅝	-⅝	5.1	11.8
6006	4034	**Reckitt Benck**	4180*	–	4.7	18.2

Information technology +0.86%

390	224½	Aptitude Sftwre	368*	+10	1.5	51.0
1285	931¼	**Sage Gp**	1005½	+10¼	2.0	48.5
205	79¾	Spirent ●	173¾	-2¼	1.8	51.7

Insurance +0.67%

197⅞	134¾	abrdn ●	153	+3¾	9.5	–
2870	2162	**Admiral**	2698	+23	3.8	24.3
504⅝	366	**Aviva**	484¼	+1¾	6.9	12.8
738	485¾	**Beazley**	732	+9	1.9	5.9
240½	149¼	DirectLineIns ●	174⅞	+¾	2.3	11.0
1282	926	Hiscox ●	1189	+22	2.5	7.4
690	527½	Lancashire Hldg ●	652	+28	2.7	6.2
259	203¼	**Legal & General**	225⅝	+1¾	9.1	30.7
560½	436⅞	**Phoenix**	538	+2½	9.8	-39.0
1047½	613⅜	**Prudential**	635¾	+2⅝	2.6	13.1
928	393⅜	St. James's Place ●	691	-8½	2.0	-383.9

Investment trusts +0.07%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	NAV
3180	1858½	**3i**	3018	+7	2.0	2174
360	289	3i Infrastructure ●	338½	-½	3.5	361
826	528	abrdn New India	796	+10	–	948
1264	980	Alliance Trust ●	1190	–	2.2	1232
418	242⅜	Allianz Tech Trust ●	358	+4	–	385
426⅞	321⅝	Asia Dragon Trust ●	398	-1	1.7	445
237	175	Baillie Giff China	186½	–	1.1	210
101¼	75⅜	Baillie Giff Euro Gwth	92½	+⅜	0.4	107
88	60	Balanced Comm Prp ●	85¾	-¼	6.2	105
118¼	91½	Bankers Invstmt Tst ●	111¾*	+¾	2.4	123
1064	715	Biotech Growth	981	-11	–	1072
127	104	BlackRockEnrgy&Res	115½	+2½	3.9	127
159⅜	131¼	BlckRock FroInv	146½	–	4.5	158
653	457½	BlckRck Grt Euro ●	582	–	1.2	615
209¾	170	BlckRck Inc&Grth	202*	+4	3.7	223
207	172½	BlckRckSustAmInc	198½	+1½	4.0	214
1622	1146	BlackRock Small ●	1514	+8	2.8	1645
682	503	BlkRk Throg Tst ●	632*	+1	2.4	687
634	490	BlackRock Wld M ●	528	+3	6.3	533
1420	964	Brunner ●	1365*	+20	1.7	1375
3700	3120¼	Caledonia ●	3560	–	2.0	5516
454	371½	City of Lon ●	430½*	+1	4.8	431
206	151½	CQS Nat Res G & I	172*	+½	3.8	193
261	206	CT Glbl Mgd G	254	-3	–	260
122	98	CT Glbl Mgd I	117½	–	6.3	116
516	406	CT Priv Eq Ord	473	+7	5.9	682
345⅞	266⅜	CT UK Cap & Inc	332	-1	3.7	345
99	71	CT UKHighIncTst	89½	-2¼	6.3	96
590	448⅜	Dunedin Ent	515	–	1.9	629
786	629	Edinburgh Inv Tr ●	755	+3	3.6	820
165⅞	120¾	Edin Worldwide ●	151⅝	-¾	–	164
92¼	73	European Assets	84⅜	-¾	7.0	96
1066⅞	825⅝	**F&C Inv Trust**	1026	–	1.5	1107
549⅜	467¼	Fidelity Asian V	495	–	2.9	547
246	180¾	Fidlty Chna Sp Sits ●	190¼	+1	3.4	206
412½	311½	Fidelity Euro Tst ●	389	-1	2.2	404
186½	144¾	Fidelity Japan Tst	160½	+1½	–	182
335½	252	Fidelity Sp V ●	320½	+1	3.0	347
896	788¼	Finsbury Gwth ●	829	+2	2.3	901
172¾	128¼	Glbl Small Co Trust ●	163¾*	+¾	1.7	179
169½	136	Hend High Inc	163	-1	6.5	179
172½	148½	Hend Intl Inc	164*	-3	4.7	183
987⅞	626	Hend Smaller Co ●	901	+4	3.0	1003
238	169	Hend Opp	215	–	3.3	242
2305	1590	Herald Inv ●	2125	+15	–	2383
550	357	HgCapital ●	512	+3	1.3	525
141	111	HICL Infrastructure ●	126¼*	+⅜	6.5	157
1352	1046	ICG Enterprise Tst ●	1288	-2	2.7	1925
748	623	JPM Claverh'se	722*	+12	4.9	755
110½	84¾	JPM Eur G&I	102	+½	4.3	114
562	435	JPM Japanese ●	524	+4	1.2	565
332	283¾	JPM Jpn SmCp G&I	312*	-1	4.5	340
729⅜	554¾	**Land Secs**	615½	-4½	6.5	–
135	103¼	Lowland Inv	128½	+½	5.0	145
254	179	Majedie	232	–	3.3	273
399	294⅜	Mtn Currie Port	355	-1	1.2	363
269	177¼	Mercantile InvTr ●	245	+1½	3.1	266
605	476	Merchants Tst ●	584*	+1	4.9	577
1218	880	Monks ●	1140*	+2	0.2	1272
908	766⅝	Murray Income ●	870	+2	4.4	954
263½	218½	Murray Intl ●	250½*	–	4.7	272
64¾	51½	Northern 2 VCT	54½*	+1	5.5	56
86¾	81¾	Northern 3 VCT	83*	–	5.1	87
59¼	54⅛	Nthn Venture	56*	–	5.7	58
390	338	Pacific Assets	380	–	1.1	420
336	270	Pantheon ●	307½	+1½	–	491
134	87	PremierMitonGlb	106	–	7.3	127
2030	1696	RIT Cap Ptnrs ●	1824	-32	2.1	2508
289½	260¾	Ruffer Inv Pref ●	286	-1½	1.3	299
472	382	Schroder Asian TR	453	+4	2.5	488
540	450	Scot American ●	504*	-2	2.8	547
946¼	634	**Scot Mortgage**	824½	-1¾	0.5	912
156	101⅞	Shaftesbury Capital ●	144¾	-1	2.3	3.2
1484	1162¼	Smithson Inv Tst ●	1412	+8	–	1584
227	207	STS Global Income	224	+4	2.9	224
168	140⅜	Tmpletn Em Mt ●	162⅜	+1¼	3.1	183
349	253	TR Property ●	336½	+½	4.7	356
135¾	121	UIL Fin ZDP 2024	134	+½	–	137
123	105	UIL Fin ZDP 2026	120	–	–	136
241	203¼	Utilico Emerg	224	+1	3.8	271
277	209	Witan ●	264	-1	2.4	279
372½	286	Worldw HealthTr ●	358½	-1½	0.8	395

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

Media +0.59%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
849	584¾	**Auto Trader**	797¼	+6¾	1.2	28.3
752	365	Bloomsbury ●	674*	-4	2.2	16.9
886	684	**Informa**	807¾*	+8¼	2.3	26.8
89	55½	ITV ●	78¾	+⅜	6.4	15.1
1069⅜	809⅜	**Pearson**	1034½*	-7½	2.2	19.5
752	365	Bloomsbury ●	674*	-4	2.2	16.9
112¾	58½	Reach	105	+2	7.0	15.4
3694¾	2462	**RELX**	3531*	+20	1.7	37.5
603	457¾	**Rightmove**	537½	+¼	1.7	21.9
856¾	656	**WPP**	690¼	+11¾	5.7	11.1

Mining +0.49%

2813	1630	**Anglo Amer**	2232½	+6½	2.9	–
2425	1280	**Antofagasta**	1879½	+33	1.5	28.4
2707½	2019	BHP Group	2094	-3	5.8	10.5
134¼	77¼	Centamin ●	122¾	+2¾	2.7	19.6
81	81	Evraz #	81	–	–	0.5
647½	435¼	**Fresnillo**	540*	+5	1.5	21.8
506¾	365¼	**Glencore**	410¼	+5¾	2.5	15.4
195	74¾	Hochschild Mng ●	173¾	+6¾	–	-22.2
445½	291	Kenmare Res	334	+5	13.6	3.0
5910	4509½	**Rio Tinto**	4942	+27½	6.9	10.2

Oil & Gas +0.96%

562¼	404¾	**BP**	439⅝*	+5⅞	5.3	6.4
18⅝	11⅛	EnQuest	13¼	+⅛	–	-10.6
465⅞	227	Hunting ●	428½	+14½	1.9	7.4
87½	8¼	Petrofac	14¾	+⅜	–	-0.3
2961	2331½	**Shell**	2799	+23	3.8	12.4
213¼	118	Wood Grp (John) ●	132	+⅝	–	-10.5

Pharmaceuticals +0.53%

12844	9461	**AstraZeneca**	12780*	+80	1.8	42.6
2412	1478	Genus ●	1750	+4	1.8	34.4
1823½	1340	**GSK**	1572	+6½	3.8	12.9
2222	1711	**Hikma**	2002	-36	3.1	29.8
1895	653	Indivior	967½	-15	–	–

Property -0.84%

10	6	Alina Hldgs	8	–	–	22
49⅛	37½	Assura ●	41¾	+¼	8.1	–
1272	901	Big Yellow Gp ●	1200	-8	3.8	–
446¾	287¼	Brit Land ●	395	-1⅝	5.8	–
68¾	48¾	Cap&Regional	65¾	-¼	8.8	–
2452	1766	Derwent Ldn ●	2290	-50	3.5	–
381	291	Gt Portland Est ●	340	-5	3.7	–
278¾	216¼	Grainger ●	239½	-1½	2.9	68.4
32	20½	Hammerson ●	27½	+½	5.6	–
259	181	Helical	225½	-4½	2.1	-1.5
949	675	**Segro**	884¾*	-8¾	3.2	–
165	110	Town Centre	140	+1	–	–
173	127⅛	Tritax Big Box ●	159⅝	-2¼	4.7	185
92¾	68	Warehouse REIT	85½	-⅝	7.5	125

Retailers +0.06%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
27⅞	13	Brown (N)	26	–	–	–
83¼	43	Currys ●	77⅝	+½	–	5.2
1335½	959	Dunelm ●	1178	–	6.6	15.7
949½	771½	**Frasers Group**	838½	-3½	–	9.7
3194	2244	Greggs ●	3078	-44	2.1	21.9
244¾	125	Halfords	138¾*	-2¾	5.8	17.7
956½	612	**Howden Joinery**	879½	-3	2.4	18.9
177¾	103	**JD Sports Fash**	120¾	-5¼	0.7	11.7
283¾	198¼	**Kingfisher**	271⅝	+½	4.6	14.9
341⅛	201⅜	**Marks & Spen**	323¼	+4¾	0.9	14.8
8½	3½	Mothercare	4	–	–	–
9918	6724	**Next**	9542	+22	2.2	16.6
902⅜	278¼	Ocado ●	376¾	+2¾	–	-9.8
814	280½	Pinewood Tech	334	+4	–	2.9
161½	93⅛	Saga	102¾	+2¾	–	-1.3
311⅛	243¾	**Sainsbury J**	269¾	+1¾	4.9	45.7
1532	1069	Smith WH ●	1215	+17	2.6	20.0
335¼	217½	**Tesco**	333½	+3	3.6	19.9

Support services +0.16%

6180	4437	**Ashtead Gp**	5152*	-22	1.6	18.0
3306	2680	**Bunzl**	3202	+16	2.1	20.4
23¼	12¾	Capita	17⅜	-⅝	–	-1.7
20¾	12½	Carillion #	14¼	–	–	0.5
6075	4171	**DCC**	5135	-15	3.8	15.5
107	49¾	De La Rue	92	+1	–	-9.0
191¾	130¼	Essentra ●	163¾	+3¾	2.2	90.8
3796	2366	**Experian**	3524	+41	1.3	34.3
17810	12035	Ferguson Ent	15350	-150	–	–
5145	3746	**Intertek Group**	4680	+28	2.7	25.4
211	122½	Int'l Workplace ●	168¾	+½	–	-7.9
172	109	Johnson Serv	156¼	-⅜	1.8	24.4
125	90¾	MITIE Gp ●	120¾	+2¼	3.3	12.3
621¾	387¾	**Rentokil**	469*	+4¾	1.9	31.0
570	394	Ricardo Gp	508	+8	2.4	-58.4
472	322	Robt Walters	352	+7	6.7	17.5
196⅜	138	Serco Group ●	168¾	+⅜	2.1	9.3
39⅜	20⅝	SIG	22¾	-1½	–	-5.9
976	684¾	Travis P ●	884	-2	1.2	48.8

Telecommunications +3.66%

151¼	101¼	**BT Group**	141½*	+11	5.7	16.3
1932	1356	Telecom Plus ●	1766*	+6	4.7	19.6
82½	62¾	**Vodafone**	74½	+⅝	10.3	20.7

Tobaccos +0.08%

2839	2233	**Brit Am Tob**	2801	–	8.4	-4.3
2190	1553½	**Imp Brands**	2134	+8	7.0	8.5

Transport +0.84%

350	209¾	Int'l Dist Services ●	340¾	+3¾	0.6	-23.3
445	310	ZIGUP ●	400	+1	6.5	7.2

Travel & Leisure -0.51%

1400	793	Carnival ●	1037½	-16½	–	-221.1
591¼	350	**easyJet**	432¼	-4¾	1.0	10.0
1396	498½	**Entain**	580¾	+22¼	3.1	-3.9
189	135	FirstGroup ●	161¾*	+1¾	3.4	-67.4
17980	12020	Flutter Entrtmt	14685	-190	–	-27.3
753⅜	540	Fullers 'A'	738	+10	2.4	48.7
187⅞	133	**IAG Intl Cons Air**	166½	-⅛	1.5	3.6
8790	5636	**Intercont Hotels**	7228	-44	1.7	20.8
320	195	Mitchells&But ●	308	+5	–	-440.0
93¼	45½	Mobico Group	54⅜	+1¼	–	-1.8
571	365⅝	Playtech ●	536	+15	–	18.1
99¾	60⅜	Rank Group	65	-¼	–	-3.2
862½	587	Wetherspoon ●	735	-13	–	15.5
3714	2723	**Whitbread**	2814	-41	3.4	17.5

AIM +0.05%

62½	25¼	Afentra	52¾	+1¾	–	-56.3
1139¼	840	Arbuthnot	942½	-2½	5.0	4.2
2150	1425⅝	BrooksMacdonald	2000	–	3.8	17.4
⅜	⅛	Cambria Africa #	¼	–	–	-9.6
235	150¼	Central Asia Met	189¼	+2¼	9.5	11.8
388⅝	126⅞	Ceres Power	192½	+4½	–	-6.9
1495	947	Churchill China	1150	–	3.1	16.4
450	289	CML Micro	289*	-8½	3.8	22.2
874⅜	456	Cohort	824	-8	1.8	21.8
¼	⅛	Deltex Medical	⅛	...	–	-1.3
137⅜	75	Eleco	132½	–	0.6	41.4
53⅜	23¼	Futura Medical	34½	+1	–	-15.6
41¼	14	Hornby	24	–	–	-3.4
228¼	166¾	James Halstead	183	-2	4.5	17.9
76¾	32¼	LifeScienceREIT	34½	-¼	5.8	81
550	183¼	Mpac Group	450	+2½	–	34.4
1180	600	MS Intl	1050*	+5	1.9	14.8
83	48¾	Premier Miton	71	–	8.5	28.4
58	10¾	SRT Marine Sys	30	–	–	–
74	37½	Tribal Gp	54¾	-1¼	1.2	21.9
28	14	Union Jack Oil	16¾	-¼	1.5	21.2
1¼	⅝	Xtract Resources	¾	–	–	-11.4
1175	919	Young & Co – A	988	-2	2.2	52.3
850	580	Young & Co – N/V	698	-2	3.1	37.0

The Alternative Investment Market is for young and growing companies. Shares may carry higher risks than those with a full quotation, and may be difficult to sell.

Americans -0.00%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yd	Cvr
45½	23⅛	Alcoa $	31¼	+⅝	1.3	7.7
256¼	140⅞	Amer Express $	237½	-⅜	1.2	4.8
44½	25	BankAmerica $	38¼	...	2.7	2.8
267½	159¾	Boeing $	165½	-2¾	–	–
382	223¾	Caterpillar $	335	-3¼	1.7	3.9
171¼	139¼	Chevron $	144⅞	-¼	4.5	1.6
76½	56¼	Coca-Cola Euro $	73¼	-⅜	2.8	0.9
104¼	67⅜	Colgate Palm $	100⅞	-1¼	2.0	1.7
85⅛	61⅛	DuPontDeNemrs $	78⅜	-¼	1.9	0.5
123¾	95¾	Exxon Mobil $	118½	-⅜	3.2	2.2
35⅝	14⅜	Foot Locker $	30¼	+¼	–	–
180⅞	105½	Gen Electric $	166⅜	-¾	0.7	3.3
396⅞	274¼	Home Depot $	346⅜	-1¾	2.6	1.7
220⅞	174⅞	Honeywell $	197¼	-1	2.2	2.0
39½	25¼	HP $	34	+⅜	3.2	2.7
199⅛	135⅞	IBM $	190¼	-1¼	3.5	1.4
51¼	18¾	Intel $	19½	-⅛	–	–
47⅞	31¾	Intl Paper $	44½	+⅛	4.2	0.7
217½	135¼	JP Morgan Ch $	206⅛	+⅜	2.2	3.9
176	143⅛	Johnson&Johnson $	159⅝	-1	3.1	1.3
35½	27⅜	Keurig Dr Pep $	34⅝	+⅛	2.5	1.8
80⅝	66	Manpower $	69⅛	-⅞	4.2	0.3
30	21¾	Marathon Oil $	27¾	+½	1.6	5.8
302⅜	243½	McDonalds $	268⅛	+¼	2.5	1.7
134⅝	99⅛	Merck $	113¾	-¾	2.7	1.8
468¾	309½	Microsoft $	407¾	+1⅜	0.7	4.0
37¼	25¼	Pfizer $	28½	...	5.9	0.3
171¾	141½	Procter & Gamble $	166¾	-3¾	2.4	1.5
118¼	68½	Raytheon Tech $	116⅞	+¾	2.2	1.0
317¾	242¾	Rockwell $	255⅛	-3	2.0	1.8
351⅛	184	Trane Tech $	332½	-⅛	1.0	3.1
181⅜	58¼	Wal Mart Strs $	69	+1⅛	1.2	1.3

Looking closer to home is one way to avoid a potential US markets crash



RUSS MOULD
QUESTOR
TOPIC

Why the UK stock market is proving less volatile than its American counterpart

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

The much-maligned UK stock market is having a less turbulent summer than that of America, which ultimately may be simply owing to valuation and relative levels of expectation.

In brief, the US market has done so much better than its UK counterpart in recent years, meaning its valuation is higher – and so are expectations.

Over the past five years, the S&P 500 has risen by 82pc, while the FTSE 100 has eked out a 12pc advance over the same time period. As a result, this may leave it more exposed on the downside in the event of any unexpected shocks.

The UK benchmark trades on a lower valuation multiple, at just 12.5 times forward earnings for 2024 and 11.5 times for 2025, compared with the S&P 500's 23.3 times and 19.9 times, based on consensus analyst forecasts and S&P Global Research.

Meanwhile, analysts are looking for a second straight drop in aggregate earnings from the FTSE 100 in 2024, with a modest 8pc rebound in 2025 (to leave next year's predicted net income figure at £183bn, a fraction below 2023's out-turn of £185bn). Some investors may see that as reasonable given the uncertain global economic outlook. In the US, however, S&P Global research suggests US analysts are looking for 11pc earnings growth in 2024 and 17pc in 2025 – and that is on top of 8pc growth in 2023.

US vs UK

The S&P 500 has much greater exposure to technology, while the FTSE 100's less volatile showing suggests it could offer some protection in the event of a wider market dislocation

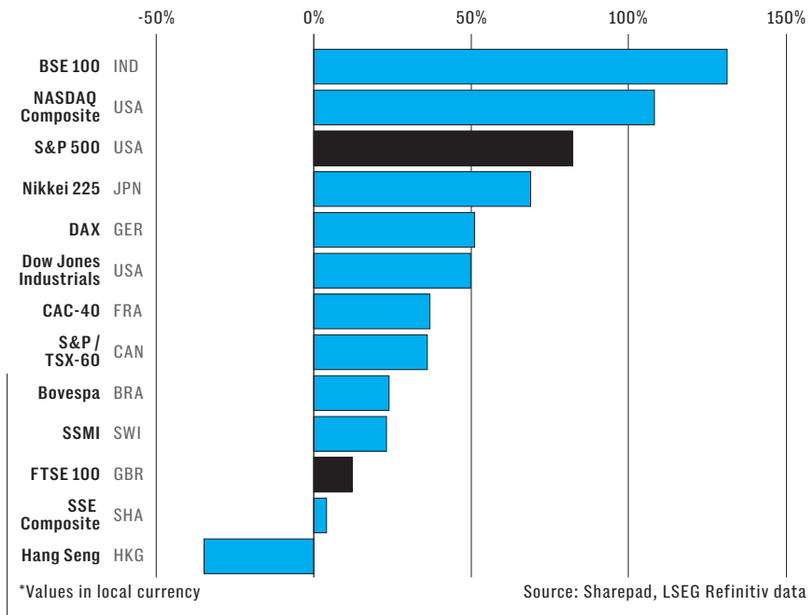
Earnings momentum

There are good reasons why the trajectories could be so different – America may still be basking in the fiscal stimulus provided by the Biden administration's Chips and Inflation Reduction Acts, benefiting from increased onshoring and also the S&P 500's much greater exposure to areas such as technology, where hopes for an AI-inspired spending and productivity boom continue to run high. But this also increases the risk of downside in US equities should any unexpected disappointment creep up.

Just look at the sharp falls in US equities – and the "magnificent seven" in particular – in 2022 when corporate earnings stumbled, just as interest rates began to rise and supply chains unwind after the damage caused by Covid and lockdowns.

The UK may be more sheltered from these risks owing to its lesser price tag and lower valuation. Although it would be wrong to say it is entirely immune to such threats, especially as the USA is the world's largest economy and an important trading partner, the FTSE 100's less volatile showing suggests it could offer some protection in the event of a wider market dislocation, partly as valuations and hopes are lower, and partly because it has a greater exposure to stodgier – or less cyclical – areas such as consumer staples, telecoms, utilities and health care.

Best and worst stock market returns over the past five years



*Values in local currency

Source: Sharepad, LSEG Refinitiv data

Greed and fear

This may all be academic if markets regain their footing. A rally is by no means out of the question as investors do seem to have rather lost their marbles – a surge in the Vix, or fear index, to an intra-day high of 65 last week suggested that markets at one stage feared an outcome as bad as that seen in 2008 for the Global Financial Crisis, or 2020 during the pandemic.

In this respect, the Vix could be a handy contra-cyclical indicator, at least in the near term. The long-term average reading for the "fear index", which is used as a measure of anticipated volatility in the US stock market, is 19.

A long spell of readings at 12 or below can be suggestive of very bullish sentiment, even complacency, so it may not take much to frighten markets into action. Equally, a rash of readings above 30, or spikes higher still, could be suggestive of panic and therefore that markets may be oversold as investors blindly dump stocks.

> 'Those brave enough to try to time the markets should be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful'

Friend or foe

In this respect, volatility can be the investors' friend, as it presents them with a chance to buy assets cheaply (when others panic) or sell expensively (when others get carried away). The skill is to build a portfolio with sufficient downside protection and robust characteristics that it can see the investor through to the other side of any squalls, without them becoming a forced seller due to too much risk.

All this does is distil Warren Buffett's maxim that investors – if they are brave enough to try to time the markets – should be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful.

Ultimately, valuation and the price paid dictate long-term investment returns, not fancy narratives, whether they are AI-related or not.

Russ Mould is investment director at AJ Bell, the stockbroker. The views expressed are his own

Burger King expansion leads to 'resilient' sales

Burger King UK has witnessed "resilient" sales over the first half of 2024 as it continues to benefit from expansion across the UK.

The fast-food business, which has 561 restaurants in the UK, returned to profit last year, accounts show. It made an operating profit of £13.4m, from a £20.7m loss in 2022. Total revenues jumped by 30pc to £381.8m.

Alasdair Murdoch, the chief executive of Burger King UK, said: "We have seen a resilient trading performance in the first half, with total sales growth of 5pc split equally between the existing estate and contribution from new site openings. This was supported by a significant improvement in profitability from a strong operational cost focus."

Marshalls hit by weak new-build housing market

Building materials supplier Marshalls has revealed a slump in sales amid "challenging" trading in landscaping.

Revenues dipped to £306.7m for the six months to June 30, down by 13pc compared with the same period a year earlier. It follows low levels of new-build housing and reduced spending on private housing improvements.

However, bosses were "cautiously optimistic of a modest recovery" over the rest of the year, as the business held its financial guidance.

Bosses said they hope to see new work supported by the "new Government's commitment to increase housebuilding significantly". Marshalls also revealed pre-tax profits grew by 29pc to £21.5m for the half-year, after cost reductions over the past year.

HSBC promises no more branch closures until 2026

HSBC has promised it will not announce any new closures of its bank branches until at least 2026.

The banking group also said it was planning to spend more than £50m this year on improving its branch network. It means HSBC must keep its 327 branches running for at least the next year and a half.

Thousands of branches have shut in recent years, with HSBC closing more than 700 since 2015.

Christopher Dean, HSBC's head of UK customer channels, said: "We know that our 327 branches play an important role in serving our customers, which is why we are investing more than £50m in refurbishing and remodelling works across our network this year."

Pubs and restaurant revenues affected by rioting across UK

Pubs, restaurants and other hospitality businesses suffered a 10pc drop in sales as a result of the wave of rioting across Britain's last week, figures show.

Sales fell by up to 40pc in some areas, UK Hospitality said, as businesses closed and consumers stayed at home amid predictions of widescale disorder last week.

Footfall was down by as much as 75pc amid the violence. Coastal towns were particularly affected by the cancellation of coach and day trips, while city centres also recorded significant disruption, with many staff advised to work from home.

Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Secretary, has backed UK Hospitality's calls for insurance companies to act swiftly to help businesses recover.

Business rates 'not fit for purpose', says Sainsbury's chief

The boss of Sainsbury's has said the business rates tax system is "no longer fit for purpose" and warned that current planned increases will lead to thousands of high street closures and job losses.

Simon Roberts, the Sainsbury's chief executive, said: "All responsible retailers want to pay their fair share of tax, but the current business rates system has become an enormous burden on our industry. It is no longer fit for purpose."

The supermarket chain also backed calls for a 20pc cut in business rates for retail companies. Labour has pledged to reform the current system, committing to "levelling the playing field between high street and online retailers".

Revolut investor raises $1.3bn to back European tech

A venture capital business that was an early investor in companies such as Revolut and Darktrace has raised $1.3bn (£1bn) to back new ventures.

London-based Balderton Capital has raised a $615m fund to invest in early stage start-ups and $685m to back growing businesses.

Managing partner Bernard Liautaud said: "Our mission is simple: to be the partner of choice to the founders starting and growing European technology companies. These new funds put us in a position to do just that."

Balderton is one of Britain's most successful venture capital businesses. Past investments include Betfair, Depop and LoveFilm, which was sold to Amazon.

READER SOLUTIONS BY TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP

Travel Insurance Services provided by AllClear

One in three Brits planning to travel more in 2024



Take out comprehensive travel insurance to guarantee peace of mind on your holiday

British holidaymakers are hoping to see more of the world in 2024 than they did last year. That's according to the results of a survey by AllClear, the specialist travel insurance provider.

Of 4,358 adults questioned, more than a third (36 per cent) said they want to take more trips than they did last year.

> With so many amazing places to explore, it's great to see that millions of us are looking to enjoy more holidays this year.

The survey also revealed that 92 per cent are planning to have at least one holiday, with 79 per cent intent on taking two or more getaways before the year is over. But where are people heading to and what are they planning on doing when they get there?

Europe is proving very popular, with 66 per cent of travellers choosing to visit the continent. And of those asked, 48 per cent are looking forward to unwinding on a beach holiday, with city breaks (33 per cent) and ocean cruises (28 per cent) also in demand.

Garry Nelson, Head of Corporate Affairs at AllClear Travel Insurance, said: "With so many amazing places to explore, it's great to see that millions of us are looking to enjoy more holidays this year."

It's essential to choose a comprehensive policy so you can travel safely. AllClear wants to make sure everyone has the opportunity to see the world with confidence, so its policies have no upper age limit and can cover more than 1,300 pre-existing conditions. In fact, 89 per cent of AllClear customers have at least one medical condition.

AllClear offers flexible options in its range of policies that include:

- Up to unlimited emergency medical expenses*
- 24/7 English-speaking emergency medical helpline
- Up to £25k cancellation cover†

With the right travel insurance, you can explore the world with peace of mind.

To find out more
Contact AllClear online or call the number below.

0330 162 3967

telegraph.co.uk/allclear

*Unlimited medical expenses cover on the Platinum level of cover. †Providing you have purchased a policy that includes cancellation cover. Data based on 4,358 responses. AllClear Annual Survey, February 2024. Telegraph Media Group Ltd is an Introducer Appointed Representative of AllClear Insurance Services Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. AllClear is a registered trademark. Please see the Data Privacy Notice in today's Personal Column.

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OCHA WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY unicef



THIS WAS A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Humanitarian workers risk their lives to save and protect civilians, including children, yet face increasing attacks by warring parties, in violation of the rules of war. This World Humanitarian Day, demand action to protect humanitarian workers and their life-saving work.

#ACTFORHUMANITY

Court & Social

Court Circular

ST JAMES'S PALACE
August 12th
The Duchess of Edinburgh, Patron, Association of Sail Training Organisations, having been received by the Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bailiwick of Guernsey (Lieutenant-General Richard Cripwell), today attended the Association of Sail Training Organisation's Guernsey to Poole Small Ships Race, inspired by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Bicentenary, at St Peter Port Harbour.

Today's birthdays

Marquess Camden is 94; **Ms Madhur Jaffrey**, actress and cookery writer, 91; **Miss Sheila Armstrong**, soprano, 82; **Sir Jeffrey James**, former diplomat, 80; **Mr Christopher Nourse**, arts consultant, 78; **Mr Mark Pyper**, Principal of Gordonstoun School, 1990-2011, 77; **Ms Ann Grant**, former diplomat, 76; **Lt Gen Sir Philip Trousdell**, GOC Northern Ireland, 2003-05, 76; **Ms Marie Helvin**, fashion model, 72; **Mr Howard Drake**, former diplomat, 68; **Mr Martyn Brabbins**, conductor, 65; **Dr Baroness Shafik**, President, Columbia University; Director, LSE, 2017-2023; former senior civil servant, 62; **Mr Alan Shearer**, former footballer; captain, England team, 1996-2000, now commentator, 54; and **Mr Nick Dempsey**, windsurfer and coach; Olympic silver medallist, RS:X Class London 2012, 44.

Today is the anniversary of the Battle of Blenheim in 1704, of the birth of Alfred Hitchcock in 1899 and the death of Florence Nightingale in 1910.

Clergy news

Appointments
Revv Judith Edwards, chapl, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (Chichester), to be bank chapl, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (Lichfield); Chamil Fernando, ac, Armley Christ Church (Leeds), to be ac (known as assoc min), Alton with Bradley le Moors, Ellastone with Stanton, and Mayfield (Lichfield). Joseph Fielder, spiritual care team leader, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (Lichfield), to be chapl, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (same dio).

Retirements and resignations
Revv Sandra Williams, assoc p, West Purbeck (Salisbury), retired in April 2024; Teresa Michaux, tv, Marden Vale (Salisbury), retired in April 2024; William Paxton, v, Southend All Saints (Chelmsford), to retire on August 31 2024; Alexander Kirkwood, tr, Benwell and Scotswood (Newcastle), to resign with effect from August 31 2024; Adam Romanis, v, Heslington held in plurality with York St Lawrence with St Nicholas (York), to retire on August 31 2024.

Bridge news

Last week the highest scores each day in the English Bridge Union's open 12-board online matchpoint duplicate pairs games were as follows, writes **Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**.

Monday
75.38% scored by Michael Dewsbury and Alex Smith in Game 4 (9pm).
Tuesday
72.70% scored by Kevin Clark and Graham Johnston in Game 3 (7.30pm).
Wednesday
69.81% scored by Tony Togneri and Elisabeth Bingham in Game 2 (3.30pm).
Thursday
78.82% scored by James Longworth and David Longworth in Game 2.
Friday
71.33% scored by Fowzi Baroukh and an Advanced BBO Bot in Game 3.
Saturday
70.37% scored by Philip Colman and Peter Aughterson in Game 1 (2pm).
Sunday
79.17% scored by Richard Collins and Rhonda Collins in Game 2.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13, 1924

FORD-EDISON CAMPING TRIP.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
NEW YORK, MONDAY.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edison, of electrical fame, Mr. and Mrs. Ford, the motor-car magnates, and Mr. Henry Firestone, one of the biggest tyre manufacturers in the world, are now preparing to start together on their annual camping trip. Two years ago they were accompanied by the late President Harding, and also by Mr. John Burroughs, the naturalist, but both these notables have passed away. There is a fiction that this annual picnic, with motor-cars for transport, lasting usually a week or ten days, is strictly private, but custom ordains that reporters shall follow at a respectable distance, and that Press photographers shall go with them. These camping parties are very popular among the rich and all those who own vehicles of some kind. In certain instances a trailer brings along a tent and supplies, but it is an unwritten law that each member of the party does his share of work and housekeeping. President Harding proved an adept at pitching a tent, Mr. Edison was good at wood-chopping and taking long naps in the afternoon, and Mr. Firestone was cook, while Mr. Burroughs, on account of his extreme age, was the official camp-fire storyteller. All sleep on spring camp beds, and all admittedly benefit greatly by contact with the great out-of-doors.

President Coolidge said he would have joined the Ford-Edison camping party this summer, but, with the elections pending, he must work and stew in Washington, where the heat is worse than in New York. Mr. John Davis cannot take part because he is as busy as Mr. Coolidge. To-night the entire country will hear Mr. Davis's acceptance speech by radio delivered at Clerksburg, West Virginia, and on Wednesday President Coolidge follows him with his campaign keynotes. For the first time radio is being employed here generally in the Presidential election, and the effect of this agency in educating public opinion will be studied with great interest. Whether the candidates will be saved much fatigue is questioned, because in any case all must work to the limit until polling day.

THE FUN OF THE FAIR.

The fun began at the very outset at yesterday's inauguration of the centuries-old Mitcham Fair in the setting-up of rival claims to the lordship of the manor of Biggin and Tamworth, the claimants being Mr. George Farewell Jones, chairman of the Mitcham Urban District Council, and Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley. Since Elizabethan days the annual gathering has had the village green as its locale, but now, for the first time, it has taken up its new home on a portion of the Common.

In the course of a speech at the opening ceremony, Mr. Jones recalled the protracted controversy which resulted in an Act of Parliament transferring the control of the fair from the Mitcham Common Conservators to the Urban District Council, and said that, as chairman of the council, he had hoped to have the honour of performing the opening ceremony this year. "But," he added, "the showmen insisted on Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley doing this." Mr. Jones went on to say that as lord of the manor of Biggin and Tamworth as well as chairman of the council, he was naturally deeply interested in local affairs, and he trusted that, though there had been differences between the Council and the showmen the Fair was now entering on a new lease of life.

"I am interested to learn that Mr. Jones is lord of the manor," remarked Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley, in his opening ceremony speech. "Up till now I had always thought I was – at least, I paid for it, and so, I believe, did Mr. Jones." This little incident created much amusement among the company assembled on the platform, including Sir Cato and Lady Worsfold, members of the Urban District Council, and leading members of the Showmen's Guild, among them Mr. W. Savage (general secretary) and Dr. S. Winstead (chaplain).

The appreciation of the showmen of the services that Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley has rendered them in connection with the transference of the fair to the Common was indicated in a letter sent by Mr. Pat Collins, M.P., president of the Guild. Mr. Collins wrote that no words of his could fully describe the great admiration, affection, and esteem entertained by the showmen for Sir Harry, who had proved himself a loyal and steadfast friend during many years. On behalf of the Guild Mr. Savage presented to Sir Harry two handsome silver cups of the value of 200 guineas.

The ancient festival, now that it has been moved from the green to the common, is about twice its old size, but in its general composition it presents few new features. Its novelties include several "Rodeo" shows, in the restricted areas of which is given as much of a Rodeo performance as one could reasonably expect to see. Here and there the observer detects what he must assume to be influences of the recent Advertising Convention, notably on the front of a circus the impressario of which modestly proclaims himself as "the showman that sails under that beautiful banner, Truth." On all hands, indeed, one encounters assertion of genuineness and an indignant repudiation of the fraudulent and spurious. The numerous keepers of "cokernut," "cocoanut," or "coconut" saloons or pavilions, as they are variously styled, all display laudatory descriptions of their coconuts, though one gentleman contents himself with saying, "We keep only one quality" – a claim which lends itself to unkind interpretations by adjacent competitors.

PROPOSED BIRD SANCTUARY.

An effort is being made by the residents of the Addington and Selsdon districts of Surrey, lying to the south of Croydon, to raise the sum of £1,000 for the purchase of forty acres of Selsdon Wood as a bird sanctuary. Such sanctuaries are none too many, and there is nothing on the south side of the metropolis like the Selborne Society's sanctuary in the Brent Valley. Wicken Fen, almost the last remnant of the primeval fenland of East Anglia, is well known to nature lovers as one of the few places where the feathered denizens of our islands live and breed undisturbed by the bird-catcher, owing to the action of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. So are Burwell Fen, Blakeney Point, and Scolt Head, on the shores of Norfolk, the Ruskin Reserve at Abingdon, in Berkshire, and, of course, the distant Farne Islands, off the coast of Northumberland. It will be recalled, also, that within the last two years or so, a wooded portion of Hyde Park was, with the King's approval, set aside as a bird sanctuary.

Selsdon Wood lies in a beautiful and sequestered valley between Sanderstead and Addington, marked by some splendid oak trees and dense thickets of chalk-down shrubs and undergrowth. It is well-known locally as a resort of the nightingale, and among other birds which have been seen there are the magpie, jay, jackdaw, whitethroat, wren, great tit, blue tit, nuthatch, gallibird, pied woodpecker, flycatcher, landrail, redwing, blackcap, crossbill, linnet, golden plover, yellow wagtail, greenfinch, goldfinch, and bullfinch. Animals are well represented by the fox, badger, stoat, weasel, mole, hare, hedgehog, and squirrel, among others. The plant life includes the autumn crocus, as well as all the species typical of the chalk scrub.

"The area is peculiarly suitable as a nature reserve," said Mr. Laurence Chubb, secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society, to a representative of The Daily Telegraph yesterday. "It adjoins thirteen acres of Court Wood, to be protected under a scheme of the Surrey Gardens Village Trust, which is developing the land to the north-east of Selsdon Wood for small holdings. The present owner has proved most sympathetic, and if the land can be bought for permanent maintenance as a bird sanctuary he has agreed to accept the low price of £30 per acre. The sum of £1,200 will suffice to acquire it.

"Nothing has hitherto been done in the way of preserving a tract of the North Downs, where the flora and fauna peculiar to the chalk hills can be protected. It is therefore eminently desirable that the opportunity of securing Selsdon Wood should not be lost. It is in a secluded position, over half a mile distant from the Sanderstead to Addington road, and as the adjoining land will not be closely developed for building, the society is confident that the wild life of the wood will remain undisturbed.

"If the public response to the appeal is adequate, it is intended to invite the National Trust to become the guardians of the sanctuary, and, in that event, the members of the Croydon Natural History Society have expressed their readiness to act as watchers. The sum required to acquire one of the most important tracts of sylvan scenery remaining near London is not large, and the purchase committee appeal for contributions."

EXCITING RESCUES AT SOUTHEND.

Three men rescued two women from drowning at Thorpe Bay, Southend, yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Elaine Warren, of Livingstone-road, Leyton, and Miss Betty Harrison, of Lea-road, Leyton, got into difficulties while bathing, and were being rapidly carried away from the shore by the ebbing tide, when Richard Williams, of Leamington-road, Hornsey-rise; Samuel Gill, of Wesley-road, Leyton; and John Bigg, of Southend, all plunged into the water to their aid. The women were brought ashore with some difficulty. Miss Harrison was unconscious, but she was restored by artificial respiration, and taken to hospital. Mrs. Warren was taken to a house near and soon recovered.

Bridge Hand

Boss suit wins again

By **Tom Townsend**

Dealer South
Vulnerability All

	♠ 8 6 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ A 9 8 7 ♣ A J 9 6	
♠ J 3 ♥ A K 6 5 3 ♦ K Q 4 2 ♣ 7 3	N W E S	♠ Q 9 ♥ Q 9 8 7 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ K Q 8 4
	♠ A K 10 7 5 4 2 ♥ 10 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 10 5 2	

West	North	East	South
			3♠(1)
pass(2)	4♠(3)	pass	pass
pass			

(1) Pre-emptive weak three
(2) Close to taking positive action
(3) Showing maximum faith

Contract 4♠
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♥A

FROM the European Championships in Denmark. South's 3♠ is routine; the hand is sound enough for a vulnerable three. This bid was made at all 30 tables in play. Would you contest with the West cards, either with 4♥ or a take-out double?

My view: with marginal values and imperfect shape, don't fight the boss suit. "Spades beat hearts," as James E Cayne (of Bear Stearns fame) used to say, "every time."

In practice, there were 10 doubles and one 4♥ bid (Julian Pottage of Wales, apparently on a red meat only diet in Herning). The other 19 West players passed.

East pulled a double to 4♥. North let it play at nine tables, and beat it by one trick. East lost two spades and two aces.

The interesting contract was 4♠, bid by North at five tables. His top cards and club suit looked useful. This made three times, once doubled; went one off once and three off doubled once. Did three off really happen without a revoke? Yes.

West cashed a heart and switched to the ♣7, won by East. South won the diamond switch in dummy, finessed the ♠10 to West's ♠J, and finessed on a club continuation. West scored a club ruff by return with the ♠3, and cashed the ♦K for the sixth defensive trick.

At first glance, South has four losers in 4♠. As a practical matter, it's not easy to defend. Say West starts with ♥AK. South ruffs, draws trumps, and leads the ♦6 towards dummy. West may routinely play low. East scores the ♦J and returns the ♥Q, ruffed by declarer.

On the ♦10 at trick seven, West does best to play low again. This makes South guess. Does he run the ♦10, playing West for ♦KQ or an honour to drop in three? Or does he rise with the ♦A, playing him for a club honour? Considering the odds in the suits, he's more likely to try the latter.

If West covers the ♦10 it's all over. South tops the ♦Q with the ♦A, and passes the ♦8 to West's ♦K. From hand he discards a club. He wins the first round of clubs, and parks his third club on the master ♦9.

There are two ways to beat 4♠ by force. West can switch to a club at trick two, or split his honours on the first round of diamonds.

Final Result 4♠ made, N/S +620
Par Result 3♠ made, N/S +140

Chess

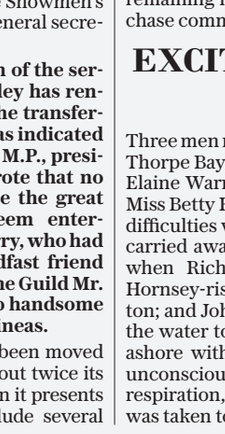
Le Quang Liem's triple

By **Malcolm Pein**

FOR A third year in a row, Le Quang Liem triumphed at the Biel Grandmaster Tournament. The Vietnamese number one wrapped up victory with a round to spare by smoothly defeating Rambeshabu Praggnanandhaa at Classical with the black pieces.

The triathlon format of the tournament clearly suits Le, who was especially strong in the Classical games. He tied for first in the preliminary Classical stage, finishing on 3.5/5 alongside the American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra, while defeating both Vincent Keymer and Sam Shankland. Le also won the second and final Classical stage to rise to world number 16. Le wasn't quite so good in the Rapid, which was won by Armenian GM Haik Martirosyan, with whom Le tied for second on 6.5/10 in the Blitz, half a point behind Praggnanandhaa.

Overall standings Le 31; Martirosyan 25.5; Pragg 24.5; Mishra 22; Keymer 15.5; Shankland 12.5.



Le Quang Liem – V Keymer
Biel Blitz 3+2 *English Opening*
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 0–0 5.Nf3 Re8 6.0–0 e4 7.Ng5!? Bxc3 8.dxc3 h6 9.Nh3 d6 10.Nf4 Nbd7 11.Qc2 Nb6 12.b3 g5? (12...Bf5 13.Be3 c6 14.Bd4 Qe7 is very comfortable for Black) **13.Nd5! Nbxd5 14.cxd5 Bf5 15.c4! Qe7 16.Bb2** (See board left. The bishop on g2 remains out of play, but his dark-square colleague is very powerful) **16...Nd7 17.Rae1!?** Bg6 (17...f6! 18.f4 g4 battens down the hatches) **18.Qc3 f6? 19.f4!?** (Or 19.Bh3!) **19...e3?** (19...exf3 20.exf3 Qg7 21.Re6 Bf7 was grim, but essential) **20.Bh3! Kh7 21.Be6** (Both white bishops are now monsters) **21...gxf4 22.Rxf4 Nc5 23.Ref1 Nxe6 24.dxe6 f5**



As so often, opposite-coloured bishops favour the attacker, but, what was White's most crushing continuation here? **25.g4!? Rg8 26.Kh1 Raf8 27.gxf5??** (27.Qxe3 was still very good for White) **27...Bxf5??** (Blundering a piece, and remarkably after 27...Be8!!, Black would have been fine: 28.h4! Bc6+ 29.Kh2 Rg2+ 30.Kh3 Rfg8 31.Qxe3 Qe8 yields serious counterplay) **28.Rxf5 Rxf5 29.Rxf5 Qxe6 30.Qd3 Rg6 31.Qd5** (31.Rf8!) **31...Qxd5+ 32.cxd5 Kg8 33.Bd4 1-0**

Answer:
32.Qh5+ Kd8 33.Qh8+ Qe8 34.Bf6+ Ke8 30.Qg6+ Kf8 31.Qxh6+ Ke8 27.Qd3! Kg8 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Qf5+ and if 26...Qxe6 27.Qg7# or 26...Rf8 25.Rxf5! Bxf5 26.Rxf5 wins by force,

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk **Book online:** announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Births

BURGESS.—On 11th August 2024, to Suzie and Andrew, a son, Herbert Cecil Peter.
Online Ref: WO027463

Deaths

BIGGART.—Margaret Grace 'Margie', passed away peacefully on Thursday 25th July. Always interested in the lives of others, kind, loyal and cheerful - she will be much missed by her family and friends. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 2.45 p.m. on Thursday 29th August. Family flowers only please, donations to Alzheimer's Society c/o Longhurst of Epsom Funeral Directors, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, KT19 8RY. Tel: 01372 898990.
Online Ref: WO027467

BULL.—Sir George Bull passed away peacefully at home on 21st July 2024, a few days after his 88th birthday. He was the much loved husband of his recently deceased wife, Tessa, father of 4 sons and a daughter, grandfather of 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by all his family and friends. All welcome at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Saffron Walden, CB10 1BP on Monday 2nd September at 11.15 a.m. for a Requiem Mass and for a celebration of his life afterwards in Arkesden. Family flowers only please but donations, if wished, can be made to Alzheimer's Society, Your Place and The Drinks Trust by visiting George's In Memory page at www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk or postal and telephone enquiries to Peasgood & Skeates, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, CB11 3AQ. Tel: 01799 523314.
Online Ref: WO027417

CAMPBELL.—Colin died on 31st July 2024, aged 74. Beloved brother of Tina and the late Alastair. Much treasured uncle and great uncle.
Online Ref: WO027441

HAYWARD.—Jane (née Pedder) died peacefully aged 83 on 3rd August 2024. Beloved wife of John. Proud and much loved mother of Vanessa, Susannah, Sarah and Richard. Loving grandmother of Ollie. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Melton on 22nd August at 3 p.m. Donations in memory of Jane are for St Elizabeth Hospice or Marie Curie c/o E B Button & Sons Ltd, 24 St Johns Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1EB.
Online Ref: WO027413

HIGGINS.—Veronica Georgina Sancroft. Died peacefully on 25th July 2024, aged 85 years. Loving wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral Service to be held at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20th August 2024 at St Mary's Church, Alderbury, Salisbury, followed by burial. Colourful attire, no mourning wear please.
Online Ref: WO027454

McCARTHY.—On 1st August, Jane (née Hellyer), passed away at home in Lambourn aged 83 years. Much loved mother and grandmother, she will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at St Michael's & All Angels Church, Lambourn on 29th August at 2.30 p.m. Donations in Jane's memory if desired are for Lambourn Surgery Amenities and Nursing Fund c/o R.C. Smallbone, 37 Pound Street, Newbury RG14 6AE.
Online Ref: WO027410

MORSE.—Brita Mary (née Edholm) died peacefully on 8th August, aged 84. Beloved mother of Jessica, Jasper and Piers Edwards. Devoted grandmother to Jordana, Daisy and Isadora.
Online Ref: WO027429

POWELL.—Robin Alfred died on 24th July 2024. Dearly loved husband of Helen, father, father-in-law, brother, uncle and grandfather. A true gentleman who will be grievously missed. Funeral on 19th August at 11.30 a.m. at Dunnington Baptist Church. Family flowers only. Donations to MNDA and Dunnington Baptist Church. Contact Hemming and Peace. Tel: 01789 766750.
Online Ref: WO027412

PRANDLE.—Margaret Laurie (née Keep). Died peacefully on 4th August at Richmond Care Home, Letcombe Regis, aged 89. Formerly of Geneva, then Abberley, Worcestershire. Much loved wife of Arthur (deceased) and sister of Irene, beloved aunt of Rupert, Andrew, Catharine and Rachel, and adored by great nephews and nieces. Family cremation with a memorial service in Abberley in the autumn.
Online Ref: WO027306

RANKMORE.—(Tony) Anthony John died peacefully on 20th July aged 85. Much loved and loving husband of Auriel and brother of Jaci. Remembered always for his kindness and humour. Funeral on 20th August at Holy Angels Church, Ash, at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations instead to Alzheimer's Society. Enquiries to E Finch & Sons, Aldershot. Tel: 01252 322281.
Online Ref: WO027430

STREATFEILD.—Bill peacefully at home on 17th July aged 89 years. Husband of the late Sarah, partner of Maggie, father of Janet and Will, grandfather of Maggie, Felix and Phoebe. Funeral on Tuesday 20th August at 12 noon at St Barnabas Church, Dulwich. No flowers please, but donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice or St Mungo's.
Online Ref: WO027470

TIMOTHY.—Brigid (née Crichton) died peacefully at home on 5th August aged 94. Wife first to Col Paddy Stevens RM (div) then Andrew Timothy. Mother to Susan and Michael, grandmother to Emma. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on 28th August at 12.45 p.m. Private ceremony in Beltra, Co Sligo at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations to Toynbee Hall.
Online Ref: WO027440

WELLS.—Dr Alastair James died suddenly but peacefully at home on 29th July 2024 after a year of illness borne with courage and grace. Beloved husband of Rose, devoted father to Stephanie and Ellie, and jolly Grandpa to Billy, Pippa and Jenny. Qualified Royal Free 1983. GP in Merstham, Surrey for over 30 years. A lifelong passionate golfer he enjoyed playing, refereeing and serving on the Boards and Committees of his clubs. Chair of Governors at Epsom College 2016-2023. Private family funeral. A service of thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 13th October 2024 at Epsom College. All are welcome. Contact oeclub@epsomcollege.org.uk for details.
Online Ref: WO027457

Personal

Text for the day

WHERE THERE is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
Proverbs 29.18 (AV)

Messages

GRATEFUL THANKS to St Jude for prayers answered. F.B.
Online Ref: WO027465

General personal

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Obituaries

Susan Wojcicki

Silicon Valley trailblazer in whose garage Google was founded and who rose to be CEO of YouTube

SUSAN WOJCICKI, who has died from lung cancer aged 56, became one of the most influential women in Silicon Valley after a pair of PhD students called Larry Page and Sergey Brin created Google in her garage; she later joined their company, helping to generate the ubiquitous search engine's vast advertising revenues, and in time became chief executive of the Google-owned video platform YouTube.

In 1998 Susan Wojcicki (pronounced Woe-jiski) was working for the chipmaker Intel when she bought her quiet suburban home in Menlo Park, California, for $600,000. Needing help with her mortgage payments, she rented out her garage for $1,700 a month to Page and Brin, who soon expanded into three of her ground-floor rooms.

Despite their requests, she resisted working for them until 1999 when she joined them as employee No 16 (some reports say No 18). "I was online desperately trying to search for something and couldn't access Google for some reason and then couldn't find any information I needed.

"I suddenly thought getting information you need is going to become very important online. That's when I started working for Google," she told the *Telegraph* in 2010.

As marketing manager, Susan Wojcicki was tasked with raising Google's profile. Working on a shoestring budget, she promoted the search engine by word of mouth, persuading companies to license Google search on their websites and offering it free to universities.

She refined the logo and championed Google Doodles, the variation on the logo used for holidays and special occasions; her first was an alien landing on Google. She also helped to develop Google Image Search, allowing users to search the internet by image rather than by words.

In 2003 she came up with Google AdSense, earning billions of dollars for the company by directing advertisers towards



AFP

As one of Google's earliest employees, she refined the logo and promoted it by word of mouth

users. She also oversaw the company's other advertising products, including AdWords and DoubleClick. Soon she was responsible for generating 97 per cent of Google's revenues, which in the second quarter of this year alone were in excess of $84 billion. This earned her a Google Founder's Award, a financial incentive that provided the foundation for her personal fortune, estimated by *Forbes* at $800 million.

Susan Wojcicki moved on to Google Video, the company's video streaming platform, but it struggled. In 2006 she swallowed her pride and recommended the company's $1.65 billion purchase of YouTube. Eight years later she was appointed CEO of YouTube with a mandate to make the division profitable.

This propelled the usually reticent executive into the spotlight as she fought never-ending battles against online extremism and harmful content. There was also trouble closer to home. In 2018 she spent 40 minutes hiding from a YouTube user who, furious about changes to the site's policies, shot and injured three members of staff before taking her own life.

Critics accused YouTube of focusing on clicks, arguing that it paid only lip service to moderation. Susan Wojcicki, an unassuming figure with a West Coast drawl, offered what seemed to many to be frustratingly corporate answers, insisting that the problem was complex one. "It's not like there is one lever we can pull and say, 'Hey, let's make all these changes,' and everything would be solved. That's not how it works," she told *The New York Times*.

Susan Diane Wojcicki was born in Santa Clara, California, on July 5 1968, the eldest of three daughters of Stanley Wojcicki, a Polish-born professor of physics at Stanford University, and his wife Esther, née Hochman, a journalist of Russian-Jewish descent. One of her sisters, Anne, co-founded the DNA testing company 23andMe and was married to Sergey Brin for six years.

They were educated at Gunn High School, Palo Alto, where Susan wrote for the school newspaper, *The Oracle*. At the age of 11 she started her first business, selling homemade "spice ropes" door to door.

After reading history and literature at Harvard she took a master's degree in economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and in 1998 received her MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her planned PhD in economics was sidetracked by positions at Intel and at the management consultancy Bain.

In an industry dominated by men, Susan Wojcicki was a powerful voice for women. She was a passionate campaigner for paid maternity leave in the US, one of the only countries in the developed world where it is not mandated by government. "Tech is an incredible force that will change our world in ways we can't anticipate. If that force is only 20 to 30 per cent women, that is a problem," she said.

Two years ago she stepped back from YouTube, saying she had "decided to start a new chapter focused on my family, health and personal projects I'm passionate about". By then the platform had grown to 2.5 billion monthly users.

Susan Wojcicki married Dennis Troper, a financial consultant with Deloitte in San Francisco, in 1998. Five years later he too joined Google, becoming director of product management. They grew vegetables and made honey on their one-acre farm in Los Altos, California.

Troper survives her with four of their five children; a son, Marco, died in February from a suspected drugs overdose.

Susan Wojcicki, born July 5 1968, died August 9 2024

Stan Smith

RNVR midshipman who helped to get tanks safely ashore on D-Day and later joined the RAF

STAN SMITH, who has died aged 98, was thrust into a key role in the initial wave of the D-Day landings at Normandy. As an 18-year-old midshipman in the RNVR he was 1st lieutenant and second-in-command of a Landing Craft Tank (LCT) ferrying Sherman amphibious DD tanks towards Gold Beach on June 6 1944 ("DD" stood for "duplex drive", though they were also known as "Donald Duck" tanks).

Rough seas scuppered the planned launch of the tanks three miles offshore, so in accordance with sealed orders which they were not allowed to open until out to sea, Smith's crew beached the LCT at the sector code-named Jig despite coming under heavy bombardment.

The original plan had been to carry nine British-built Valentine DD (swimming) tanks, but after a disastrous exercise in Studland Bay earlier in the year in which several Valentines were lost it was decided to use American Sherman DD tanks.

"Because they were heavier than the Valentines and needed a greater depth of water in which to float off, we had to have extensions fitted to the ramp into which the tanks' tracks fitted," Smith recalled.

The tanks belonged to the Sherwood Rangers, part of the 50th Northumbrian Division, under the command of Captain W Eldridge, and they were supposed to be launched three miles off Jig beach at H-Hour (the beginning of the amphibious assault) minus 30 minutes.

"On our arrival at the launch position the sea conditions were unsuitable to launch so we beached over the obstacles at H-Hour at Asnelles-sur-Mer," he recalled.

Smith's job was to supervise the lowering of the ramp, then to stand on the end of it and measure the depth of the water with a sounding pole. When it was sufficiently shallow, the first three tanks were floated off and swam a few yards before touching down on the sand.

"Then a mortar bomb exploded about 30 feet behind me on the tank deck," he recalled. "I was unhurt, but one of my sailors was wounded, and the flotation screens of the two remaining tanks were ripped. The captain had to drive the landing craft in closer so that these tanks could leave dry-shod." As they did so, another mortar bomb exploded alongside the last tank. Captain Eldridge was riding on the turret directing operations and, though badly wounded, managed to get his troops ashore.

"We lost sight of them as they made their way up the beach," Smith recalled, "[but] by then we were busy with our own problems. Our landing craft was badly damaged by the first mortar bomb and by Teller mines. I was busy raising the ramp and, with the aid of the coxswain, taking care of our casualty.

"Eventually, our landing craft slid back into deeper water and floated off. As she moved astern, a stick of three mortar bombs exploded ahead of us – just about where I had been standing a few moments before."

Smith and his crewmates managed to make their way to a hospital ship lying off shore to transfer Eldridge. "We then proceeded to a pre-arranged collecting area for damaged vessels and joined an 'old crocks' convoy for a night passage home."

Following two days' leave at Southampton, Smith received orders to nurse the battered landing craft to Shoreham for repairs: "I reminded our



Had a narrow escape from mortars on D-Day

superiors that the captain was on leave and that I only had half a crew, but was told that it was imperative to get her there in time to fit into the repair yard's programme."

The voyage to Shoreham, listing heavily to port with one of their rudders jammed, was "short, but interesting", he said.

Stanley Cyril Smith was born in Highbury, north London, on July 26 1925 and joined the Navy in 1943 during the German bombing of London – because "I didn't want to spend my war hiding under a staircase."

In January 1954, while serving aboard the boom defence vessel *Barhill*, he was involved in the salvage of debris from a BOAC De Havilland Comet airliner which had suffered an explosive decompression at altitude and crashed off the western coast of Italy, killing all 35 people on board.

Through the pioneering use of underwater cameras, it was discovered that the accident had been caused by failure of the pressure cabin at the forward automatic direction-finder window in the roof. These findings led to revised estimates for the safe loading-strength requirement of airliner pressure cabins.

Having risen to lieutenant-commander in the Navy, Smith transferred to the RAF in 1956, dropping a rank to flight lieutenant in order to work with Air Sea Rescue. In March 1967 he supervised the dispersal of oil caused by the *Torrey Canyon* disaster off Land's End, and 12 years later was a prime organiser of events marking the end of Malta's role as a British military base. He was promoted to squadron leader in 1972.

After leaving the RAF in 1978, Smith took on a senior role working with MoD range vessels at RAE Aberporth in West Wales. He and his wife, Emily, remained in Pembrokeshire following his retirement 12 years later. Appointed MBE in 1979, Smith was appointed to the Légion d'honneur by the French ambassador Sylvie Bermann at a ceremony in Cardiff in 2016.

Stan Smith's wife Emily predeceased him. He is survived by their two daughters and a son.

Squadron Leader Stan Smith, born July 26 1925, died May 12 2024

Craig Shakespeare

Footballer and coach who helped rank outsiders Leicester City win the Premier League in 2016

CRAIG SHAKESPEARE, the footballer, coach and manager who has died of cancer aged 60, was a pivotal presence by Claudio Ranieri's side as Leicester City pulled off what was arguably the greatest achievement in the history of English football when, as 5,000-1 no-hopers, they won the Premier League title in 2016.

The sacking of Ranieri's managerial predecessor, Nigel Pearson, in July 2015, shortly after the Foxes had narrowly avoided relegation in their first season back in the top flight for 12 years, had left the players in shock. But the continuing presence of Shakespeare and his fellow assistant manager Steve Walsh, as well as the coach Mike Stowell, helped to keep a steady ship when Pearson was replaced – to a countrywide chorus of skepticism – by Claudio Ranieri.

The Italian, who had gained a reputation as the over-rotating "tinkerman" in his trophyless four-season stint with Chelsea at the start of the century, sensibly decided to keep them on while also bringing in his own man, Paolo Benetti, to the coaching team.

Perhaps Shakespeare, Walsh and Stowell's most significant achievement was convincing Ranieri to sign the French defensive midfielder N'Golo Kanté for a bargain £5.6 million from the French side Caen – perhaps the single-most important factor behind Leicester's drive to the title. According to Gabriele Marcotti and Alberto Polverosi in their book *Hail Claudio!*, "Ranieri had the humility to learn and work with Walsh and Shakespeare, and they had the humility to accept their new boss."

Craig Robert Shakespeare was born in Birmingham on October 26 1963 and joined


MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Shakespeare: his tactical nous and rapport with players were pivotal in the Foxes' march to the title

nearby Walsall FC aged 18. He went on to play more than 350 games for them in the 1980s, mostly as an attack-minded midfielder, scoring 59 goals and helping them win the 1988 Third Division play-off final against Bristol City.

The following year he moved to Sheffield Wednesday for a fee of £300,000, but left after less than a year for West Bromwich Albion, and there were later stints at Grimsby and Scunthorpe.

In 1999 he returned to West Brom as Football in the Community Officer, rising to academy coach and then reserve-team coach, working closely with the then caretaker-manager Nigel Pearson, his former Wednesday teammate and, he said, the best captain he ever played under.

In 2008 Pearson, by then at Leicester City, appointed Shakespeare as his assistant; Shakespeare went with him when he decamped to Hull City, and then back to Leicester in 2011.

There, Shakespeare's presence was pivotal as they won the League One title, secured promotion to the Premier League in 2014 and then narrowly avoided going straight back down in 2015.

But although they had escaped the drop, Pearson was sacked in the summer after falling out with the club's Thai owners and Ranieri was brought in. "Ranieri? Really?" tweeted club legend Gary Lineker, summing up the prevailing mood.

But the skepticism turned to amazement as Leicester continued to ride high in the division, profiting both from Shakespeare's tactical nous and his rapport with the players, notably Jamie Vardy, whom he had nurtured in the striker's first years at the club. Vardy's 24 league goals were instrumental in the Foxes' charge to the title, as well as Kanté's solidity and the creative spark provided by Riyad Mahrez, another player who benefited hugely from Shakespeare's attentions.

Shakespeare was rewarded for his work by being named head coach of the England team under Sam Allardyce. The pair won their first game, a World Cup qualifier against Slovakia, but following allegations of corruption against him Allardyce stood down, taking Shakespeare with him.

Football management is notoriously unforgiving, and in February 2017 Ranieri was sacked with Leicester 17th in the table. Shakespeare replaced him and secured a mid-table finish for the Foxes, but in October 2017 he was dismissed with his side in the bottom three.

He soon joined Allardyce at Everton – and was sacked with him a few months later. There were subsequent stints at Watford (again, with Pearson), and Aston Villa and Norwich City with Dean Smith, before he returned to Leicester, with Smith, in April 2023. Six months later he was diagnosed with cancer.

Craig Shakespeare was married to Karen. They had a daughter and son.

Craig Shakespeare, born October 26 1963, died August 1 2024

Charles Cyphers

Actor who made his name in John Carpenter's *Halloween*

CHARLES CYPHERS, who has died aged 85, was an actor who amassed more than 100 credits across half a century but was best known as a John Carpenter stalwart; starting out as a police chief escorting prisoners in *Assault on Precinct 13*, he continued as a sheriff in *Halloween* and two of its sequels, as well as featuring in *The Fog* and *Escape from New York*.

Charles George Cyphers was born on July 28 1939 at Niagara Falls; he was an early drama enthusiast and shot home-made films with a friend. He served in the US Navy, then enrolled at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts before graduating in theatre arts from California State University.

But although he began studying acting at 21 it was 10 years before he got his first paid job. He had a couple of uncredited roles at the beginning of the 1970s, then appeared in the series *FBI* in 1973 and had two episodes as a crook in *Cannon*. There were more bit parts, in such series as *The Six Million Dollar Man* and *The Bionic Woman*, before he bagged the role of the tough but fair-minded Special Officer Starker in *Assault on Precinct 13*.

Inspired by Howard Hawks's *Rio Bravo*, and borrowing its mood of hemmed-in desperation from George A Romero's zombie masterpiece *Night of the Living Dead*, *Assault* was a taut, violent thriller about an LA gang besieging a police station in a depopulated district of the city. Though Starker meets an early demise, he has enough time to establish a relationship with the film's death-row anti-hero, Napoleon Wilson (Darwin Joston).

The film's reputation soared when it drew thunderous applause at the London Film Festival, and it is now considered one of the best action films of the 1970s. In his *New Biographical Dictionary of Film*, David Thomson wrote: "It fulfils all Carpenter's ambitions for gripping the audience emotionally and never letting go."

Carpenter kept Cyphers on for his other masterpiece, *Halloween* (1978), second only to *Psycho* in the horror pantheon. He played Sheriff Leigh Brackett, who works with the psychiatrist Dr Sam Loomis (Donald Pleasence) to track down the homicidal Michael Myers; his daughter



He was a late-comer to acting

becomes one of the victims. More Carpenter roles followed.

In *The Fog* (1980) Cyphers was a weather man, while in 1981 he played the US Secretary of State in the dystopian *Escape from New York*, in which Manhattan Island has become a prison colony. The same year he also reprised Sheriff Brackett in *Halloween II* (directed by Rick Rosenthal but written and produced by Carpenter and his professional partner Debra Hill), still hunting for Michael Myers alongside Dr Loomis.

In the ensuing decades Cyphers consolidated his reputation as a fine character actor in such films as *Death Wish II* (1982), as an orderly in a psychiatric hospital, and *Major League* (1989), as general manager of a baseball team. He also made a long string of small-screen cameos in series including *Starsky and Hutch*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Roots*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Wonder Woman*, *Seinfeld*, *Dallas*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Murder, She Wrote*.

Then in 2021, as Michael Myers lumbered back into view in *Halloween Kills*, the 12th film in the franchise, so Sheriff Brackett was back in town, with Cyphers making his final screen appearance.

He was also a veteran stage actor, spending more than a quarter of a century with the Los Angeles troupe Company of Angels; he received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for his part in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*.

Asked what makes a great director, Charles Cyphers replied, probably with John Carpenter in mind: "Staying out of the way. They have the sense to hire good actors, establish a good relationship with them and then let them do their thing."

Charles Cyphers, born July 28 1939, died August 4 2024

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Television reviews Jasper Rees



Hypnotic story of one man's love affair with India's tigers



BBC Two documentary My Tiger Family followed the same clan across 50 years

In 1997 there was a BBC natural history series called *Land of the Tiger*. Its presenter Valmik Thapar had spent his life behind the camera but turned out to be a snake-charmer in front of it. His passion for India's big fauna was rooted above all in one species, now revisited in the bewitching **My Tiger Family** (BBC Two).

The first time Thapar clapped eyes on a tiger half a century ago, he describes a mystical feeling "where you lose yourself within yourself". He promptly abandoned the big city and a failing marriage to study the female tigers who raised their young in and around the ravishing lakes and ancient fort of Ranthambore.

This film is the fruit of a long collaborative friendship with the British natural history film-maker Mike Birkhead. They are both old men now, but Tharpar's passion seems undimmed as he tells the story of the five tigresses he came to know and love as he filmed them day by day and year by year.

Tharpar's first astounding money shot came in 1984 – "A day that rewrote tiger history," he calls it – when he filmed a tiger killing a samba deer in deep water. Decades later he was astonished to capture footage of another of his favourites plunging into water to drag out a massive turtle. He even records the improbable spectacle of a mother suckling a pair of full-grown offspring.

So this is partly an anthology of greatest hits, each illuminating facets of tiger behaviour. It's also a warning about the thin defences of conservationism. Hunting sprees such as those that brought a young Elizabeth II to Ranthambore may have long since been banned, but twice surges in poaching to feed the Chinese desire for powdered bones and pelts have reduced the park's tiger population to almost single figures. You feel Tharpar's despair as he blames himself for teaching tigers to trust humans.

He sounds like the enchanted narrator of a cyclical Indian fable. Imagine David Attenborough crossed with Salman Rushdie and telling of dynastic power struggles in the animal kingdom. Mothers fight off predatory males, then turn on their own daughters in territorial combat. "The ferocity of tiger mating always impresses me," he says as the male plunges his fangs into the neck of a female who's having none of it. A hypnotic hour.

In recent years television's most panoramic portrait of the NHS in action has been the BBC's *Hospital*. It was frank from the off about bed shortages, understaffing and other institutional ailments. The narrative in **Emergency** (Channel 4) is, by contrast, chest-pumpingly upbeat.

This new fly-on-the-wall series sets out to demonstrate that if you suffer a life-threatening injury in the capital, a top professional will soon swoop in and you'll be in one of the city's four major all-purpose hospitals in a jiffy, under the care of world-class medics. You may even be tailed by a Channel 4 film crew, there to capture every howl and whimper as a video memento.

It never ceases to baffle that, before anyone can possibly give their permission, camera crews poke lenses at potentially fatal incidents. That we see the resulting footage in sleek shows like this, release forms duly signed, indicates that the patients are grateful to the people who saved them. As they should be on this evidence.

Top trauma professionals seem a confident lot. "I'm the best we have," explains advanced paramedic Rich as he accelerates to the scene of a crash where Jeymi, mum and accountant, has been dragged moaning onto the pavement with an injury that could be far worse than it looks. The way he says it, it sounds like fact, not opinion.

To convey a sense that the system has a total lock on London's most serious emergencies, a bird's-eye-view graphic swoops over the city and incidents flash on the map: head injury, fall from height, stabbing. In fact, like Jeymi, the unfortunate patients featured here were all victims of potentially life-threatening leg injuries.

Joao, run over by a bus, was suffering from an injury euphemistically known as "ungloving". One glimpse of his stripped calf and its meaning was all too clear. Just as horrific was the cut below the knee of Louie, 15, who put his foot through a glass door.

Doctors can't get sucked into patients' emotional backstories, whereas documentaries can't afford not to. It's the difference between one form of caring and another. *Emergency* strikes a balance between sober observation and gentle heartstring-tugging. Shot in at least one of the same hospitals as *Hospital*, it feels like a reputational reset.

My Tiger Family ★★★★★
Emergency ★★★★

What to watch

FREDDIE FLINTOFF'S FIELD OF DREAMS ON TOUR
BBC One, 9pm



Moving and inspirational: Freddie Flintoff and Kyle Hogg take their teenage mentees to India

Freddie Flintoff already proved himself to be one of those rare sportsmen who could transform themselves into an engaging, thoughtful broadcaster with the first series of *Field of Dreams*, in which the former England cricket ace mentored a group of disadvantaged teenagers from his hometown of Preston and used cricket to give their life clearer purpose. Whether this sequel would ever actually happen was uncertain after Flintoff's near-fatal car crash while filming *Top Gear* in 2022. It is evident that the accident has changed his life for good; he's quieter, more reflective. "I feel like I'm a father to nine lads," is how he describes his relationship with his teenage charges, as they swap Lancashire for the bright lights of Kolkata, India. Once in the bustling city, the team (helped by Flintoff's friend Kyle Hogg) take on a once-in-a-lifetime cricket tour that pushes each of them to their limits; not just in a sporting sense, competing against people from the cricket-loving nation, but personally, too, as the lads try, to put it bluntly, not to deck each other following arguments fuelled by homesickness and typical adolescent angst. It makes for moving and inspirational watching. The remaining three episodes will follow weekly. ***Poppie Platt***

ARTS

Untold: The Rise and Rise of Taylor Swift
Channel 4, 11.05pm
Last week, three Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna, Austria, were cancelled after police foiled an Isis terrorist plot. At the time of writing, Swift's five-night Eras run at London's Wembley Stadium is still set to go ahead, starting on Thursday. Away from the news, here self-confessed "Swiftie" and Radio 1 DJ Dean McCullough attempts to describe just what has made the US singer – and her music – such an inescapable, profitable force in the industry.



Untold: the story of how Taylor Swift became a star

DOCUMENTARY

Corridors of Power
BBC Four, 10pm
Subtitled *Should America Police the World*, this documentary series continues to offer gripping insight to US foreign policy decisions. The Bosnian War is the focus of tonight's second episode, with the US, and President Bill Clinton, under mounting pressure to intervene and stop the genocide against Bosniak Muslims; footage of the massacre at Srebrenica, in 1995, is harrowing but vital. All eight episodes (others cover conflicts in Rwanda, Libya and Syria) are available on iPlayer.

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity MasterChef
BBC One, 8pm
John Torode and Gregg Wallace prepare to welcome more gifted (or not) celebrity cooks into the hallowed *MasterChef* kitchen. Tonight's opening round of contestants include presenter Craig Doyle, *Geordie Shore*'s Charlotte Crosby, radio host Edith Bowman, former Steps singer Ian "H" Watkins and BBC Radio 1Xtra presenter Snoochie Shy. Their first challenge? Turning the likes of pigeon and sweetbreads into delicious dishes.

Cooking with the Stars
ITV1, 8pm
All fear the three-way cooking battle – in tonight's episode, Abbey Clancy, Katherine Ryan and Pasha Kovalev must rustle up a date-night-worthy dish without the help of their star chef partners.



Corridors of Power: Clinton faced pressure over Bosnia

FACTUAL

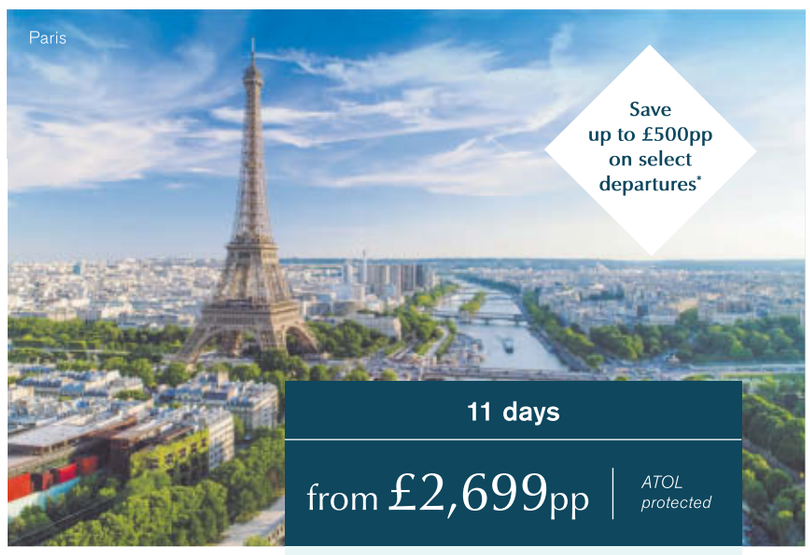
Warship: Life in the Royal Navy
Channel 5, 9pm
Julia Bradbury and former Royal Marine JJ Chalmers meet with recruits in Devon to learn about cutting-edge jets, drilling exercises and cheap meals that make up a typical day in the Navy. Tonight's first episode (of three) sees Bradbury climb aboard the cutting-edge aircraft carrier HMS *Prince of Wales*.

Country House Auction
More4, 9pm
This new series takes us behind-the-scenes at the auction held at Ireland's Castle Durrow. Rare items on offer for the budding bidders to fight over include a Fender guitar signed by the Rolling Stones and a ceremonial Tibetan dagger made more than 400 years ago. ***PP***

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ABTA No. V4744

The Daily T
A Telegraph Podcast

Radio choice

Drama: Life Lines
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Since 2016, Al Smith's recurring drama has highlighted the stress suffered by staff at emergency call centres while dealing with critical incidents. Back for another nail-biting two-parter, resourceful call-handler Carrie (Sarah Ridgeway) is confronted with tough decisions both on the phone and in her personal life. Elsewhere, listen to today's moving instalment of **New Storytellers** (*Radio 4, 11.45am*). In *Friends of the Wall*, Evan Green (one of the five winners of the 2024 Charles Parker Awards for student radio) weaves together testimonies from members of the Covid Memorial group. ***Gerard O'Donovan***

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12:45 **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat @ 17: 45 **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Martha **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **1.30** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **2.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **3.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Tina Daheley. Tina Daheley sits in for Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills. Music and chat **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio 2 **7.30** Jo Whiley. TV critic Natalie Jamieson reviews the latest releases **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum. Featuring Blue Lab Beats at Maida Vale studios **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. American singer and actress Coco Jones shares her Musical Youth **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Tom Daley's Motivational Mixes **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Chopin **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music **7.30** BBC Proms 2024. The BBC Symphony Orchestra performs Elgar, Vaughan Williams's London Symphony and Stanford Songs with Christopher Maltman. Presented by Penny Gore, live from the Royal Albert Hall **10.00** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW 198KHZ

6.00am Today **9.00** The Long View **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot **11.45 New Storytellers See Radio choice 12.00** News **12.04pm** Call You and Yours. Consumer affairs with Winifred Robinson **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Current affairs with Jonny Dymond **1.45** Cafe Hope. Finding positivity through charity after a family tragedy **2.00** The Archers. Justin enters a tricky negotiation and it's a big day for Alice **2.15 Drama: Life Lines See Radio choice 3.00** The Psychology of a Second Life. Jaz Singh explores the psychology behind secret second lives **3.30** Beyond Belief. Giles Fraser explores the role of spirituality and religion in psychotherapy **4.00** This Land. Charlie Shackleton explores the rocky ground of the public domain **4.30** You're Dead to Me. Greg Jenner and guests discuss the Edo period in 17th-century Japan **5.00** PM. News headlines with Anita Anand **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Do Gooders. Harriett sets a new set of workplace bullying guidelines **7.00** The Archers. Alarm bells ring for Lily and Emma puts her foot in it **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** File on 4 **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents **9.30** Great Lives **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Enlightenment **11.00** Jon Holmes Says the C-Word **11.30** What's Funny About **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** New Storytellers **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Rima Ahmed **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Coverage and score updates from tonight's Carabao Cup matches **10.30** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHZ

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** The Documentary: Going Bananas **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** In the Studio **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Documentary: Going Bananas **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Tech Life **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Documentary: Going Bananas **10.30** In the Studio **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Six Billion Dollar Gold Scam **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Dixon of Dock Green **6.30** Towards Zero **7.00** Greywing **7.30** The Goon Show **8.00** Lobby Land **8.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **8.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **9.00** Do Gooders **9.30** Horse Story **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** A Good Read **10.30** China, Britain and the Nunzilla Conundrum **11.00** Dixon of Dock Green **11.30** Towards Zero **12.00** Greywing **12.30pm** The Goon Show **1.00** Lobby Land **1.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **1.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **2.00** The Personality Test **2.30** Tickets Please **3.00** Esther Waters **4.00** A Good Read **4.30** China, Britain and the Nunzilla Conundrum **5.00** Dixon of Dock Green **5.30** Towards Zero **6.00** Greywing **6.30** The Goon Show **7.00** Lobby Land **7.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **7.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **8.00** The Personality Test **8.30** Tickets Please **9.00** Esther Waters **10.00** Do Gooders **10.30** The Consultants **10.45** Warhorses of Letters **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Clare in the Community **11.30** Dave Podmore's World of Cricket **12.00** A Good Read **12.30am** China, Britain and the Nunzilla Conundrum **1.00** Dixon of Dock Green **1.30** Towards Zero **2.00** Greywing **2.30** The Goon Show **3.00** Lobby Land **3.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **3.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread **4.00** The Personality Test **4.30** Tickets Please **5.00 - 6.00am** Esther Waters

Today's television

Main channels

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat **(AD)** Audio description **(R)** Repeat **(S)** Subtitles **(SL)** In-vision signing

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.30** Animal Park (AD) (S) **10.15** Countryfile Treasures (R) (S) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (S)
12.00 Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S)
1.00 pm BBC News at One; Weather (S)
1.35 Regional News; Weather (S)
1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
2.00 Money for Nothing (R) (S)
3.00 Escape to the Country (AD) (R) (S)
3.45 The Repair Shop (AD) (R) (S)
4.30 The Finish Line (R) (S)
5.15 Pointless (R) (S)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)
6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)


Celebrity MasterChef

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne (S)
7.30 EastEnders Cindy tries to stop Peter from working for Junior (AD) (S)
8.00 Celebrity MasterChef New series. Craig Doyle, Charlotte Crosby, Edith Bowman, Ian "H" Watkins and Snoochie Shy compete **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
9.00 Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams New series. The former England captain takes his cricket team on tour in India **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
10.00 News; Weather (S)
10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.40 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School New series. Drama spin-off starring Bailee Madison (S)
11.30 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School **12.25 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.30 am Animal Park (AD) (R) (S) **7.15** Escape to the Country (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: Dom Does America (R) (S) (SL) **8.30** Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S)
1.00 pm Head Hunters (R) (S)
1.45 Catchpoint (R) (S)
2.15 A Countryside Summer (AD) (R) (S)
2.45 The Hundred Northern Superchargers Women v London Spirit Women (start-time 3.00pm). Coverage of the match at Headingley in Leeds (S)
6.00 The Hundred Northern Superchargers Men v London Spirit Men (start-time 6.30pm). All the action from the match at Headingley in Leeds (S)


Great Coastal Railway Journeys

9.30 Mock the Week With Catherine Bohart, Ed Byrne, Darren Harriott, Rhys James and Felicity Ward (R) (S)
10.00 The Mighty Boosh Howard and Vince are marooned (R) (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S)
11.05 FILM: The Keeper (2018) Biopic of Bert Trautmann starring David Kross **See Film choice 12.55am** Sign Zone: The Travelling Auctioneers **1.40** Sign Zone: Bridge of Lies **2.25 - 6.15am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)
12.30 pm Loose Women (S)
1.30 News; Weather (S)
1.55 Regional News; Weather (S)
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (AD) (R) (S)
3.00 Tenable (R) (S)
4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)
5.00 The Chase (R) (S)
6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.30 News; Weather (S)


Cooking with the Stars

7.30 Emmerdale Bear is rattled by Mandy's betrayal (AD) (S)
8.00 Cooking with the Stars Abbey Clancy, Pasha Kovalev and Katherine Ryan compete **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
9.00 Vera A wealthy betting shop tycoon is murdered during a home invasion. Last in the series (AD) (R) (S)
10.50 News; Weather (S)
11.20 Regional News; Weather **11.35** Champions: Full Gallop **12.25am** Shop on TV **3.00** Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Cooking with the Stars

Channel 4

6.20 am Cheers (R) (S) **6.45** Cheers (R) (S) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.00** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S) **11.30** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)
12.00 Channel 4 News (S)
12.05 pm Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (AD) (R) (S)
12.10 A New Life in the Sun (R) (S)
1.10 Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S)
2.10 Countdown (S)
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S)
4.00 The Great House Giveaway (R) (S)
5.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (S)
6.00 Come Dine with Me (R) (S)
6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)


Defiance: Fighting the Far Right

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)
8.00 Worst House on the Street A pair set out to maximise their dated terrace's full potential on a minimal budget (AD) (S)
9.00 Emergency A mum of three is rushed to St Mary's with a femur fracture and broken knee (AD) (S)
10.00 Defiance: Fighting the Far Right (R) (S)
11.05 Untold: The Rise and Rise of Taylor Swift See What to watch 11.40 Gogglebox **12.35am** Women on Death Row **1.25** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes **1.30** The Rise and Fall of Boris Johnson **3.30** Trump vs Harris: The Battle for America **4.25** Sunday Brunch Best Bits **4.45** Frasier **5.10 - 5.35am** Frasier

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.30** Storm Huntley (S)
12.45 pm Friends (R) (S)
1.10 Friends (AD) (R) (S)
1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S)
1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S)
2.15 FILM: The Baby Swindler (2023, TVM) Thriller starring Greta Carew-Johns (S)
4.00 The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits at Sea (AD) (R) (S)
5.00 5 News at 5 (S)
6.00 Scotland's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) (S)
6.55 5 News Update (S)


Warship: Life in the Royal Navy

7.00 Our Great Yorkshire Life Dean Andrews and his co-star pal Liam Fox learn about York's Roman past (S)
7.55 5 News Update (S)
8.00 The Yorkshire Vet New series. Peter Wright attempts to deliver a stuck lamb (S)
9.00 Warship: Life in the Royal Navy New series. Julia Bradbury and JJ Chalmers present an unprecedented look at the Royal Navy **See What to watch** (S)
10.00 A Killer Makes a Call A man calls the police after his friend is found dead. Last in the series (S)
11.05 Killer at the Crime Scene **12.05am** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Tyrant: Rise of Evil **4.40** House Busters **5.05** House Doctor **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam **5.45 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice


Waterloo *(1970)*
Great! Action, 3pm ★★★

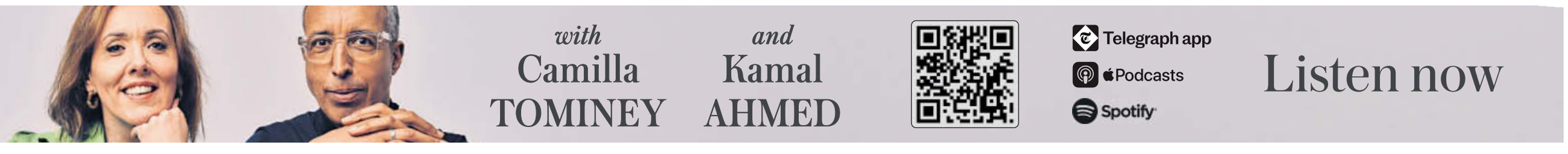
This lavish costume drama, which tells the story of the Battle of Waterloo, was estimated to have cost $100m. It stars Rod Steiger as Napoleon, Christopher Plummer as the Duke of Wellington and a cast of 15,000 Soviet soldiers as extras; director Sergei Bondarchuk was supposedly "in command of the seventh largest army in the world" during the film. Look out for a cameo by Orson Welles as Louis XVIII.


Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets *(2017)*
Film4, 6.20pm ★★★★

If more than every fifth element of Luc Besson's joyous Day-Glo opus seems familiar, that's because the 1960s French comic-strip on which it is based helped to shape every classic science-fiction cinematic universe from *Star Wars* to *Avatar*. Wallow in the ugly-beautiful wonderment, while Cara Delevingne and Dane DeHaan tumble through the CGI scenery.


The Keeper *(2018)*
BBC Two, 11.05pm ★★★

The story of Bert Trautmann, Luftwaffe paratrooper turned Man City goalkeeper, feels ready-made for the big screen, and Marcus H Rosenmüller very nearly hits the back of the net with this handsome period weepy. PoW Trautmann (David Kross) is shipped off to the north of England where he finds a new calling, minding the nets for a local team. Michael Socha and John Henshaw co-star.



Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat **(AD)** Audio description **(R)** Repeat **(S)** Subtitles **(SL)** In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 **FS** 173 **SKY** 116 **VIRGIN** 108

7.00 pm Great British Railway Journeys
7.30 Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure
8.00 Keeping Up Appearances
8.30 Butterflies
9.00 The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story
10.00 Corridors of Power: Should America Police the World? See What to watch
11.00 Watergate
12.40 am Inside America's Treasure House: The Met
1.40 Great British Railway Journeys
2.10 Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure
2.40 - 3.40am The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story

ITV3

FV 10 **FS** 115 **SKY** 119 **VIRGIN** 117

11.25 am Heartbeat
12.30 pm Heartbeat
1.35 Classic Emmerdale
2.05 Classic Emmerdale
2.40 Classic Coronation Street
3.15 Classic Coronation Street
3.50 A Touch of Frost
6.00 Heartbeat
7.00 Heartbeat
8.00 Midsomer Murders
10.00 Cracker
11.00 Cracker
12.00 Wild at Heart
12.50 am Wild at Heart
1.40 Bless This House
2.05 Unwind with ITV
2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 **FS** 117 **SKY** 120 **VIRGIN** 118

11.20 am BattleBots
12.20 pm Robin of Sherwood
1.30 The Champions
2.35 Kojak
3.40 Minder
4.50 The Professionals
5.55 BattleBots
6.55 The Chase Celebrity Special
8.00 World Superbike Highlights
9.00 Beat the Chasers
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage
11.05 pm FILM: Alien Resurrection (1997) Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Sigourney Weaver
1.10 am Auto Mundial
1.35 Motorsport Mundial
2.05 Minder
3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 **FS** 147 **SKY** 130 **VIRGIN** 123

1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected
2.00 The Art of the Garden
3.00 Classic Literature & Cinema
4.00 Discovering: Fredric March
5.00 Watercolour Challenge
6.00 Tales of the Unexpected
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
8.00 Arcimboldo, Portrait of an Audacious Man
9.15 Backstage with the London Philharmonic Orchestra
10.15 JRR Tolkien: Designer of Worlds
11.30 Classic Movies: The Story of Brief Encounter
12.30 am Discovering Romance on Film
2.00 - 3.10am Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.25 am Britannia
12.30 pm Game of Thrones
1.45 The Sopranos
2.55 The Sopranos
3.55 Riviera
4.55 Riviera
5.55 Britannia
6.55 Britannia
7.55 Game of Thrones
9.00 The Staircase
10.15 The Sopranos
11.20 The Sopranos
12.25 am Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty
1.30 The Leftovers
2.45 - 4.00am Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 **FS** 300 **SKY** 313 **VIRGIN** 428

11.00 am Playing with Fire (2019) Comedy starring John Cena
12.55 pm Jingle All the Way (1996)
2.40 Turner & Hooch (1989) Family canine comedy starring Tom Hanks
4.40 Hue and Cry (1947, b/w) Ealing comedy starring Alastair Sim
6.20 Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (2017) **See Film choice**
9.00 Old (2021) Horror starring Gael Garcia Bernal
11.10 Glass (2019) Thriller starring James McAvoy
1.45 - 3.40am #Horror (2015) Crime horror starring Emma Adler

U&Drama

FV 20 **FS** 158 **SKY** 143 **VIRGIN** 116

11.40 am The Bill
12.40 pm Classic EastEnders
1.20 Classic EastEnders
2.00 London's Burning
3.00 Born and Bred
4.10 Howards' Way
5.20 Birds of a Feather
6.05 Desmond's
6.40 Are You Being Served?
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Mrs Sidhu Investigates
10.00 New Tricks
11.20 Silent Witness
1.35 am Footballers' Wives
2.40 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Rick Stein's Secret France **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **7.00** Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits **1.20** Room 101 **2.00-4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

11.30am Last of the Summer Wine **12.50pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.30** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.10** Still Open All Hours **2.50** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **3.30** Hi-de-Hi! **4.10** Last of the Summer Wine **5.30** Still Open All Hours **6.10** Keeping Up Appearances **6.50** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **7.25** Dad's Army **8.00** dinnerladies. The staff await a royal visit, but first Stan has to pick the right toupee, and Bren is determined to get the tables cleared. Comedy, starring Victoria Wood **8.35** Only Fools and Horses. The Trotters journey to Holland to dabble in the diamond import business – with old foe Inspector Slater hot on their trail. Feature-length episode, guest starring Jim Broadbent **10.35** Harry Enfield and Chums **11.15** Bottom **11.55** The Royle Family **12.25am** Only Fools and Horses **2.20** Bottom **2.50** The Royle Family **3.20-4.00am** Sandylands

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress **1.00pm** In for a Penny **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30am** Bob's Burgers **1.30** Deal or No Deal **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00 Country House Auction See What to watch 10.00** Millionaire Hoarders **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10am** Country House Auction **1.15** Millionaire Hoarders **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

PBS America

11.50am The US and the Holocaust **1.00pm** Grand Tours of Scotland **1.40** Vikings: The Rise and Fall **2.35** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **3.35** Countdown to War **4.35** The US and the Holocaust **5.50** Vikings: The Rise and Fall **6.45** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **7.45** Countdown to War **8.45** The US and the Holocaust **9.55** Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson **10.55** Asteroid Rush **12.00** Countdown to War **12.55am** Grand Tours of Scotland **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at:
Noon Worzel Gummidge **12.35pm FILM:** Meet Simon Cherry (1949, b/w) Murder mystery starring Hugh Moxey **1.55** Glimpses **2.15** Ruth Ellis and the Mystery Lover **3.50 FILM:** Please Sir! (1971) Comedy starring John Alderton **5.55** The Beverly Hillbillies **6.30** Scotland Yard **7.05** Batman **7.35** Dangerous Assignment **8.05** Rumpole of the Bailey. The lawyer takes on a divorce case **9.10 FILM:** King Kong Lives (1987) The giant ape emerges from a coma 10 years after his New York rampage, and detects the presence of a female of his species. Fantasy adventure sequel with Linda Hamilton **11.15** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **11.20 FILM:** Visiting Hours (1982) Horror starring Michael Ironside **1.30am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **1.35 FILM:** The Power (1984) Horror starring Suzy Stokey **3.20** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **3.25-5.15am FILM:** The Shakedown (1960, b/w) Thriller starring Terence Morgan

U&Yesterday

Noon Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **4.00** WW2 – Frontlines **5.00** Nazi Hunters **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **8.00** Secrets of the London Underground **9.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great American Railroad Journeys **1.00am** A Year on the Yorkshire Steam Railway **2.00** The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard **3.00-6.10am** Teleshopping

Sky Sports Main Event

Noon Transfer Talk **1.00pm** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **2.30** The Hundred Live. Northern Superchargers Women v London Spirit Women (start-time 3.00pm) **6.00** Sky Sports News at 6 **7.00** EFL Cup Build-Up **7.40** Gillette Labs Soccer Special **10.30** Live Tennis. The Cincinnati Open. Coverage of day one of the event **12.00-4.00am** Live Tennis. The Cincinnati Open

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00pm** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Retro **5.00** Goals Of The Season **6.00** Premier League Preview **7.00** Gillette Labs Soccer Special **10.30** Premier League Years **12.30am** PL 100: Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink **1.00** PL Retro **3.00-4.00am** PL Greatest Games

TNT Sports 1

Noon Premier League Review **6.00pm** The Fantasy Show **6.30** Premier League Stories **7.00** Test Cricket Highlights **9.00** WWE Monday Night Raw **11.30** MLB Highlights **12.30am** MLB Lead Off. A look ahead to the upcoming MLB action **1.00-4.00am** Live MLB. MIlwaukee Brewers v Los Angeles Dodgers (start-time 1.10am)

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers **1.00pm** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **3.00** Hoffman Family Gold **4.00** Edge of Alaska **5.00** Salvage Hunters **6.00** Iron Resurrection **7.00** Jeremy Wade's Dark Waters **8.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush: Mine Rescue with Freddy & Juan **10.00** Hoffman Family Gold **11.00** Mighty Truckers **12.00** Mysteries of the Missing **1.00am** Gold Rush: Mine Rescue with Freddy & Juan **2.00** Hoffman Family Gold **3.00-4.00am** Gold Rush

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at:
11.30am The Inventor (2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Daisy Ridley **1.15pm** Robin and the Hoods (2024) Comedy starring Naomie Harris and Darcy Ewart **3.00** Trolls Band Together (2023) Animated musical featuring the voices of Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake **4.35** The Inventor (2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Daisy Ridley **6.25** Under the Boardwalk (2023) Animated musical comedy featuring the voice of Keke Palmer **8.00** Parallel (2024) Fantasy thriller starring Danielle Deadwyler **9.45** Night Swim (2024) Horror starring Wyatt Russell and Kerry Condon **11.35** Jericho Ridge (2023) Thriller starring Nikki Amuka-Bird **1.10am** Concrete Utopia (2023) Drama starring Lee Byung-hun **3.25-5.10am** Robin and the Hoods (2024) Comedy starring Naomie Harris and Darcy Ewart

Sky Documentaries

Noon Quant **1.50pm** My Icon: Kadeen Corbin **2.00** Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Sigourney Weaver **5.55** The Civil War **7.00** The Great Rhino Robbery **8.00** Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning **9.00** David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived **10.50** I Am Paul Walker **12.40am** Jackie Stewart **2.40-4.30am** Gabon: Earth's Last Chance

Sky History

Noon Counting Cars **2.00pm** Battle 360 **4.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** American Pickers **7.00** Forged in Fire **8.00** What on Earth? **9.00** History's Greatest Mysteries **10.00** Secrets of the Hells Angels **12.00** Pawn Stars **2.00am** The UnXplained: Mysteries of the Universe **3.00-4.00am** What on Earth?

Sky Max

Noon Supergirl **1.00pm** MacGyver **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** SEAL Team **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** A League of Their Own Road Trip: Southeast Asia **9.00** Rob & Romesh vs K-Pop **10.00** The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon. Daryl and his new allies face trouble on the road towards the Nest, while Isabelle remembers the day the hungry ones appeared and Laurent struggles to fit in **11.10** An Idiot Abroad 2 **12.10am** The Walking Dead **1.10** Road Wars **2.05** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **3.00-4.00am** Hawaii Five-0

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm Bikes! Armoy Road Races **11.20** Pretty Little Liars: Summer School **12.10am** Pretty Little Liars: Summer School **1.00 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Barra's Wild Days Out
UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 7.00 - 7.30pm River City
BBC Scotland: 7.30pm Sportscene: European Play Off **10.00** Rip It Up **11.00** Darren McGarvey's Class Wars **midnight** Close
STV: 3.50am Unwind with STV **4.45 - 6.00am** Unwind with STV

Wales

BBC One: 10.40pm Dark Land: Hunting the Killers **11.35** Pretty Little Liars: Summer School **12.25am** Pretty Little Liars: Summer School **1.15 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: No variations
ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations, except:
ITV1 Channel: 11.35pm - 12.25am Breathtaking

S4C

6.00am Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cwpwrdd Epic Chris **12.30** Heno **1.00** Y Sioe 2024 **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Hen Dy Newydd **4.00** Awr Fawr: Og y Draenog Hapus **4.10** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali **4.15** Awr Fawr: Fferm Fach **4.30** Awr Fawr: Pentre Papur Pop **4.45** Awr Fawr: Ahoi! **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Ffasiwn Drefn **6.30** Sgorio **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Pobol y Cwm: Y Cymeriadau **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Gweinidog Iechyd Mewn Pandemig **10.00** Y 'Sgubor Flodau **11.00 - 11.35pm** Bwyd Epic Chris

Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Rainy spells will advance across Wales, northern England, northern Ireland and western Scotland today. Plenty of cloud and not as warm with lower humidity across southern England.

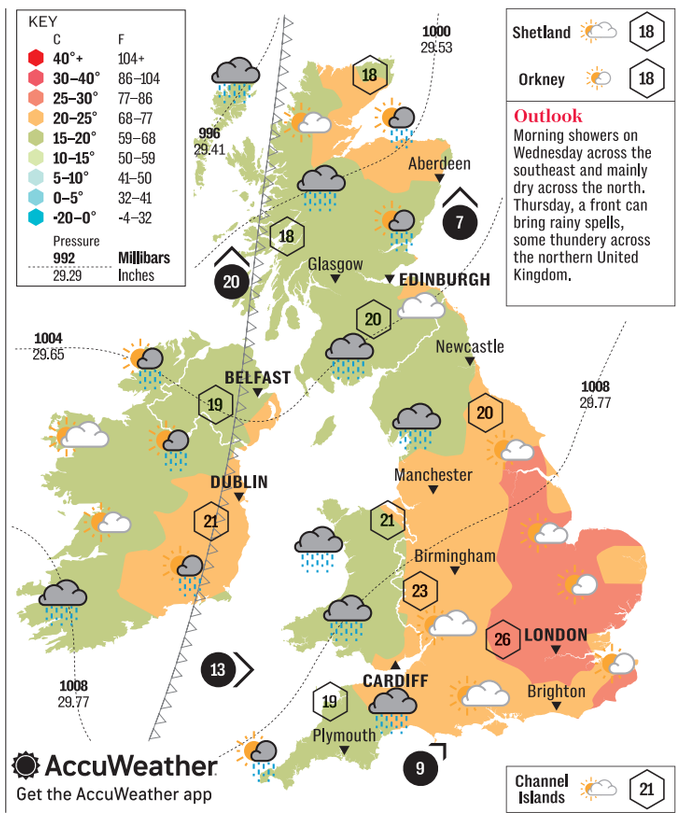
◆**London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Plenty of cloud today and not as hot or humid. An odd shower in the Midlands this afternoon. A gentle SW wind. Max 69-83F (20-28C). Rainy spells in the Midlands tonight. Min 57-63F (14-17C).

◆**NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Intervals of showers today and not as warm. A gentle S wind. Max 53-80F (12-27C). Showers will end tonight. Min 43-60F (6-16C).

◆**Wales:** Intervals of showers today. A moderate SW wind. Max 53-69F (12-21C). Showers conclude tonight. Min 43-60F (6-16C).

◆**N Ireland:** Showery early, then some cloud. A moderate SW wind, then NW. Max 54-69F (12-21C). Dry tonight. Min 43-52F (6-11C).

◆**SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Rainy spells in the west, an odd shower east. A moderate W wind. Max 46-73F (8-23C). A few showers west, dry east. Min 35-53F (2-12C).



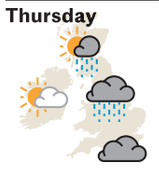
Outlook
Morning showers on Wednesday across the southeast and mainly dry across the north. Thursday, a front can bring rainy spells, some thundery across the northern United Kingdom.

Four day forecast

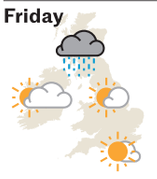
Wednesday



Thursday



Friday

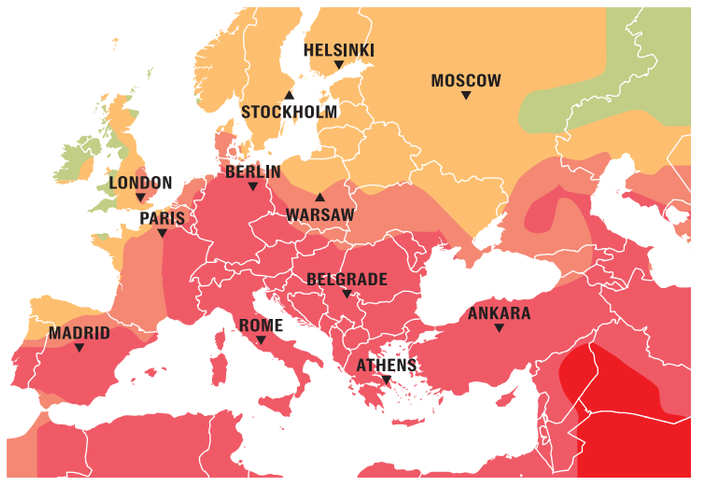


Saturday



European readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Akrotiri	34	26	sunny
Alicante	31	23	sunny
Amsterdam	31	17	sunny
Athens	35	28	sunny
Barcelona	29	23	sunny
Bari	31	21	sunny
Belgrade	36	22	sunny
Benidorm	32	23	sunny
Bergen	19	8	p/cldy
Berlin	28	12	sunny
Biarritz	29	22	showers
Bodrum	38	26	sunny
Bordeaux	31	23	cloudy
Brest	25	17	cloudy
Brussels	34	16	sunny
Bucharest	36	21	sunny
Budapest	34	19	sunny
Cagliari	35	24	sunny
Chamonix	28	18	rain
Copenhagen	20	11	p/cldy
Corfu	36	23	sunny
Cork	19	13	cloudy
Corsica	35	22	sunny
Crete	29	25	sunny
Dublin	21	15	cloudy
Dubrovnik	33	27	sunny
Faro	26	21	sunny
Florence	40	23	sunny
Frankfurt	34	21	p/cldy
Funchal	26	21	p/cldy
Gdansk	23	13	windy
Geneva	33	20	sunny
Gibraltar	31	21	p/cldy
Hamburg	28	9	sunny
Helsinki	17	11	showers
Innsbruck	32	20	p/cldy
Istanbul	32	24	sunny
Kyiv	23	15	p/cldy
La Rochelle	31	21	cloudy
Lisbon	28	19	p/cldy
Locarno	33	18	p/cldy
Luxembourg	31	19	p/cldy
Madrid	37	23	sunny
Majorca	34	25	sunny
Malaga	34	22	sunny
Malta	33	25	sunny
Marseille	34	23	sunny
Menorca	33	25	sunny
Milan	36	23	p/cldy
Monaco	32	27	sunny
Moscow	18	12	windy
Munich	31	16	p/cldy
Naples	34	25	sunny
Nice	32	27	sunny
Nicosia	40	25	sunny
Oporto	24	17	p/cldy
Oslo	22	9	sunny
Palermo	32	26	sunny
Paris	37	19	sunny
Perpignan	32	23	p/cldy
Prague	29	14	p/cldy
Reykjavik	16	10	showers
Rhodes	33	25	haze
Riga	22	12	showers
Rome	34	22	sunny
Saint Malo	26	19	cloudy
Salzburg	31	19	p/cldy
Santander	24	21	cloudy
Santiago/Comp.	24	14	storms
Sofia	35	15	sunny
St. Petersburg	19	14	showers
Stockholm	22	10	sunny
Strasbourg	34	19	p/cldy
Tenerife	27	22	windy
Tirana	39	19	sunny
Toulouse	34	23	p/cldy
Valencia	33	21	sunny
Venice	35	23	p/cldy
Vienna	34	19	p/cldy
Vigo	26	18	p/cldy
Vilnius	21	12	p/cldy
Warsaw	25	11	sunny
Zagreb	38	18	sunny
Zurich	33	19	p/cldy



World readings

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Accra	29	24	p/cldy
Addis Ababa	24	13	cloudy
Adelaide	22	10	sunny
Alexandria	31	24	sunny
Algiers	32	24	sunny
Amman	33	23	sunny
Anchorage	12	10	showers
Ankara	31	15	sunny
Ascension Is.	27	22	showers
Auckland	15	12	showers
Baghdad	46	30	sunny
Bahamas	33	26	storms
Bahrain	40	33	haze
Bamako	31	23	p/cldy
Bangkok	34	26	p/cldy
Beijing	29	23	haze
Beirut	32	26	sunny
Bermuda	31	28	p/cldy
Bogota	21	9	p/cldy
Bridgetown	30	25	storms
Brisbane	23	15	showers
Buenos Aires	12	5	sunny
Cairo	38	25	sunny
Canberra	17	0	p/cldy
Cape Town	16	8	p/cldy
Casablanca	30	20	sunny
Chicago	24	16	cloudy
Christchurch	11	3	showers
Colombo	31	27	storms
Damascus	38	22	sunny
Dar es Salaam	30	21	p/cldy
Dhaka	33	27	storms
Dubai	43	35	sunny
Falkland Is.	4	1	cloudy
Harare	29	11	sunny
Havana	32	24	showers
Hong Kong	31	28	cloudy
Honolulu	26	24	showers
Jakarta	33	25	p/cldy
Jeddah	39	33	p/cldy
Jerusalem	30	22	sunny
Johannesburg	22	4	sunny
Kabul	40	18	sunny
Karachi	33	27	rain
Kolkata	34	29	cloudy
Kuala Lumpur	32	24	p/cldy
La Paz	13	-6	p/cldy
Lahore	34	24	p/cldy
Lima	18	14	p/cldy
Los Angeles	29	19	sunny
Maldives	29	27	showers
Manila	33	27	p/cldy
Marrakesh	42	25	p/cldy
Melbourne	22	5	windy
Miami	33	27	p/cldy
Montego Bay	32	26	windy
Mumbai	30	27	cloudy
Nairobi	25	15	cloudy
New Orleans	33	26	p/cldy
New Delhi	30	26	storms
New York	25	19	p/cldy
Ottawa	20	12	p/cldy
Perth	20	9	showers
Port-of-Spain	30	23	storms
Rio de Janeiro	25	17	sunny
Riyadh	44	30	p/cldy
San Francisco	16	12	p/cldy
Santiago	21	4	sunny
Seattle	17	14	p/cldy
Seoul	35	26	cloudy
Seychelles	29	26	showers
Singapore	31	26	showers
Sydney	20	11	cloudy
Taipei City	36	27	rain
Tangier	29	20	sunny
Tel Aviv	33	28	sunny
Tokyo	34	29	windy
Toronto	23	14	cloudy
Tunis	39	26	sunny
Vancouver	18	16	p/cldy
Washington	28	20	p/cldy
Wellington	12	10	windy
Winnipeg	25	11	sunny

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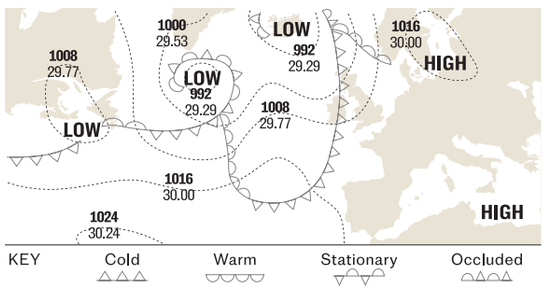
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British readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	0,3	0,37	18	13	rain
Aberystwyth	3,6*	0,00	26	18	cloudy
Antrim	7,7	0,01	22	17	windy
Aviemore	1,6	0,24	22	12	showers
Barnstaple	1,6*	0,01	27	18	cloudy
Barrow-in-Furns.	1,1*	0,11	24	17	showers
Basingstoke	8,6	0,00	29	17	p/cloudy
Bedford	9,5*	0,00	26	15	p/cloudy
Belfast	7,9*	0,05	22*	18*	p/cloudy
Berwick	1,8	0,01	22	12	cloudy
Birmingham	7,9*	0,00	28	18	p/cloudy
Bodmin	3,2*	0,01	24	16	cloudy
Bournemouth	8,9	0,00	28	21	p/cloudy
Braintree	11,1*	0,00	24	17	sunny
Brecon	2,4*	0,00	23	18	cloudy
Bridlington	10,1*	0,01	20	16	p/cloudy
Brighton	9,0*	0,00	27	21	p/cloudy
Bristol	5,4*	0,05	28*	19*	cloudy
Camborne	3,4	0,00	22	16	cloudy
Cardiff	3,6	0,01	27	19	cloudy
Carlisle	1,1*	0,00	24	16	cloudy
Catterick	1,9	0,00	25	13	cloudy
Cheltenham	5,6*	0,17	28*	17*	storms
Chester	3,7	0,01	26	18	showers
Coventry	7,1*	0,12	29*	17*	showers
Doncaster	6,2*	0,11	28*	16*	showers
Dover	11,1*	0,00	28	18	sunny
Dundee	1,4	0,18	17	14	storms
Eastbourne	6,9	0,00	29	18	p/cloudy
Edinburgh	3,1	0,08	23	13	cloudy
Epsom	11,2*	0,00	29	18	sunny
Falmouth	2,3*	0,00	20	17	cloudy
Farnborough	9,3*	0,00	31*	17*	p/cloudy
Fort William	2,6	0,44	20	14	rain
Glasgow	3,5	0,16	22	14	showers
Great Malvern	5,0*	0,00	28	18	cloudy
Grimsby	10,6*	0,00	23	17	p/cloudy
Guernsey	4,6*	0,00	24	18	cloudy
Hereford	5,3*	0,00	28	17	cloudy
High Wycombe	8,5*	0,02	31*	19*	p/cloudy
Holyhead	2,0*	0,00	22	19	cloudy
Huddersfield	4,2*	0,08*	24*	13*	showers
Ipswich	9,7	0,00	29	18	p/cloudy
Isle of Man	6,2	0,08	20	17	cloudy
Isle of Skye	1,3*	0,77	18*	13*	rain
Isle of Wight	7,5*	0,00	23	18	p/cloudy
Isles of Scilly	8,3*	0,01	21	16	p/cloudy
Jersey	0,9	0,00	28	18	cloudy
Keswick	0,7*	0,12	23	18	cloudy
Kew Gardens	11,1*	0,00	33*	19*	sunny
King's Lynn	11,8*	0,00	25	16	sunny
Leeds	3,7*	0,23	23*	13*	storms
Leek	4,1*	0,03	23	16	showers
Leominster	4,2	0,04	27	18	showers
Lincoln	7,1*	0,03	29	16	showers
Liverpool	3,7	0,01	26	18	cloudy
London	8,5	0,00	27	18	p/cloudy
Manchester	2,5	0,02	26	17	cloudy
Middlesbrough	3,6*	0,00	20	13	cloudy
Newcastle	9,2*	0,00	23	12	p/cloudy
Newquay	3,4	0,00	22	16	cloudy
Nottingham	4,3	0,06	27	15	cloudy
Orkney	1,1	0,05	17	13	showers
Oxford	7,9	0,02	28	17	p/cloudy
Perth	0,7*	0,33	22	12	showers
Peterborough	7,9	0,00	24	16	p/cloudy
Plymouth	2,0*	0,00	23	18	cloudy
Portsmouth*	8,9*	0,01*	26*	19*	p/cloudy
Prestwick	4,7	0,04	23	17	windy
Ramsgate	10,9	0,00	23	19	p/cloudy
Rhyl	2,5*	0,00	24	18	cloudy
Rugby	5,6*	0,03	28	17	showers
Salisbury	8,6*	0,00	29	18	p/cloudy
Scunthorpe	6,8*	0,19	31*	16*	cloudy
Sheffield	6,2	0,11	28	16	showers
Shetland	0,3*	0,05	17	11	showers
Shrewsbury	2,9	0,02	27	18	cloudy
Skegness	10,2*	0,00	22	17	p/cloudy
Southampton	9,6*	0,00	28*	21*	p/cloudy
Southend-on-Sea	9,6	0,00	24	18	p/cloudy
Stockport	2,5	0,02	26	17	showers
Stornoway	3,1	0,16	18	13	windy
Swansea	3,2*	0,19	26*	18*	cloudy
Swindon	7,4*	0,02	26	18	showers
Thirsk	3,8*	0,00	26	12	cloudy
Tiree	6,1	0,50	17	14	windy
Weymouth	7,0*	0,00	22	18	p/cloudy
Whitehaven	4,0*	0,03	22	16	cloudy
Windermere	1,1*	0,45	23*	16*	storms
Worcester	4,6*	0,00	28	18	cloudy
Yeovil	5,3	0,00	28	21	cloudy
York	5,0*	0,14	26*	14*	showers

Atlantic front



Noon today: A cold front will advance across the United Kingdom today, ushering in cooler weather and showers for some locations.

Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises	0545
Sun sets	2027
Moon rises	1551
Moon sets	2314
Full moon	Aug 19

Yesterday

Warmest	Stansted 33C (91F)
Coldest	Ben Vorlich 7C (44F)
Wettest	Achintee 1.64 in.
Sunniest	Stansted 12.4 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen	2054 to 0534
Belfast	2100 to 0600
Birmingham	2036 to 0549
London	2027 to 0546
Manchester	2040 to 0548
Penzance	2044 to 0611

High water

Aberdeen	0745	3.4m	2028	3.3m
Belfast	0526	3.0m	1810	2.9m
Cardiff	0027	9.7m	1253	9.4m
Dover	0444	5.4m	1718	5.4m
Falmouth	1127	4.1m	2355	4.1m
Harwich	0601	3.4m	1820	3.3m
Holyhead	0421	4.5m	1704	4.3m
Hull	0009	6.0m	1222	6.1m
Liverpool	0456	7.4m	1737	7.2m
London	0743	5.8m	2006	5.8m
Portsmouth	0533	3.8m	1805	3.9m
Southampton	0432	3.7m	1035	1.9m

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Pollen count

Fungal spores and weed pollen are high. Tree and grass pollen are low.

Provided by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

Sea forecast

S North Sea: A gentle to moderate southerly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A gentle to moderate southwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough on the east; will be moderate on the west. Visibility will be good.

St. George's Channel: A gentle to moderate south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be poor.

Irish Sea: A gentle to fresh south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be poor.

Nature Notes

Bumper year for British raspberry

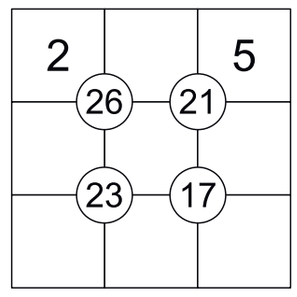
Britain's wet summer may bear fruit for berry lovers, with this year's raspberry harvest set to be bigger and juicier as a result.

Rain and cloud may have slowed production so far this year but the extreme heat means a bumper crop is expected from now to November. The fruits will also be bigger and juicier as they were not hampered by hot-cold fluctuations earlier in the year, said the trade body British Berry Growers.

Raspberries need warm and shady environments in which to grow but can be harmed by late frosts and early season heatwaves – both of which have not happened this year. The return to average temperatures in recent days mean they will grow bigger and juicier as they ripen and produce more sugar.

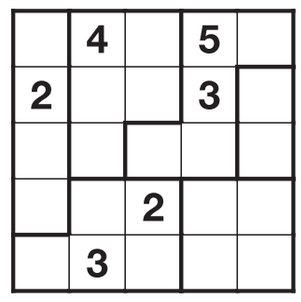
Nick Marston, chairman of British Berry Growers, said: "The cloud cover and absence of extreme heat or cold has created the ideal conditions for larger and sweeter raspberries."

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4939



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Suguru NO 2027



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 4938: 983, 762, 451

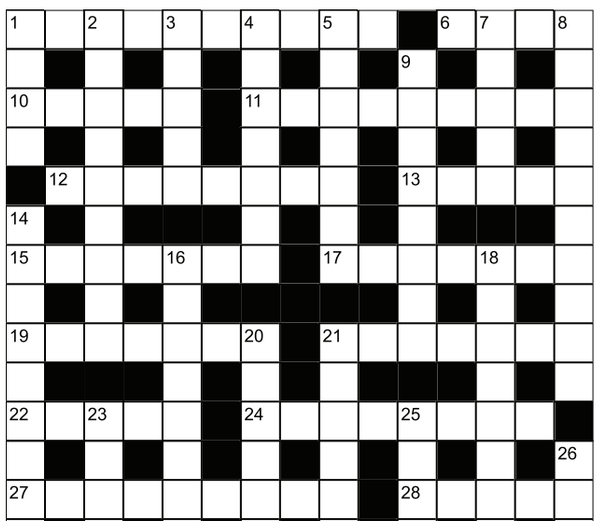
Suguru 2026:

3	1	2	1	4
2	5	4	5	2
1	3	2	3	1
2	4	1	4	2
1	5	2	3	1

Suko 971: 419, 236, 587

Suko 972: 456, 217, 893

Crossword 30,691 telegraph.co.uk/puzzles

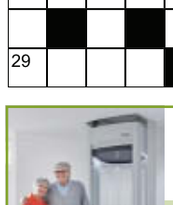


Across

1 A trite rule about what you could read (10)
6 French actor's shabby, we're told (4)
10 Second instrument out of tune (5)
11 Sally interrupts me returning hospital department supplies (9)
12 Individual one criticised accepting Oscar (8)
13 More dopey Democrat's left behind (5)
15 Dismissed doctor jumped on one leg out of hospital (7)
17 People might wear these bandages (7)
19 Painters renovate stairs – about time! (7)
21 Too much found in US composer's house (7)
22 Boycott bowled two overs after cheers (5)
24 Piece of jewellery made from steel, client oddly removed (8)
27 Good answer by the group, showing understanding (9)
28 Stealing the newspaper (5)
29 Hotel east of really old part of London (4)
30 Top dog in Rugby, say, has red meat prepared (10)

Down

1 Girl caught leaving form (4)
2 Ferry entrance (9)
3 Drive away in Beetle, perhaps heading north (5)
4 Cared for elder, maybe, keeping at rear of ward (7)
5 Plump rudd – one swimming (7)
7 A plant ultimately collecting information? (5)
8 Nuts ten dieters gripped (10)
9 Supposed dad turned up with mum? (8)
14 Benefits having redrafted vast agenda (10)
16 Ignore festival (8)
18 Government intended abandoning American declaration (9)
20 Wonderful shade of green on vessel? On the contrary (7)
21 Cleaner, for example, lifting diamonds gets prosecuted (7)
23 Mess up the two sandwiches completely, initially (5)
25 Run in next race (5)
26 Celebrity Gordon Bennett upset (4)



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Help with today's clues Single clues **0905 757 0120.** All Across/Down clues **0905 757 0121.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke – Helpline **0333 202 3390.**

Quick Crossword

Across

1 *Worthless dog* (3)
3 *Light brown* (3)
5 *Secluded corners* (5)
8 Smell (5)
9 Dried fruit (7)
10 Consumes (4)
11 Card game for one (8)
13 Concurred (6)
14 Sleeveless garment (1-5)
17 Suggested (8)
19 Leave out (4)
22 Entice (7)
23 Strained (5)
24 Shop (5)
25 Hint (3)
26 Finish (3)

Down

1 Near (5)
2 Male chicken (7)
3 Sour, tangy (4)
4 Scandinavian country (6)
5 Most loud (8)
6 Pungent edible bulb (5)
7 Dubious (7)
12 Fizzy beverage (8)
13 Seems (7)
15 Huge (7)
16 Group of seven (6)
18 Surpass (5)
20 Fashion (5)
21 Pace (4)

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues Single clues **0905 757 0122.** Solution **0905 757 0123.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Sat. SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution

Across: 7 Gill, 8 Owe, 9 Teen, *(Guillotine)* 10 Domino, 11 Update, 12 Was, 13 Domain, 14 Easily, 16 Poseur, 19 Teapot, 21 Air, 22 Ocular, 24 Oodles, 25 Pick, 26 Top, 27 Noon. **Down:** 1 Kimono, 2 Ultimate, 3 Motown, 4 Bemuse, 5 Stud, 6 Dental, 15 Standing, 17 Orchid, 18 Rarity, 19 Troops, 20 Ocelot, 23 Like.

Solution No 30,690

C	A	B	A	R	E	T	■	L	I	M	O	G	E	S
A	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	I	■	O	■	L	■	T
D	O	G	M	A	■	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	E
D	■	O	■	D	■	E	■	H	■	S	■	D	■	R
I	N	T	I	M	I	D	A	T	E	■	B	R	I	O
E	■	A	■	O	■	■	■	E	■	H	■	A	■	I
■	■	■	O	V	E	R	I	N	D	U	L	G	E	D
S	■	H	■	I	■	E	■	U	■	R	■	S	■	S
P	E	A	C	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	S	■	■	■
A	■	M	■	S	■	D	■	■	■	I	■	P	■	A
N	A	I	L	■	P	U	B	L	I	C	I	S	T	S
K	■	L	■	D	■	C	■	I	■	A	■	Y	■	S
I	N	T	H	E	D	A	R	K	■	N	A	C	R	E
N	■	O	■	L	■	T	■	E	■	E	■	H	■	T
G	E	N	U	I	N	E	■	N	O	S	H	O	W	S

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Nottingham, Castle Park NG2 1AH
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NORTH
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Leeds, Spence Lane LS12 1EF
Newcastle, Blaydon Trade Park NE21 5TR
Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6NY
Sheffield, Unit 3 Burton Street S6 2HH
Warrington, Gemini Trade Park WA5 7YF

SOUTH COAST
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Brighton, 75 Upper Brighton Rd BN15 0JQ
Eastbourne, Hitlier Garden Cntr BN24 5BS
Southampton, Romsey Road SO16 9GJ

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Strictly no snowflakes: the dance show's tough new line-up p.10

Features



The DIY royal tour that has already landed the Sussexes in hot water



‘Without the Foreign Office’s protection, this is a high-risk move’

The Sussexes’ visit to Colombia could be hijacked by local politicians for their own ends, observers claim. *Hannah Furness* reports

Wherever the Duke and Duchess of Sussex travel, so do the eyes of the world.

When they went to Australia as newlyweds, they were dubbed the “republican slayers” for a charm offensive that saw them announce they were expecting their first child. In South Africa, Meghan’s “I am here as a woman of colour and as your sister” speech echoed around the Commonwealth.

Even in Nigeria a few months ago, when they were no longer representing Britain, they highlighted the Invictus Games – in which Nigeria became Africa’s first participant – and the Duchess’s own 43 per cent Nigerian heritage to great effect.

Next, Prince Harry and Meghan will travel to Colombia. The question on lips on both sides of the Atlantic is: why?

The Sussexes and their spotlight will not be there on behalf of the British Government. They are not working members of the Royal family, known to be representing a particular charity, or have any public history or heritage in the country. They are receiving no advice from the British Foreign Office, whose guidance underpins all official royal tours.

Now, days before they are even due to arrive in Colombia, the trip is generating controversy, with claims reported from Bogotá that their “star power” is at risk of being “manipulated” by a government “drowning in scandal”.

The King’s younger son and his wife have been invited by Francia Márquez, Colombia’s vice-president, who announced the trip herself by saying they had “kindly accepted my invitation to visit our beautiful country”.

“We are confident that their visit will further illuminate Colombia’s role as a beacon of culture and innovation,” she said.

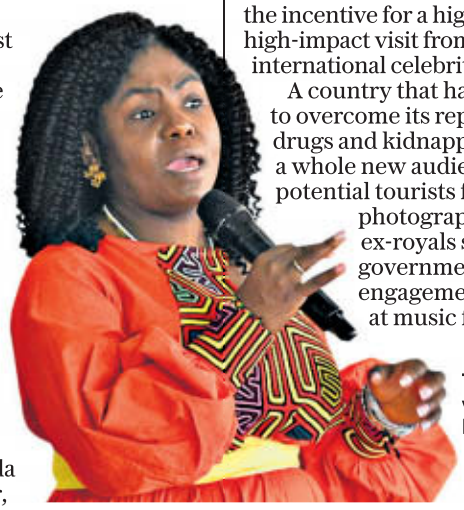
That Colombia is beautiful and full of rich culture is unquestionable. The description does not, however, capture the political turmoil in the country which just last week saw Gustavo Petro, the president, accuse the rebel forces’ commander of paying to have him assassinated by snipers.

Both the UK and US warn tourists against travelling to parts of the country, and Britain’s representative at the United Nations told a UN Security Council last month that they “remain concerned about persistent levels of violence and threats” in some areas.

Petro, the first Left-wing politician in the role, is reaching his mid-term point and faces criticism for promised reforms that he has been unable to get through. Tens of thousands of citizens took to the streets to protest against his social agenda earlier this year, with further disquiet expected as the summer rolls on.

For the Colombian government, the incentive for a high-profile, high-impact visit from international celebrities is clear.

A country that has struggled to overcome its reputation for drugs and kidnappings will gain a whole new audience of potential tourists from photographs of ex-royals smiling at government-organised engagements, dancing at music festivals, and



The country’s vice-president, Francia Márquez, invited the couple herself



On tour: the Duke and Duchess visited Nigeria in May, left; anti-government protests in Colombia, above; on an official royal visit to Australia in 2018, below



COVER: ANADOLU/GETTY; GETTY/ARCHEWELL FOUNDATION; AFP; WIREIMAGE

banging the drum for the vice-president's key causes.

For the Sussexes, it is also high risk. Questions about who is paying for their travel, accommodation and security have not yet been answered, although it is suggested that the Colombian government will ensure a high level of security as they travel with Márquez – who has defended her use of a Black Hawk helicopter for her commute to Bogotá.

There is no clear narrative, yet, about why that particular country or continent was chosen other than that the government issued an invitation the Sussexes were happy to accept.

"The Sussexes' trip to Colombia is likely to generate more headlines internationally than in the South American nation, where most citizens have little interest in the British Royal family and may not even know who the couple are," says one journalist working in the region.

"Nevertheless, Meghan and Harry's global fame means that their visit will shine an international spotlight on the communities and issues that they encounter during their four-day trip."

The natural meeting-of-minds between the Sussexes and Márquez are evident: women's equality, the environment and her pioneering role as the first Afro-Colombian elected to her position.

She has been criticised for her travel at the taxpayers' expense, recently complaining of the press: "Anything I say, they're always trying to twist my words."

"Francia Márquez really has an incredible story of rising up from very humble, difficult beginnings to become a prominent, effective campaigner on social issues," says Elizabeth Dickinson, a Crisis Group expert based in Bogotá.

"One of her primary missions as vice-president is to bring visibility to the issues of social justice that she cares so much about, especially around racism and gender. I would interpret this trip as an effort on her part to showcase this for an international audience."

The trip is also likely to feature a nod to the Invictus Games founded by Prince Harry, with Colombia the only South American country to take part, as well as the Sussexes' new campaign for child safety online.

Meghan spent time as an intern at the US embassy in Argentina aged 20 and speaks fluent Spanish, which is likely to help smooth the pair's encounters with Márquez.

But for long term royal-watchers and historians, the trip rings some alarm bells.

The last members of the Royal family to tour in such high profile under their own steam were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, whose poor judgment and lack of advice greatly damaged their reputations.

While there is, of course, no risk of the Sussexes getting embroiled in anything equivalent to emerging Nazism, as the Windsors did in 1937, for some, there are some parallels in the approach of the two couples. Prince Harry and Meghan will be travelling with their own small team of staff, but without the Government advice on in-country protocol and global politics they had to hand in the Royal family.

One source, familiar with the work of the Foreign Office, dismissed the trip as "utterly irrelevant" to British interests abroad.

At Kensington Palace, Prince Harry and Prince William both benefited from the advice of Sir David Manning, a former ambassador to the US and Israel. In California, Prince Harry's new chief of staff, Josh Kettler, is a former executive at Patagonia, the outdoor clothing company, whose LinkedIn profile describes him as "an experienced executive accelerator, organiser, and confidant".

Anna Pasternak, author of *The American Duchess: The Real Wallis Simpson*, says there is a "real parallel" in terms of non-working royals being invited by foreign governments as "private citizens", and accepting.

Of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Germany trip in 1937, she says: "They accepted because Edward felt so hurt and angered by the way Wallis had been rejected by the Royal family and he desperately wanted her to experience the pomp and ceremony of a royal tour.

"He wanted Wallis to be addressed as HRH and for people to curtsy to her.

"I'm not suggesting that Harry wants the pomp and ceremony of a royal tour, but there is a feeling that he'd like Meghan to have the status accorded to her.

"You feel they really value the approval of the people of the country they're visiting. They can go and be honoured in their own right."

She adds: "When you have this quasi-royal status, you're seen internationally as a royal and you're treated as such on tour, but you don't have the protection of the Foreign Office. This is a high-risk tour for them.

"When a country invites you, you've got to wonder 'what's the agenda?' In what way does this fit into the narrative, and how they want to be seen on a global scale?"

And if there are any diplomatic missteps, the public may never know. The trip itself will be covered by a pool reporter from a hand-picked publication, with official photographers and videographers shooting material to be issued later.

The coverage for Colombia and the Sussexes will no doubt be glowing. The question, then, is what happens next?

As the invitations from other countries in need of a little stardust roll in, how will the Sussexes manage the risks of being roaming royals without the safeguards of royal life?

The secrets to getting your stubble right this summer

As Prince William ditches his clean-shaven look, *Stephen Doig* reveals how to master the style

It's entirely reasonable for a man to allow himself a more relaxed appearance during August. Men up and down the country are on sun loungers right now, their looks somewhat shaggier than normal as they embrace the summer holiday *dolce far niente*.

So it's understandable that the Prince of Wales's look at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics at the Stade de France via video link was a little different; he's been spending some holiday downtime with his family in Norfolk. But his new sweep of stubble is a marked departure from the clean-shaven visage we've come to expect from the heir to the throne. That he hadn't chosen to shave it off ahead of a broadcast watched by millions around the world suggested that it might well be here to stay.

There's royal precedent where luxuriant beards are concerned. Prince Harry was the first member of the Royal family since George V in 1893 to sport a beard for his wedding. The current King experimented with a beard in the past, as has Prince William, and it's been the cause of follicular falling out among the men of the Royal household; in his tell-all memoir, Harry recounted that William was "livid" with him for keeping a full beard for his wedding.

Clearly, the Prince of Wales has had a change of heart by growing a full face of fuzz. Also noteworthy is the fact he's chosen to grow his beard out while his hairline recedes – a wise choice for men who are balding up top because it distracts attention and offers a balance. It's also rather distinguished; see the white growth of Prince Michael of Kent, standard bearer for all things bearded in the royal household.

That said, there's a reason that various employers only allow full beards or freshly-shaven jawlines without the fuzzy gradations in between; it can look unkempt and rather studenty, an accidental afterthought rather than a firm stylistic decision. So how should you grow out a beard?

Start the process properly

It isn't just a case of downing the razor and letting your tufted chin grow wild. First, as Prince William has done, wait for a gap in your schedule, like a holiday – otherwise you'll go through a period looking like you've simply overslept.

"When growing out a beard for the first time, keep your neckline and cheeks clean," says Bill Coles, of Murdock Barbers of London. "It's easy to think, 'I'm just going to let it grow for a couple of months', but if it grows out unevenly, you might lose patience." Set the edges of your beard rather than let it grow unbidden, and go from there.



Hair to the throne: the Prince sports a beard in his Olympic message

Don't let it grow haywire

Even though you're trying to grow things out somewhat, stubble still needs to be kept in check. "When transitioning from stubble to a beard, keep your neck tidy and trim your moustache as it grows so that it stays off your lip," says Coles. It's also worth trimming straggly ends weekly, he advises, to keep the growth uniformed. It isn't about downing tools and giving up, but keeping the topiary in check.

Settle on a shape

Not all beards are grown equal, as the hipster trend a few years back attested; sales of razors plummeted as the cool young things of east London and environs dressed like they were taking place in American Civil War re-enactments. There was even a trend for flowers woven in your beard, to really lend the impression that you'd turned your back on society. Certain beards work better on certain shapes and corresponding hair styles; Coles advises "hair and beard harmony; if you have a short hair, consider a groomed and shorter beard. With longer hair, you can afford a fuller beard. Rounder faces should opt for a longer beard with shorter sides, to add definition and length."

Tips for balding with a beard

"Don't overcompensate," says Coles. "Avoid growing an overly large beard to draw attention away from your thinning hair. Instead, keep your beard well groomed and neat to look intentional rather than compensatory." Fuller beards with bald heads can look splendidly donnish; a dusting of stubble with bald heads is more Jason Statham.

Maintenance is key

Once your beard is fulsome, opt for a beard oil and brush to keep it softened rather than dry and scratchy, advises Coles, and just because you're downing the razor doesn't mean you shouldn't see a barber regularly; get a regular trim. Add beard shampoo to your bathroom ablutions too. Even royal visages need a little guidance in growing a suitably regal beard.

As daring as the Dambusters: my father and the wartime raid you've never heard of

Richard Aldwinckle salutes the unsung RAF heroes who risked everything to assist the Warsaw Uprising

Eighty years ago, on the afternoon of Sunday August 13 1944, 27 crews from the RAF and South African Air Force (SAAF) and one Polish crew entered the operations room at the Allied Campo Casale airfield overlooking the harbour at Brindisi, in the heel of Italy.

As they sat down, they were faced with a large map of Europe with black tape running virtually its full length. The briefing officer got straight to the point. "Gentlemen, your target tonight is Warsaw."

The announcement was greeted by nervous laughter. "This is no joke," he said. "Your target is Warsaw." For a moment there was silence, followed by a solitary "Good God!" from the back of the room.

Warsaw is 815 miles from Brindisi. The route involved flying over enemy-held Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and Austria on the return leg. Part of the journey would be in broad daylight, making the aircraft easy targets for anti-aircraft guns on the ground.

A full moon during the hours of darkness would make them vulnerable to German night fighter squadrons. Without a fighter escort of their own, each aircraft would need to fly alone, rather than in formation, to make them less easy to detect, and use their own guns to ward off enemy fighters.

It was a sobering moment for the nearly 200 airmen in that room, as the slim chances of them surviving such an extraordinary operation began to sink in. Among them was my father, Flying Officer John Aldwinckle, then a 21-year-old navigator with 148 Squadron.

Today, while almost no one in Britain has not heard of the Dambusters Raid, precious few know of this other daring low-level RAF mission, described by historian Norman Davies as "one of the great unsung sagas of the Second World War". Now, 12 years after my father's death, I hope to put that right.

Back in Brindisi there was little time for fear. The briefing officer revealed the route. Each aircraft was to reach the Vistula River a few miles south-east of Warsaw. They were then to pass over the Poniatowski Bridge and the railway bridge in quick succession.

When they reached the third bridge, the Kierbedzia, they were to turn left, fly over the main street, Krakowskie Przedmiescie, and look for flares marking their target in Krasinski Square, next to the Old Town.

As they approached the Square, the crews were told, young women from the Polish Home Army would shine torches into the sky to guide them in. It was, they were reassured, a "piece of cake".





Rising up: resistance fighters of the Polish Home Army in Warsaw in 1944, above; Flying Officer John Aldwinckle and Pilot Officer 'Mac' McLean, below

It was to be anything but. For the crews were not dropping bombs, but weapons and supplies to the 50,000 volunteers of the Home Army, which was attempting to rise up against the Nazis and establish an independent nation before Stalin could impose a second occupying dictatorship.

For accuracy, a low-level drop was essential. This meant reducing height to 500ft or lower and reducing throttle to 150mph, close to stalling speed.

What the crews did not know was that the mission was deemed a near-impossible task by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Slessor, commander-in-chief of the RAF in the Mediterranean.

> Their mission, the crews were reassured, was a 'piece of cake'. It was to be anything but

Nor that, on Friday August 11, Churchill had arrived in Naples, and in a meeting with Slessor the next day, insisted that the RAF supply the Home Army nonetheless. Help must be sent, the wartime PM said, even at the risk of heavy losses.

The operation

As the briefing was taking place, each aircraft was filled with 2,300 gallons of fuel, 500 more than usual, and loaded with machine guns, anti-tank guns, rifles and ammunition. Before take-off, four aircraft became unserviceable.

Then, at 7.30pm, the first of the remaining 24 roared down the runway, streaming out across the Adriatic in the evening sunshine. They crossed the Dalmatian coast near Dubrovnik, flying north over the Danube in darkness and east of Budapest, before climbing north-east towards the Carpathian Mountains.

One of the aircraft could not gain enough height to cross the mountains and had to turn back, as did four others caught in a thunderstorm. The remaining 19 aircraft flew over Czechoslovakia before descending into the plain of Poland to the east of Krakow over Soviet-held territory.

On the horizon, 150 miles to the north, they could see the red glow of Warsaw in flames.

Finally, after five hours' flying time, they picked up the Vistula.

"Approaching at low altitude in the darkness," recalled a navigator on the mission, "individual fires and gun flashes showed up as bright sparks; flak streamed across the area or burst above the dome amidst the searchlight. Aircraft were seen in silhouette against the fiery city as they made their low-level dropping run."

A Polish airman later wrote in *Destiny Can Wait*, an English-language history of Polish flyers in the Second World War, that: "The flak was the hottest I have ever been through, so we got down to just 70 or 100 feet… We nearly hit the Poniatowski Bridge as we cracked along the Vistula: the pilot hopped over it by the skin of his teeth.

"So, when we passed the iron-girder bridge, we turned sharp to port and made ready for the run-in. The whole southern side of [Krasinski] square was blazing. We dropped our containers… it was time to clear out."

One aircraft, "C" for Charlie, crashed on to the streets of Warsaw with only one survivor, who landed in a reed-bed in the Vistula before being captured and sent to Stalag Luft I. "G" for George crash-landed at a nearby airfield.

"K" for King landed near Kiev after a terrifying ordeal. As the aircraft followed the Vistula towards Warsaw, it suffered such a barrage of "flak" from ground defences that the pilot, Lieutenant William Norval of 31 Squadron, became unnerved.

After climbing to starboard in an attempt to shake off the many searchlights, the port-outer engine was hit and feathered by Second Lieutenant Bob Burgess. At this point, Norval appeared to lose control of the aircraft and was seen to be swinging the control column in a state of agitation. Without any warning, he suddenly grabbed his parachute, rushed to the flight deck, opened the bomb bay doors, and jumped.

Burgess took control, decided to fly east and managed to nurse the aircraft long enough to put it down in a ploughed field 100 miles west of Kiev where, by some miracle, all the remaining crew survived. For this feat Burgess won the DSO. The unfortunate William Norval was captured, imprisoned at Stalag Luft III, repatriated to South Africa at the end of the war and discharged in 1946. His campaign and service medals were returned unclaimed in 1957.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM; UNIVERSAL IMAGES/GETTY

High risk: a 148 Squadron Halifax being loaded with supplies at Brindisi

Just 14 aircraft were successful at making a drop on target that night, 11 were unable to do so, and three didn't make it back. Among those that did was my father. But it was a near run thing. As his Halifax flew down the Adriatic in the early hours of August 14, Pilot Officer "Mac" McLean told him and the rest of the crew that the fuel gauges were registering empty, and to strap on their parachutes. Somehow there was enough fuel to get them back to base, but when they landed at 7.40am, after more than 11 hours in the air, the ground crew looked



inside the tanks and found they were completely dry.

Despite the immense peril, the following night, August 14-15, another 26 aircraft took off for Warsaw. This time only 12 were successful, six had to return early and eight aircraft were lost. On this night alone, 49 crew members were killed, three were captured by the Germans and four were interned by the Russians.

For the RAF and SAAF, the losses continued to be devastating. Over a total of 24 days and nights, 199 individual sorties resulted in the loss of 36 aircraft and the deaths of 183 aircrew. This level of loss was among the highest suffered by the RAF during the war – higher in percentage terms than the raid on Nuremberg on March 30-31 1944, sometimes described as the RAF's "darkest hour". The RAF and SAAF squadrons lost one aircraft for every ton of supplies delivered.

The US Army's Eighth Air Force finally undertook a daylight drop on September 18 from the UK after the Soviets agreed to allow them to land and refuel at Russian bases. A large fleet of more than 100 B-17 Flying Fortresses with 60 Mustang fighter escorts dropped 1,284 containers over Warsaw from a height of between 13,000 and 18,000 feet. The central area received 380 containers; the rest missed their targets completely.

The reckoning

It was all to no avail. The people of Warsaw fought desperately for 63 days before the Uprising was crushed. On October 3 the Polish Home Army surrendered and the next day 15,000 of them started to leave the city for German prison camps. An estimated 15,000 men and women of the Home Army died and 6,000 were seriously injured, while 10,000 Germans were killed and 16,000 wounded. At least 150,000 Polish citizens died in Warsaw, many of them mass-murdered in cold blood, and two-thirds of the city's buildings were reduced to rubble.

The 1,600-mile mission



Their legacy

Today, it is believed that none of the British airmen who took part in the Warsaw Airlift, as it has come to be known, are still living. My father died in 2012. Despite it being described by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Slessor as "a story of the utmost gallantry and self-sacrifice on the part of our aircrew" and by the Special Operations Executive's official History of Special Operations (Air) in the Mediterranean Theatre as "probably rank(ing) amongst the most difficult operations of any description undertaken by Air Force units during the European war", there was little formal acknowledgement of the airmen who took part. All of those who died and most of those who survived went to their graves without any official recognition of their efforts or of the sacrifices they made.

They are not forgotten in Poland, where they are remembered in church services held each August on the anniversary of the Uprising. In the Warsaw Rising Museum, the courage of the aircrews is acknowledged and appreciated. Here a full-size replica of a B-24 Liberator plane is displayed, and it is where, in 2014, RAF veterans visiting the museum were spontaneously applauded by groups of schoolchildren when told who they were.

In the UK, those who wish to pay tribute to the allied airmen who flew in the airlift must journey to a cemetery in Newark, Nottinghamshire, where a commemorative stone was unveiled in 1989 "in tribute to the 250 airmen of Britain, the Commonwealth and Poland who sacrificed their young lives in desperate attempts to fly from distant RAF bases in Italy with essential supplies for the front line city of Warsaw during the 1944 Uprising".



ILLUSTRATION: LIAM TOOHER

The body's longest nerve could be key to your anxiety and insomnia

Influencers are talking up the benefits of stimulating the vagus nerve. They may be on to something, says *David Cox*

Take a brief scan on Amazon and you'll find hundreds of products promising to stimulate the vagus nerve. From vibrating pendants to headphones, these rather spurious items claim to relieve stress, reduce anxiety and even help with insomnia. Social media influencers talk endlessly about the benefits of stimulating the longest nerve in our body any which way you can. But while this might sound like the latest wellness industry sham, there is some scientific truth behind the apparent madness.

What is the vagus nerve?
It is the longest in the body, stretching from the brain to the abdomen and is often referred to as "an information superhighway".

Containing around 100,000 different nerve fibres, it acts as a two-way communication channel linking the heart, lungs and gastrointestinal system, as well as the digestive tract and voicebox. The vagus nerve has been associated with a plethora of bodily functions from mood to immunity and digestion.

"It starts in the midbrain and controls a lot of our internal organs and functions, and it has an important role in regulating how those organs work," says Dr Ali Ali, a stroke consultant at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Because of this, the vagus nerve has long been viewed as a potential target for novel therapies. As far back as the late 19th century, it was discovered that compressing the vagus nerve fibres in the neck could form a way of treating and even preventing seizures. In recent decades, stimulators implanted deep within the nerve fibres of the neck have become a tried and tested way of tackling severe epilepsy.

Newer studies show that stimulating the vagus nerve can dampen inflammation, boost the connectivity between brain cells, and help reset faulty pain networks.

How does stimulating the vagus help physical and mental health?
Slow, rhythmic breathing has long been considered a way of soothing the body in response to stressful situations. In sports, you'll often see footballers taking a deep breath before taking a penalty, or tennis players before they strike a second serve on breakpoint.

This is because while stress usually triggers the body's fight-or-flight response, slow breathing activates the vagus nerve, part of the so-called parasympathetic branch of the nervous system, which helps us rest, digest and calm down, owing to the connections between this nerve and the heart and gut. It's the reason why slow breathing is a cornerstone of all kinds of psychological interventions from mindfulness to cognitive behavioural therapy.

"The vagus nerve has an inhibitory effect on the heart," says Qasim Aziz, professor of neurogastroenterology at Queen Mary University. "When you take a deep breath, the heart rate slows which makes you more relaxed."

But not everyone experiences a fight-or-flight response. An estimated 30 to 35 per cent of people will actually freeze when faced with extreme stress. "In these people, the stress response sends such a strong signal to the heart, that it just suddenly slows down, blood pressure drops, and the person shuts down," says Aziz.

Emerging research suggests that these people are more susceptible to developing chronic pain or conditions such as acid reflux. Over the past decade, Aziz and others have shown that regular deep-breathing exercises, for example slowing down your breathing to half the normal rate for six minutes at a time, can alleviate these symptoms and improve your stress response.

> In the 19th century, compressing vagus nerve fibres in the neck was found to prevent seizures

Why are ice-bath proponents interested in the vagus nerve?
Legendary athlete Wim Hof – known as "The Iceman" – has long promoted the benefits of breathwork, meditation and immersing yourself in an ice bath as a way of tapping into the power of the vagus nerve and dampening down inflammation in the body.

But not everyone is convinced. Some research suggests that many people will actually experience a rush of adrenalin in response to the cold-water shock – spikes that might be dangerous for anyone with an underlying heart condition.

A safer strategy could be either holding your breath or briefly submerging your face in cold water, techniques which are thought to work in a similar way to deep breathing. Anecdotal reports suggest that this can help with anxiety and insomnia.

Does stimulating the vagus nerve help with IBS or fatigue?
Different forms of electrical stimulation to the vagus nerve have been linked to health improvements. The traditional method of doing this was to implant devices deep into the neck, but now attention has been turned to so-called auricular branches of the vagus nerve which can be found in the outer ear.

The neurotechnology company Parasym has developed a device called a Nurosym which clips on to the tragus, the chunk of cartilage in front of the ear canal. Studies are investigating whether this can help people who suffer from irritable bowel syndrome; previous research has suggested it can improve symptoms such as fatigue, pain and brain fog for Long Covid patients.

Some feel the biggest potential benefit of vagus nerve modulation could be in helping the brain repair from damage. Ali points out that around 80 per cent of the vagus nerve fibres help transmit information back to the brain, making it a promising target for stroke rehabilitation and helping patients regain their mobility.

"When you have an event like an ischemic stroke, or a blood vessel rupture and there's a large area where blood has accumulated in the brain, that's causing a very inflammatory environment," he says. "Vagus nerve stimulation has an anti-inflammatory effect which may help promote neurological recovery."

Over the next 18 months, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is aiming to recruit people who have suffered a stroke for a new clinical trial, the Triceps study, which aims to assess whether vagus nerve stimulation in conjunction with physical rehabilitation can help promote recovery of arm function.

"We think of it as an add-on therapy to rehabilitation," says Ali. "What we want to assess is whether vagus nerve stimulation can help supercharge this process."

Do home-use products promising vagus nerve stimulation work?
Not all of the products are backed by science. The most evidence of effectiveness lies in devices which can be applied to the skin of the neck, where they send electrical pulses into the vagus nerve fibres. One of the leading products is a device called gammaCore, which can be bought online. It is aimed at helping people suffering from migraine and cluster headaches by regulating pain signals and reducing inflammation in the brain.

"It looks a bit like one of those old-fashioned electrical shavers," says Ali. "Except obviously it doesn't shave anything, it just delivers trains of electrical impulses which stimulate the vagus nerve. There have been studies which compared MRI scans of people with vagus nerve implants and those using stimulation through the skin, and they showed that similar areas of the brain were lighting up."

But the uses could stretch far beyond headaches. Researchers are now exploring ways of stimulating the vagus nerve through the skin for all kinds of conditions.

Aziz is exploring vagus nerve stimulation as a way of reducing chronic pain, while scientists at Emory University in the US have even shown that stimulating the vagus nerve through the skin on the neck could reduce some symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.



Celia Walden

If doctors aren't causing offence, they're not doing their job properly

I'm in the supermarket picking up kidney beans for our Sunday-night chilli when a *Telegraph* Breaking News notification pings into my phone: "NHS staff told to ask men if they are pregnant before X-rays."

Exhaling deeply, I hand the phone to my daughter, who rolls her eyes in the way 12-year-olds do at adult idiocies – then stops dead, right there in the canned foods aisle. "Wait."

Like all of us when confronted by something patently bonkers from a figure or body of supposed authority, she needs to double-check that she's got this right. "Men definitely can't have babies, can they?"

It's a valid question for a child to ask. After all, within the past year alone scientists have finally sequenced the entire Y chromosome, created an AI program to look for aliens and transferred an embryo from a nearing-extinction northern rhino into a southern white rhino surrogate. Oh, and last week, I took my daughter to dinner in a driverless taxi.

So yes, a lot has changed in a very short space of time, I tell her, but not this: if you do not have a uterus, you cannot have a baby. "Then why are doctors saying this stuff?" We're in the queue now, and I'm feeling self-conscious, so I condense it all down to a low-voiced: "Because they don't want anyone to feel left out."

That's the definition of "inclusivity guidance", isn't it? And new "inclusivity guidance" issued to NHS workers at multiple hospitals across the country is telling radiographers to check whether anyone aged between 12 and 55 is pregnant, regardless of their sex – since the radiation from X-ray, CT and MRI scans can be dangerous to unborn babies.

This immediately makes me want to go off on a rage-fuelled tangent, as someone who might potentially identify as a 56-year-old woman, and start squealing, hands on hips: "What about me? You're asking a 13-year-old boy if he's pregnant but not me?

You're stigmatising a post-menopausal woman! You're making me feel old and barren and left out!" Because when you do away with common sense and invite everyone into topsy-turvy land, monster raving loony what-aboutism is just one of the knee-jerk reactions.

Then there's the mass hilarity, the mass derision and the fury. There has been plenty of all four.

On X/Twitter, reactions ranged from "Welcome to loony bin Britain" to "This is the reason staff are leaving the NHS", and from "The lunatics are running the asylum" to "They need to tell my mum to get her prostate checked".

> It makes me want to squeal: 'You're asking a 13-year-old boy if he's pregnant but not me?'

Actually, I don't think I've seen such golden one-liners since the infamous Tampax Tweet devised by Procter & Gamble in 2020. "Fact: Not all women have periods. Also a fact: Not all people with periods are women. Let's celebrate the diversity of all people who bleed."

Those who had been asked the pregnancy question in real life, however, tended to be less amused, with some men so bewildered as to be left speechless. According to radiologists, others have stormed out of appointments, with patients both male and female pointing out that in its attempts not to cause offence, the NHS has ironically only succeeded in being highly offensive.

A quick side note: doctors will cause offence – at least, if they're doing their job properly. They're not there to make you feel good; they're there to tell you that you're too fat and you need to lose weight, that your 20-a-day habit is going to kill you and that you might want to start moving around a bit if you want to meet your grandkids.

But we're focusing on the wrong part of the story here. Because the new "inclusivity guidance" was only issued, it turns out, after an unknowingly pregnant trans man was given an X-ray.

How do you think that mistake happened? Could it, again, be down to "guidance"? The kind that perhaps either prohibits a radiologist from being told that their patient is trans or from referring to it? How dangerous is that for your patient? Consider, too, the man on a two-week urgent cancer pathway, who "was so annoyed by the questions on the form", one radiologist told this paper, that "he shouted, he left the department and didn't actually have a scan".

One of the fundamental principles of medicine is not "first, don't cause offence" but "first, do no harm" – *primum non nocere*. This doesn't just mean balancing healing with minimising harm but maintaining professional standards and remaining aware of knowledge gaps.

In this case, the NHS is wilfully promoting knowledge gaps, even ignorance. It is asking medical professionals to plug their ears and cover their eyes. It's prioritising ideology over scientific fact and I'm afraid it's too chilling to laugh off – although certainly, it makes a mockery of medicine.

The perfect film for people who like to be seen to blub

Do you know what an HSP is? It's a pop psychology term used primarily by the kind of young women who like to self-diagnose, and it means a "highly sensitive person". Examples of usages might be, "Please can we not talk about world affairs, I'm an HSP," and, "If I burst into tears, don't take it personally: I'm an HSP."

On Friday, at the opening night of the biggest "event movie" of the year, *It Ends with Us*, I found myself sitting in a West Hollywood cinema, surrounded by hundreds of HSPs. There to share every emotion they had, they made it a truly unforgettable experience. There was a constant stream of gasps, coos, sighs, "OMG"s – and then the tears started.

For those of you who have just been beamed down from planet Tharg, *It Ends with Us* is the long-awaited film version of arguably Colleen Hoover's most popular romance novel. Arguable, because although the book has now sold 6.9 million copies, the Texas-born 44-year-old has written dozens of novels and sold more than 20 million in total. To give you an even sharper idea of her popularity, Hoover once held six of the top 10 spots on *The New York Times*'s paperback bestseller list at once. That hadn't happened before and hasn't happened since. And in 2022, she sold more copies of her books than the Bible.



Highly sensitive portrayal: Blake Lively stars in *It Ends with Us*, based on Colleen Hoover's bestselling romance novel

As the closest thing to a literary Taylor Swift, she hasn't just been able to connect with – predominantly young, female – people in the most extraordinary way, but inspired a whole emotive, therapeutic culture. A few years ago, Hoover's disciples even started a TikTok trend for filming themselves crying to the sad parts – #uglycry; today, they want to let it all out in a cinema near you.

Honestly, I came pretty close to dissolving into a slick of molten sentiment myself. I would have asked the girl next to me for one of her tissues, but she'd been handing them out since the opening credits and was all out. Hoover's a brilliant storyteller, her books are filled with every kind of horrific tragedy – from abusive relationships and sexual assault to miscarriage and infidelity – and all three stars in this love triangle (Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni and Brandon Sklenar) were great actors.

What I wasn't expecting was to see my husband (who I initially feared might walk out) leaning forwards in his seat, hands to his cheeks and eyes wide, as the dénouement unfolded and the sobbing and sniffing reached fever pitch. "Tell me she doesn't stay with him," he whispered. And just like that, he'd been Hoovered.



‘My films gave men an excuse to watch nudity with their girlfriends’

Robin Askwith, star of the Confessions series, talks to *Craig McLean* about Zeffirelli, intimacy coordinators and his unlikely career renaissance

“I didn’t think much of them at the time.” Robin Askwith, owner of the most famous bare bum in cinema history – his words not mine – is reflecting on the Confessions films. This quartet of “romp-coms”, which began with *Confessions of a Window Cleaner* in 1974 and famously propped up the British film industry in the 1970s, starred Askwith as Timothy Lea, a denim-clad, shag-haired cheeky chappie who had terrible social skills, and was oddly irresistible to women.

Now, though, he takes a different view, as does the wider culture. Last month, the genre from whence they came was celebrated in Channel 4 documentary *Saucy! Secrets of the British Sex Comedy*.

Talking to me now from his home on the Maltese island of Gozo, Askwith says: “Feminists have got hold of it and said, hang on, the protagonist – me – was actually not a sexual predator in any way at all... The expression [Timmy] would most probably give would be more: ‘Oh, that’s nice, that’s a pair of t-ts.’ He’s obviously responding sexually to it, but he has no idea what they’re for. That’s why the films work: because the character was sexually incompetent – obviously – and was keen to learn. So, in 1974, they gave an acceptable conduit for the [male] audience to go to the cinema with their girlfriends – but were actually watching nudity and simulated sex. But it was funny.”

> ‘I never volunteer my bum – how dare you! What sort of actor do you think I am?’

This reappraisal of 1970s smut coincides with an uptick in the 73-year-old Askwith’s career. He has an ongoing role in the Channel 5 series *The Madame Blanc Mysteries*, a South of France-set antiques-meets-crime show. In recent years he’s popped up in *Benidorm*, *Casualty*, Michael Sheen festive movie *Last Train to Christmas* and *Strike*, the TV series based on the Cormoran Strike books by JK Rowling. He has also reinvented himself as a stand-up (Twitter handle “Name dropper/Trouser dropper”) and this autumn he will tour the UK with his *Askwith Flares Up!!* tour.

This marked change in fortunes is not lost on Askwith. “The whole thing about this is I seem to get welcomed everywhere! Ten years ago, nobody welcomed me anywhere.”

Notably, Askwith has appeared in two episodes of Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith’s *Inside No. 9*, the sublime portmanteau comedy-horror series. Earlier this year, he appeared in the last-ever episode. With a nod to his role in Pier Paolo Pasolini’s 1972 take on *The Canterbury Tales*, Askwith was filmed urinating and flaunting his most valuable asset. Did he volunteer it?





ALAMY; BBC/JAMES STACK

Change in fortunes: Askwith in *Inside No. 9,* above, and last year, below

Cheeky chappie: Askwith in 1976's *Confessions of a Driving Instructor*

"I never volunteer the bum! How dare you!" he shoots back gamely. "What sort of actor do you think I am?"

Askwith is a far better actor than his CV might suggest, and early in his career worked with some of the greats. While appearing in a school production of *Richard III*, he caught the eye of director Lindsay Anderson who cast him in his 1968 public school satire *If....*

Funnily enough, Askwith was living out the plot of Anderson's film about teenage insurrection. While still a pupil at the fee-paying Merchant Taylors' School in Northwood, he and a couple of friends raided the school armoury and then held up Pinner Post Office. It was life imitating art when the art hadn't even begun.

"Yes, but we weren't really threatening anyone," clarifies Askwith. "It was part of rag week. There was no ammunition, but it was a pretty stupid, dangerous thing to do. But we had .22 rifles, whereas Malcolm [McDowell, who played the young revolutionary Mike] had a Bren machine gun."

Still, Askwith was a nonconformist "nightmare" who had no place at public school. Despite his academic chops, he ended up being expelled for the Post Office and other pranks, including paying a crane operator a tenner to hoist the headmaster's Morris 1100 onto the roof of the school chapel. That expulsion scuppered his plans to attend Bristol University. Lindsay Anderson, though, rode to his rescue.

"He was quite fascinated by me. I went through extraordinarily long audition processes with him, some on stage, some in front of camera, some just reading."

Naturally, Askwith got naked: "There was a shower scene. Everyone's wandering around naked. I've got nothing to show at all – there's nothing particularly sexy about my naked body, apart from the fact that I was quite slim."

Askwith sometimes thinks about what might have happened had he been a more diligent pupil. "This is very arrogant, but you've got to be arrogant to be an actor, but I think I would have been successful [either way]. I'd have gone to Bristol University, then gone to the RSC – a completely different route. Because I originally thought I could be a classical actor."

While making *The Canterbury Tales*, how safe did he feel with Pasolini who, at 41, had begun a relationship with a 15-year-old boy?

"Completely," he shoots back. "Whereas on another movie I made with an Italian, I did not feel [that]." He's referring to *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli. "It's well-documented – speak to [actor and director] Bruce Robinson... But Pasolini, absolutely no problem. In fact, his main reason for employing me was that I didn't like Zeffirelli. He and I got on straight away."



RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT

As it happens, Robinson recently talked to the *Telegraph* about his experiences making Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* (1968). The director came at the young actor with "the tongue down my throat. And worse... He was genuinely appalling to me... sadistic to me."

"I'm not going to add to that," says Askwith. "But I'm quite careful about all that. More out of respect for myself, to be honest. And women went through a lot worse with directors. Mine was just an uncomfortable situation, really."

Askwith is great company and, in his tinted glasses, exudes a certain ex-pat breeziness. His silver neck-chain is glinting, and a collection of loud and funky shirts are draped on hangers behind him. He relocated to Gozo in 1993, having originally filmed an advertisement for Thomson there in the early 1970s. He moved "because of a divorce situation [he has been married three times, and now has a girlfriend who works as a special needs teacher]. I had a bit of land, and I thought: 'I'll live on a boat and build a house.' I found I could live in paradise and go to Manchester or Benidorm or Wales, wherever, wherever I was filming, or on stage, or in pantomime."

Askwith also looks remarkably unchanged since he first came to public attention. "The head of hair does help," he says. "But if I was offered my legs back in exchange for my hair [he suffered from polio as a child], I don't think I'd take the deal. So, it's the hair, and a horrifying attitude to life, which is why I've had three wives – I just cannot grow up."

That irreverence seems to have informed his climactic, bottom-baring appearance on *Inside No. 9*, and when the producers offered their guest-star first an intimacy coordinator and then "modesty underwear", he almost dropped his Mediterranean-diet lunch.

"Everybody's so worried about everything these days. But now they're getting worried about Robin Askwith! They're trying to protect me! Where were you 50 years ago?

"Anyway, for that scene to work, it was absolutely imperative that my bum was exposed," Askwith cracks. "It horrified my girlfriend. Horrified a lot of people. And unfortunately, as Steve Pemberton said, their lasting memory of *Inside No. 9* is not going to be Sheridan Smith or Bill Paterson's masterful performances. It's going to be my a---."

'The Complete Confessions 1974-77' boxset is released on Aug 26

This was the ugliest Fringe moment I've ever witnessed

Dominic Cavendish
CHIEF THEATRE CRITIC



Comedy

Reginald D Hunter: Fluffy Fluffy Beavers

Assembly George Square Studios, Edinburgh

★☆☆☆☆

Sunday night's performance by the American stand-up Reginald D Hunter of his new Edinburgh Festival set ranks as the most unpleasant comedy gig I've ever attended. This came down to a point five minutes in when a theatre full of people erupted in vocal animosity at an Israeli couple who had briefly heckled Hunter.

Hunter, 55, had made a crude point, rather than an especially sophisticated gag, where he said a Channel 5 documentary containing a scene about an abusive wife who accused her husband of abuse made him think, "My God, it's like being married to Israel." There was audience laughter in response, but not from the couple in the front row, who shouted, "Not funny."

The pair, who said they were from Israel, then endured their fellow audience members shouting expletives ("f--- off" among them), and telling them to go – with slow handclaps, boos and cries of "genocidal maniac", "you're not welcome" and "free Palestine" part of the toxic mix.

In the past, I've had time for Hunter, a free-thinking outsider, who has lived in the UK since 1997. Amid a climate of censoriousness and offence taking, his determination to tackle difficult subjects, without mincing his words, has usefully tested limits and galvanised debate. He's no stranger to controversy: he was accused of anti-Semitism at the 2006 Fringe for Holocaust material and has attracted ire for alleged misogyny and his use of the "N-word", whether in show titles, shows or a furore-attracting hosting of the Professional Footballers' Association gala dinner in 2013.

But here he gave an object lesson in how not to pick on people in the front row. Instead of tolerating the couple's joint heckle, he doubled down with a sinister air of beaming bellicosity: "I've been waiting for you all summer, where the f--- you been?" He continued: "You can say it's not funny to you, but if you say it to a room full of people who laughed, you look foolish."

"Look at you making everyone love Israel even more," he jeered, after the woman remonstrated with the audience.

"That tells me that I still got voltage," he purred, with satisfaction, after the pair left, slowly (it turned out that the man was disabled, not that this caused a flicker of restraint in the host, who openly laughed at them). He then related a remark that his female partner had made at the time of the Holocaust controversy about accessing *The Jewish Chronicle*'s website: "Typical f---ing Jews, they won't tell you anything unless you subscribe." "It's just a joke," he added. Earlier, amid typically laid-back ruminations on the riots, Trump, religious extremism and "excessive punditry", he spoke of the need for a man not to get too innocuously "fluffy" with age. But if countenancing a mob mentality and purveying an anti-Semitic trope is what passes for edgy in his book, then I've had my fill.

> In the past I've had time for Hunter, but if this is what passes for edgy in his book, I've had my fill

Until Aug 26 (not 14, 21). Tickets: edfringe.com



DAVID BAGNALL/ALAMY

The audience at Reginald D Hunter's show bayed at an Israeli couple

Strictly no snowflakes: these celebrities are tough

The crisis-ridden BBC show needs credibility – and this year's line-up might help to rebuild it, says *Ed Power*



September is fast approaching, which means the unveiling of the latest *Strictly Come Dancing* line-up. But this year is different. After several controversies, including a formal complaint against professional dancer Giovanni Pernice by his celebrity partner Amanda Abbington, it is clear the show needs to rebuild its brand. Indeed, such was the extent of the crisis that many speculated that the show would be postponed.

Whether the BBC has some sort of grand strategy to repair the reputational damage is hard to say. Nonetheless, the 2024 line-up is a potentially inspiring bunch who have the raw material to turn their *Strictly* journey into a triumph over daunting odds. There are no snowflakes here: this is a battle-hardened line-up with backbone. The celebrities are – deep breath – JLS singer and presenter JB Gill, opera singer Wynne Evans, punk star Toyah Willcox, telly doctor Punam Krishan, model and TV personality Tasha Ghouri, reality TV star and podcast host Pete Wicks, singer Shayne Ward, actress Sarah Hadland, actor Jamie Borthwick, Olympic swimming champ Tom Dean, comedian Chris McCausland, Gladiator Montell Douglas (aka "Fire"), DIY expert Nick Knowles, former footballer and commentator on gambling addiction Paul Merson, and Olympic-winning hockey player and presenter Sam Quek.

It's easy to see the appeal to the BBC of these would-be hoofers. Consider former *X Factor* contestant Shayne Ward, for whom the pressure of performing in front of millions of viewers each week should be a breeze – he has, after all, endured the laser-beam death gaze of Simon Cowell. Compared with that, the odd withering comment from *Strictly* meanie-in-chief Craig Revel Horwood ought to be like water off a duck's back.

There is also a lot of inspiring potential in Toyah Willcox, a true survivor of the punk era who has remained a celebrity favourite due to her versatility as an actress and performer. A successful run on the series by Willcox would prove punk is still alive and kicking – and pulling off a more than passable pasodoble.

At 66, Willcox is the eldest contestant, but Knowles is only five years her junior. The *DIY SOS* presenter could well go far. There is a toughness, a devil-may-care attitude to Knowles, but he is also someone who we know is willing to show his emotions quite readily.

Elsewhere, the line-up is notable for having three Olympians, the most the series has boasted in its history. Sportsmen obviously have nerves of steel, which makes them perfect candidates for the increasingly tough show, and Quek, Douglas and Dean are good casting inasmuch as they can stay the distance, but also each adds something very different to the celebrity mix.

> There are three Olympians, the most the series has boasted in its history

Then there is Chris McCausland, the popular comic, who lost his sight at 22, following years of deterioration from retinitis pigmentosa. Three years ago, *Strictly* created history when Rose Ayling-Ellis became the first deaf contestant on the show. Now it's doing so all over again with McCausland, who is the first blind *Strictly* dancer. It is a reminder that, beyond the amazing choreography, *Strictly*'s appeal lies in its ability to tell inspiring stories and show us those who are prepared to push against the odds to accomplish feats of which they never imagined themselves capable.

That narrative is likely to appeal to BBC executives as they work at shoring up *Strictly*'s credibility as family-friendly fare and keeping the fun factor front and centre. Restoring the spark to *Strictly* is a challenge as daunting as mastering the cha-cha-cha when with two left feet. But by unveiling a line-up of dark horses and strivers who know all about going above and beyond, the broadcaster has given itself the best possible chance. The rest is up to viewers.

'Strictly Come Dancing' returns to BBC One in September

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A frail Barenboim offers a night of hope

BBC Proms 2024

Daniel Barenboim/ West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

Royal Albert Hall, London SW7

★★★★½

By Ivan Hewett

I have sometimes seen miracles at the Royal Albert Hall, and until now they've always been of the musical kind. They're performances of such spellbinding power you know you'll remember them forever. On Sunday, a different sort of miracle occurred. On stage, 60 musicians gathered, half of them from Israel, half from various Arab countries (for security reasons, no list of players appeared in the programme).

They were members of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, created in 1999 by the Palestinian activist and scholar Edward Said and the Argentine-Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim. For the orchestra to keep going right now, in the midst of the Israel-Gaza war, is a triumph. One can only imagine the potential tensions during rehearsals since October 7. But this concert, though short on sheer excitement, gave every evidence of subtle rehearsal.

Barenboim and Said always insisted they weren't trying to bring peace to the Middle East, but wanted to show that if Arabs and Israelis work together, it may open a door to dialogue.

The other miracle was the appearance of Barenboim himself. Diagnosed with a neurological disorder in 2022, it is only by sheer force of will that he keeps performing. But he is no longer the forceful figure we knew so well. When the 81-year-old came on stage to thunderous applause to conduct Brahms's *Violin Concerto*, he leaned on the arm of soloist Anne-Sophie Mutter.



BBC/CHRIS CHRISTODOULOU

The performance of the first movement was measured in tempo. Barenboim's beat barely stirred, like a leaf on a windless day. But the



SIMON ACKERMAN/WIREIMAGE; KEN MCKAY/ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY; BBC/PA

Strivers: (clockwise from top left) Montell Douglas, Toyah Willcox, Nick Knowles, Tom Dean and Chris McCausland

Bob Marley's son proves he's a chip off the old block

Pop

Damian Marley and Steel Pulse

Crystal Palace Bowl, London SE19

★★★★☆

By Ian Winwood

At the end of a long evening of dancing and merriment at the Crystal Palace Bowl, an unnamed MC paid tribute to a great. "On June 7 1980," he announced, "Bob Marley appeared for the last time in London, right here on this stage." Close enough. Actually, it was beneath the rust-coloured platform upon which Marley's son Damian, 44 years later, merged a selection of his old man's best material with his own Caribbean reggae and Jamaican dancehall to the delight of a busy audience gathered in tacit opposition to the very idea that multiculturalism has failed. Riot all you want, their presence seemed to say – we'll just dance.

It was down to Steel Pulse, the night's main support, to make the point explicit. As the summer sun began slipping into its evening wear, the Birmingham group paused their set to bemoan the fact that almost half a century after the release of politically charged bangers such as *Ku Klux Klan* and *Handsworth Revolution*, these dreadlocked Midlanders are still "fighting racism in 2024". "Keep supporting reggae music," lead vocalist David Hinds told the audience. "Don't let it die."

An hour later, as luck would have it, the material was deathless. Amplified by a resonant sound system, and with a watertight band at his back, the prowess of the evening's headliner was such that on a balmy August night, Damian Marley's own material – a pulsating *Welcome to Jamrock*, near the end of the 90-minute set, for one – stood dreadlock to dreadlock with the songs of his father. Damian was just two when Bob died. He never really knew the man. It could be, then, that the vivid reimaginings of standards such as *Exodus* and *Get Up, Stand Up* were a kind of musical offering in the memory of an icon who, for him, never quite existed. Certainly, the evening benefited from these classics being delivered in a manner more imaginative than mere karaoke facsimiles. With their elongated sections and modern arrangements, the experience amounted to more than mere familial nostalgia.



OLIVER GOODRICH

Standing up for Bob: Damian Marley put his own stamp on his father's classic songs

Whichever way you look at it, though, it's quite the legacy.

As curfew approached, at 10.30pm, the night closed out with 1980's *Could You Be Loved*, another timeless song bearing a sentiment that holds as true today as it did in the moment it was written. "Only, only," sang Damian Marley, "only the fittest of the fittest shall survive." With much of the evening's set now well into comfortable middle age, the older songs have survived with ease. The work of the younger Marley, meanwhile, may well do the same.

No further dates



Moving moments: Barenboim conducting his remarkable orchestra

fact that he conducted this and Schubert's "Great" *Symphony No 9* from memory showed that mentally he's as alert as ever. However, all eyes and ears were on Mutter. In the past I've found her steely perfection more admirable than moving, but something about the occasion unlocked a deeper vein of feeling.

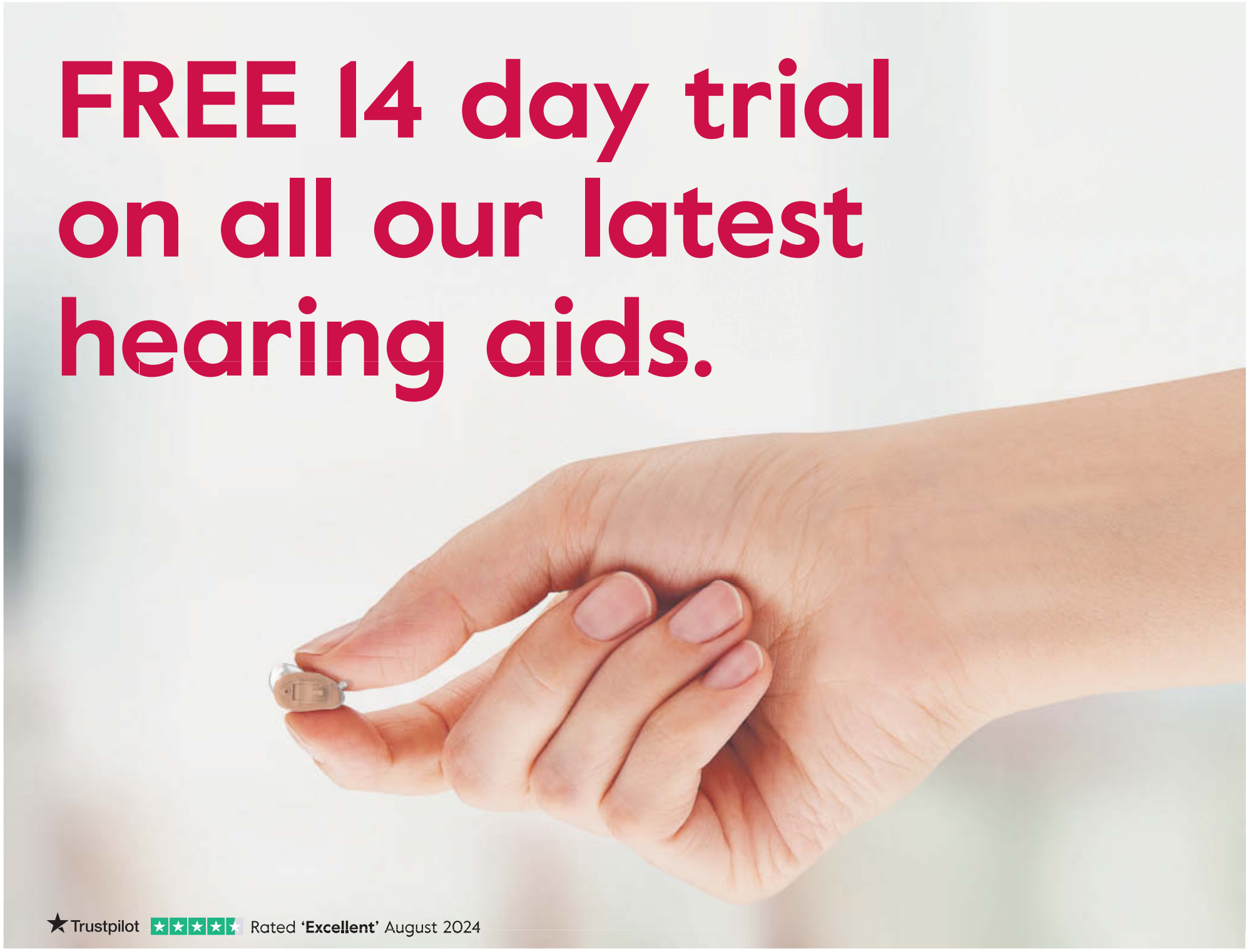
In Schubert's symphony, the orchestra supported the ailing visionary who'd made all this possible. And how well they fulfilled it, coming to life with beautiful expressive solo playing in the slow movement from the wind players, and a beautifully soft-grained unanimity that made the many repetitions and longueurs enjoyable.

In the Scherzo and Finale they summoned an adrenal excitement that briefly lit a fire in Barenboim himself. But the most moving moment came afterwards, when all the players hugged each other. Watching that incredible sight, one felt the stirrings of hope.

The Proms continues until Sept 14



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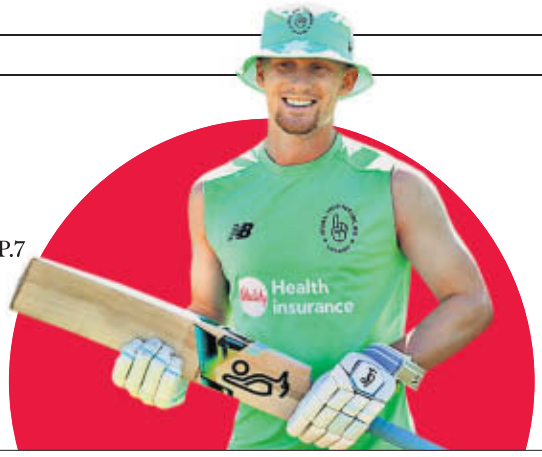
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Sport

Stokes' replacement?

How grisly finger injury fuelled Cox's Test dream P.7





GETTY IMAGES

Gold medal-winning shooter Nathan Hales (fifth from left) is surrounded by Team GB athletes showing off their Olympic medals on their arrival back at St Pancras International station in London

All smiles

Welcome home for GB medallists

Zubimendi snubs Liverpool

FOOTBALL

Huge blow for Slot as £51m midfielder stays at Sociedad

Manager still to make signing after taking over from Klopp

By **Mike McGrath**

Liverpool have been dealt a major blow in their summer recruitment plans after Martin Zubimendi decided to stay at Real Sociedad.

The Spain midfielder, 25, had been identified as a primary target to line up as a deep-lying midfield playmaker in the system of Arne Slot in his first season after succeeding Jurgen Klopp as manager.

Slot at this stage of his first window is unlikely to move for an alternative midfielder. Zubimendi, who was in the Spain team who won the European Championship last month, was seen as a player with a profile to suit the No6 role.

With Liverpool starting their Premier League season away to Ipswich on Saturday, they are likely to stick with the midfielders they have rather than sign a player who does not fit the profile needed.

Zubimendi had a buyout clause of about £51million and Liverpool had initially been given encouragement that he would be willing to move to Merseyside. Sociedad manager Imanol Alguacil has held a series of meetings with Zubimendi since the interest emerged and has helped persuade him to stay, citing his lifestyle and fan reaction among the factors to consider.

Earlier yesterday, it was confirmed to Liverpool that Zubimendi would stay at Reale Arena, where he came up through the ranks and became a regular over the past four seasons. Slot is likely to stick with the midfielders he has, with Ryan Gravenberch and Curtis Jones competing for a place alongside established first-team players Alexis Mac Allister and Dominik Szoboszlai, while Trent Alexander-Arnold has played in midfield for England and Wataru Endo will also be available.



Rejection: Martin Zubimendi has turned down the chance to be Arne Slot's first signing at Anfield

Zubimendi was billed as a player who can control matches from central midfield, which is a position Slot has looked to strengthen following his appointment to succeed Klopp from this season. While Rodri was crowned Uefa's player of the tournament at the Euros, Zubimendi was seen as a player with similar qualities and when called upon in the final had a key role for Spain despite the blow of losing their key player. He helped Sociedad finish sixth last season, while also reaching the last 16 of the Champions League. He played 45 times for his club in all competitions.

Slot has yet to make a major signing after arriving from Feyenoord, with Thiago Alcantara and Joel Matip leaving the first-team set-up in the summer, along with forward Fabio Carvalho, who joined Brentford last night for an initial £22.5million, with a further £5million in add-ons.

Gallagher in limbo: Page 9

Hits and misses Athletes not picked for GB squad and how their season bests compare to Paris finals

MEN'S HAMMER UK Athletics qualifying standard **77.50m**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Jake Norris (bottom) **77.37m**
Keneth Ikeji (below) **77.12m**
(lifetime PB 77.92m)

Distance needed to qualify for 12-person Olympic final 75.25m

WOMEN'S DISCUS UK Athletics qualifying standard **63.20m**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Jade Lally **63.15m**
(lifetime PB 65.10m)

Distance needed to qualify for 12-person Olympic final 62.63m

WOMEN'S 5,000M UK Athletics qualifying standard **14min 52sec**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Hannah Nuttall **14min 52.65sec**

Slowest time qualified for 15-person Olympic final 15min 2.89sec

WOMEN'S HAMMER UK Athletics qualifying standard **72.36m**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Anna Purchase **71.79m** (PB of 73.02m)

Distance needed to qualify for 12-person Olympic final 71.06m

MEN'S 3,000M STEEPLECHASE
UK Athletics qualifying standard **8min 18.50sec**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Phil Norman **8min 18.65sec**

Slowest time qualified for 16-person Olympic final 8min 25.28sec





Divisive selection policy 'will be the end of field events in Britain'

Athletes whose personal bests would have put them in finals were left behind after failing to hit UK Athletics standards

By **Jeremy Wilson**
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER
in Paris

Meet Jake Norris. He is 25, the British hammer-throwing champion and a former world under-20 champion and European youth silver medallist. He qualified for a first Olympic Games through his world ranking and has thrown the distance that would have reached the 12-man final in Paris on eight occasions this year.

Norris's mother is Swiss and he could have breezed into their Olympic team but he was born in England and wanted to represent Great Britain. With no external funding, he combines training with working at the clothes store Superdry. He also spends two evenings a week coaching junior athletes at his local Windsor, Slough and Eton Club.

Norris, however, was denied the chance to compete at his first Olympic Games because he missed – by 13 centimetres – an additional selection standard that UK Athletics had imposed.

He was one of seven athletes in six events in which Team GB had no entrant in Paris as a result of UK Athletics' policy. However, five of those seven – all deemed "qualified" on their world rankings – would have reached their Olympic final based on their best performances this year. Phil Norman would also have progressed with the time he ran at the national trials depending on the 3,000-metre steeplechase heat he was in, while Amelia Campbell's personal best would have made the shot-put final.

Beneath the shine of the 10 Olympic medals – the most by a British athletics team since the 1984 Games – there is outrage at the situation and a concerted push to overhaul the policy ahead of next year's World Championships in Tokyo. A petition calling for all qualified athletes to be taken to the Games has been signed by more than 10,000 people. Swedish athletes are trying to take a similar policy to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"I know I am risking loss of funding and future bias for speaking out about this issue; however, I would be doing myself, my fellow athletes, and future athletes a disservice if I didn't try to make a change," said Anna Purchase, a 24-year-old hammer thrower who was Olympic-qualified via her world ranking but missed out because, despite throwing UK Athletics' standard last year, she was 54cm off this year. Her current personal best would have been only 1.25m short of a medal in Paris. Purchase is also second on Great Britain's all-time list, but says she is unsure whether to continue.

"My heart hurts a little each time I see a post about the Olympics on social media or watch the results," she said. "It's made my motivation

WOMEN'S SHOT
UK Athletics qualifying standard **18.67m**

GB qualified by world ranking and their 2024 best
Amelia Campbell **18.03m**
(PB of 18.18m)

Distance needed to qualify for 12-person Olympic final 18.16m



to train and continue in the sport very confusing, and it has been a real mental battle to figure out what I want to do next. I truly believe I could have made the final.

"Almost everyone I've spoken to, including fellow athletes and sports fans, have been horrified to hear what British Athletics has done to its own athletes. Why would young athletes be inspired to take up a sport when there is no British representation? Especially when those who have rightfully qualified are barred from competing by British Athletics. If this continues, I truly believe it will be the end of athletics in our country – or at least for the field events."

There is also a feeling that the policy has led to people in field events facing disproportionately high standards. A time of 9.94sec was needed to reach the men's 100m final in Paris, for example, and yet the UK Athletics Olympic standard is 10.02. Similarly, the men's 400m had a qualification standard of 45.00sec when 44.41 was actually needed to reach the final. A significant proportion of track athletes did not reach individual finals but there was major success in the relay events, which accounted for half the medals, and much positive feedback for the work of head coach Paula Dunn.

UK Athletics says that policy is designed to maximise top-eight finishes and medal chances. Numerous people in British athletics fear it is having the opposite effect, particularly when you consider the longer-term impact and the missed experience for younger athletes such as Norris, Purchase and Kenneth Ikeji who, at 21, has already thrown a distance that is the third-best hammer result in British history and would have been tied for sixth in Paris.

"Surely Team GB should be taking the whole team that gets their Olympic invitation rather than destroying a number of athletes' Olympic dreams," said Darren Steer, a former thrower who acts as an unpaid representative for Norris. "Most other countries will take as many people as possible. Our kids are saying, 'Where are the GB athletes?' It's a tragic injustice. People see what is happening and get disillusioned. It needs a sea change."

Norris said he was initially angered by the situation and, like every affected athlete, would have found a way to self-fund his participation if cost were the issue. "All my family would have gone," he said.

In a column defending the policy, UK Athletics chair Ian Beattie cited cost, a belief that tough standards drive up performances, and said he agreed with the argument that "an athlete getting to the Olympics with little chance of qualifying from their heat or pool, does not have a significant impact on inspiring the nation, and therefore does not merit public funding".

Leaving aside how Paris results suggest the affected athletes largely could have reached their finals, Beattie's description of what it might take to inspire has proved deeply controversial.

Norris, who coaches children at his local club, says he received messages of support from five young people after being left out of the Games. "How many people do you have to inspire to be worth public funding?" he said. "Getting to the Olympics would be a huge deal to my club and local community."

Jade Lally, a discus thrower whose personal best would have put her fifth in Paris, also believes an additional UK Athletics standard beyond the world rankings just worsens performance and potential because of the pressure all season of needing that one big throw.

Jack Buckner, the UK Athletics chief executive, warned last year that there would be a shift in Olympic and World Championships policy with likely smaller teams and a particular focus on what he called the "big-hitters". UK Athletics announced a £3.7million loss in its most recent accounts but has previously suggested the policy is not linked to money.

The Paris policy was first published in July last year and part of its rationale was to introduce measurable standards that eliminated more discretionary decisions. The standards were created and circulated by the UK Athletics event group lead and aimed to reflect the expected requirement to progress within the event.

Jessica Ennis-Hill



Lyles splits opinion but he is great for athletics

The Olympic Games in Paris were incredible. The atmosphere was amazing and every venue was full; there was a real buzz of excitement. Hopefully a lot of young kids were watching, seeing sports they do not see very often and believing they can go on and be part of something like this amazing event.

You need great personalities to get the public interested in athletics and be aware of who everyone is, and Noah Lyles is a great personality for the sport. He has a strong persona and that divides people's opinions. Some people think he is too much, very vocal and very showy, but he is great for the sport and showcases it in a different way.

Letsile Tebogo, who won the 200 metres, is a very different personality but he is still winning medals and doing amazing things. It is about being true to who they are. Not everyone has to have a big personality like Noah, but he has really got people watching, whether they like his showmanship or not.

Keely Hodgkinson is another great personality and her gold medal is massive for athletics. She brings a lot of people into the sport, not just young kids who want to emulate what she is doing but new audiences because she has a strong personality and delivers on the track.

I worked with Michael Johnson for the BBC during the Olympics and he is also hoping to get people racing more frequently by creating a Grand Slam Track league. It is about having more occasions in the season where you bring the big names together to race more often. Take the women's 400m hurdles in Paris – it was the first time Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Femke Bol had raced each other for such a long time.

Michael wants to have more consistent points throughout the season where we see the best compete. It is about trying to evolve the sport. His plan is a little controversial because it is just track events and I would love to see that developed in the future because certain field events are incredible too, but what he is trying to create is a great idea for the sport.

We need to have more high-profile events. Athletics drums up all the excitement around the Olympics and then the next big event is not until the World Championships in September next year. It is good to have touch points throughout the season where the great athletes race and big rivalries develop so that



GETTY

Vocal: The sport needs competitors such as Noah Lyles to take it forward

the sport is more present in the public eye.

Lots of things are starting to happen now to grow athletics – the documentary on Netflix, Michael's series… the sport has realised it needs to do more to celebrate the amazing athletes who are doing incredible things on the track. It is about trying to evolve the sport in a positive way and get more eyes on it, new fans, and that is a really good.

Looking at GB's performances in Paris, we got the most medals in athletics since 1984 with 10. That is amazing. A lot of money, energy and time has been put into the relays and they all brought back medals.

> Keely Hodgkinson brings a lot of people into the sport. She has a strong personality and delivers on the track

It was brilliant to see Katarina Johnson-Thompson finally get an Olympic medal. She has been on such a journey, especially at Olympic level. She has spoken about the disappointments she has had at the Games and there was a worry that would become something she could not get past, but her performances were so good across all the events.

It was her fourth Olympics and she is still doing personal bests. She is so competitive and technically strong, going up against Nafi Thiam, and she was so close to gold.

Of course, we would have loved another gold or two – and we were very nearly there in some of the finals. It could be the start of something great with athletes across the board, although it would be good to see more British representation in the field events.

The near-misses show how hard it is at the Olympic Games. You can have the greatest season but to win an Olympic gold medal is so hard. Josh Kerr was so close and he will go away even more focused; his appetite for gold will become even greater. Kat has said if she is still competitive she wants to continue and she has that appetite to go for gold.

Molly Caudery suffered disappointment in qualifying for the pole vault but she will want to come back and not make the same mistake. Matt Hudson-Smith was so close in the 400m, Quincy Hall just came out of nowhere like a train in those last 20 metres and there was still not a lot in it. All four of them will continue pushing for medals so we are in a good place and it is about keeping the momentum going. Hopefully we will see more athletes turn silver into gold in 2028, like Keely did in Paris.

My Olympics highlights? Obviously Keely winning gold from a GB perspective – that was amazing. I also loved watching Sydney; I have not seen her competing very often and she is such a focused and determined athlete. She puts so much distance between herself and the rest of the field, even when up against someone such as Bol, who is an incredible athlete. Sydney is at a completely different level and breaking world records.

She also won gold in the 4x400m relay and is a phenomenal athlete, so she could do other events. It was also amazing to see Katy Marchant win gold in the cycling. I used to train with her and she is fantastic.

Sport
Olympic Games

Daley fights back tears over retirement

Five-time Olympian feels 'overwhelmed' calling it a day

Diver encourages more gay athletes to come forward

By **Tom Morgan**
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Tom Daley broke down in tears after he announced his retirement from Olympic diving in emotional scenes as Team GB returned from Paris yesterday.

The normally talkative five-time Olympian struggled to find his words as television cameras stopped him after he arrived by Eurostar at London's St Pancras International station.

"It's hard to talk about," he told the BBC before pausing to force back tears, adding that it felt "overwhelming" to finally be calling it a day.

After composing himself, Daly added: "It's a lot, but I'm really happy with how everything's gone. I just think it's always hard when you say goodbye to your sport. Lots of things to process, but it's the right time.

"This year felt like such a bonus. I got to compete in front of my family, my kids, and I got to be flag bearer. Bucket list ticked off on every occasion."

Daley's crowning achievement was a gold in the 10-metre synchronised event alongside Matty Lee in Tokyo three years ago. After fulfilling his lifetime goal, Daley took two years out of diving before being persuaded to return to the pool when his son Robbie, now aged six, said he wanted to see his father dive at an Olympic Games.

Daley's film director-husband Dustin Lance Black, Robbie and their youngest son, Phoenix, were watching as he claimed silver in Paris with partner Noah Williams.

"I like to think they're very proud of me," he said, before joking about his emotions: "I didn't realise I wouldn't be able to actually speak. It's not very like me. I am happy… it's just hard to talk when you have loved something so much."

Daley, 30, retires as Team GB's most decorated diver in Olympic history. The nation has watched him grow up as he made his bow at Beijing 2008, winning bronzes in London and Rio, a gold and bronze in Tokyo and then a silver in Paris.

"The support that I've had from Great Britain has been so incredible," he said looking back on a career in which he was left grieving his father's death in 2011. He sparked global attention in 2013 when he came out in a video posted on YouTube.

"Thank you to everyone that's just been there for me throughout the whole of this. I guess it's an era, but you know, I can look back on my 23 years and be very proud."

Daley had first confirmed his retirement yesterday morning in a British *Vogue* interview in which he encouraged more gay athletes to come forward to break sport's "heteronormative" dominance. He welcomed that "with every Olympics there are more and more out athletes" but suggested some may not have come out because of the pressure of being seen as an "activist".

Opening up on his decision to announce he was gay in 2013, Daley said he felt it was necessary after a tabloid headline read: "Tom Daley: 'I'm not gay'." "It infuriated me that somebody would say that," he told *Vogue*. "I never wanted to be seen as lying or hiding from who I was."

He said it has since been "powerful" to see more athletes come out, but he added: "I think there is a lot of pressure for when people do come out to be an activist and to be outspoken. And sometimes that's just not in some people's nature. I think this might be part of the reason why possibly more people haven't felt as comfortable with coming out.

"I also think that [the world of sport] is such a heteronormative space… lots of queer kids, when they're younger, have this automatic feeling that they shouldn't fit into sports, so they don't pursue them. I hope we'll see more in the future."



PA

Last hurrah: Tom Daley competes alongside Noah Williams in Paris in what proved to be his swansong

Briton's medals

London 2012
10m platform

Rio 2016
10m synchro

Tokyo 2020
10m platform
10m synchro

Paris 2024
10m synchro

Cricket and football teams could boost GB medal haul

By **Jeremy Wilson**

The British Olympic Association wants men's and women's football and cricket teams at Los Angeles 2028, when the country's national summer sport will make its debut in the modern Games.

As part of their review into the dip in gold medals in Paris, albeit with another huge overall medal haul, the BOA and UK Sport are looking at how to maximise podium opportunities and are enthused by the introduction of popular UK sports such as cricket, squash and lacrosse.

There is a determination for the various national football associations to work together on creating a men's team in the same way as the women, who missed out on qualification for the tournament in Paris.

Britain have had a men's football team at the Olympics only once in the past 60 years, when Stuart Pearce led a squad captained by Ryan Giggs at London 2012.

"It's something I would dearly love to happen," said Andy Anson, the chief executive of the BOA, and a former commercial director at Manchester United. "I would like to work with the FA, with the Scottish FA, with the Welsh and the Northern Irish FA.

"It would be brilliant for football. I think seeing the women's team compete is brilliant, and I would love to see the men's team compete in the same way."

There is also an expectation that cricket's governing bodies will support a Team GB, in the same way as professionalised sports such as golf and tennis have established themselves in the Olympics. The Olympic cricket tournament in LA is expected to be a Twenty20 format.

"We've got good experience in golf, in rugby, in women's football, of how the four nations can come together and nominate one country to be the main governing body, and work with the other countries," Anson said. "I think cricket will be the same. The ECB [England and Wales Cricket Board] will be at the centre of that. They'll have to work with Cricket Scotland to make sure that happens. And we will help them sign agreements to create a single national governing body.

"We are working very closely with the ECB to make them become a fully fledged National Olympic Committee member."

Anson had particular praise for how rowing and athletics had vastly improved in Paris and believes boxing's dip was largely cyclical because of a young team and how the Tokyo medallists all turned professional.

With no British representative in breaking – which has been removed from LA – he also emphasised the world-class potential in the other new sports for 2028. "I think our women's team is in the top three in the world in lacrosse," he said. "In flag football, we're in the top few in the world in the women's section. In squash, we've got men and women in the top 10 in the world."

Sport
Olympic Games



ICON SPORTSWIRE; AP

What we know about LA 2028: no cars and base 360 miles away

Hello squash, welcome back cricket, and why fleet of buses will take the strain when Games return to Los Angeles

By **Tom Morgan**

Sports
For the first time since 1900, cricket will be played at the Games, this time in its T20 format in Los Angeles in 2028. Lacrosse is also making a comeback after more than a century with a new format featuring teams of six, rather than 10. Traditional American fans are also catered for, with the return of baseball for men and softball for women after their Paris omissions.

Sports making debuts at the Games include squash, after years of campaigning; flag football, a non-contact version of American football with smaller players; and a new Paralympic discipline, para climbing.

Surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing, recently introduced to the Games, will continue, alongside the core sports, but breaking, which debuted at Paris, has been dropped.

The biggest uncertainty over the coming years will concern boxing, which descended further into crisis following the gender row in Paris. The International Olympic Committee has not yet included the sport in the LA 2028 programme and has urged national federations to create a new global boxing body or risk missing out.

More than 50 Olympic and Paralympic sports will be contested across 800-plus events.

Venues
Los Angeles joins Paris and London as a three-time host city, and the plan is to follow the French capital's example in using as much existing infrastructure as possible.

The Coliseum, which hosted in 1932 and 1984, and the new SoFi Stadium, a 70,200-seat home of the NFL's Rams and Chargers, will be the most prominently used venues.

Other existing sites earmarked for use include LA Galaxy's football home. Long Beach waterfront will also be a popular draw for some of the outdoor water-based sports.

SoFi Stadium, in the suburb of Inglewood, will be converted to host the swimming races, with a resplendent pool added.

Basketball will take over the new Intuit Dome arena opening this month; and events will be held in the San Fernando Valley for the first time with the BMX, skateboarding and archery competitions. The athletes' village, meanwhile, will be based in student housing at the University of California.



Ring the changes: Lacrosse will make its return in LA; (below) LA mayor Karen Bass returns from Paris

Transport
Los Angeles has been promising a "car-free" Games since it won the bid in 2017. Plans for a major rail upgrade have been shelved and organisers are now plotting to flood the city with buses to ferry people around a relatively large footprint of venues.

Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass insisted on Saturday that the Games could go carless. "We're already working to create jobs by expanding our public transportation system in order for us to have a no-car Games," she said. "And that's a feat for Los Angeles, as we've always been in love with our cars. We're working to ensure that we can build a greener Los Angeles."

Public transport will be the only way to access Olympic venues. Bass plans to use 3,000 buses borrowed from other US cities, and to ask businesses to allow their employees to work from home during the Games. Tom Bradley was mayor of Los Angeles in 1984 and had local businesses stagger their workforce hours to reduce the number of cars on the road.

Team GB base
As Team GB embark on what they hope will be a fifth successive 60-plus medal haul, there is huge excitement that they have secured the "world-class surroundings" of Stanford University. The base is 360 miles north-west of Los Angeles, but the British Olympic Association believes the state-of-the-art facilities will make the 5½-hour drive worthwhile.

Around 300 GB athletes are set to train there prior to and during the Games, with specific facilities for archery, athletics, aquatics, badminton, boxing, cricket, fencing, football, gymnastics, hockey, judo, lacrosse, rugby sevens, squash, table tennis and weightlifting.

"In securing Stanford University's facilities, I can quite honestly say that we will have access to the very best preparation camp facilities that Team GB could wish to have in the United States," Andy Anson, the Team GB chief executive, said.

Stars
Keely Hodgkinson, who won gold in the women's 800 metres in Paris, will be 26 and her coaching team believe she has world-record times in her sights over the coming years. Sky Brown, twice an Olympic bronze medallist, will be only 20 by 2028 and is tipped to win big either on a skateboard or in surfing. We can also expect France's Leon Marchand, 22, to again take the pool by storm, having secured four golds in Paris.

Noah Lyles, the 100m champion, will see LA 2028 as his crowning moment as he attempts to emulate US compatriot Carl Lewis by retaining the Olympic title.

Overall, for Team GB there is a changing of the guard. Some of their best Olympians – Adam Peaty, Max Whitlock and Helen Glover – have all signalled that they will not be back, while Tom Daley has confirmed his retirement.

Business uncertainty
The most recent budget forecasts predict expenditure of £5.5 billion. Such estimates come with a pinch of salt. London 2012 cost £8.77 billion – more than 3½ times the original budget of £2.4 billion – although there was a lot more work required than in Los Angeles.

The 1984 Games was one of the few in history to turn a profit, but some local groups are pessimistic that LA 2028 can be so financially viable.

NOlympics LA, a group formed in 2017, points out that every Olympic host city since 1960 has spent more than planned, often leaving them with the bill for cost overruns. "We will try to mitigate whatever harm comes as a result of this bid, such as displacement, destruction and no accountability," said Steven Louis, an organiser with NOlympics LA. "We believe there can be a movement to get LA out of this."

However, Los Angeles tourism chiefs insist costs will be worthwhile, pointing out sports now generate 10 per cent of the world's expenditure on tourism, with an estimated growth rate of 17.5 per cent in recent years.

Simon Heffer



Crazy that England could lose Stokes to injury in Hundred

Allowing Test captain to play Mickey Mouse format of the game is down to imbeciles who run professional cricket

Any A-level economics student will tell you all about the idea of opportunity cost. Put simply, if you spent a certain amount of money on a pint of beer, then you cannot use it to buy several packets of crisps. The opportunity cost of the Hundred has been dire for English cricket since it began three years ago. You cannot play high-quality serious (ie first-class) matches at the same time that your best cricketers are cavorting in Mickey Mouse matches for the entertainment of nine-year-olds. And now we know there is an even worse cost.

As Ben Stokes was carried off the field at Old Trafford on Sunday with a suspected hamstring injury, the opportunity cost of his turning out to add some glamour to Northern Superchargers became horribly clear. Stokes is highly unlikely to be able to play at the same ground tomorrow week when England take on Sri Lanka in the first game of their three-Test series. Indeed, he is highly unlikely to be able to play in any of the three Tests, so closely scheduled are they.

So, the Hundred – a format I suspect is doomed because of the rest of the world's utter lack of interest in it, with the only just-less absurd T20 as king – has dealt a triple blow to serious cricket in this country. England have lost a superb batsman, a penetrating bowler and an adventurous captain, all because the cash-crazed imbeciles who run professional cricket thought it was a good idea to showcase him in a thoroughly pointless game on a Sunday evening. Why is this nonsense allowed to happen?

The rationale for the Hundred was that it would get people who were not interested in cricket to become so, which is a bit like saying that if you avidly read Mills and Boon romances you will end up a devotee of the novels of George Eliot, Flaubert and Dostoyevsky. One or two might; most will not; and thus the great game of cricket is sacrificed to provide the lightest of light entertainment, a form of the game whose inanities do not prevent it causing serious damage.

There is a desperate effort to boost interest and investment in the Hundred. In a few weeks' time, even MCC members, the standard-bearers of tradition, will be asked to decide whether their venerable club should take a highly subsidised stake in the format. I hope they will not, and only partly because it is so self-evidently not for the good of the game.

The Hundred is scheduled to run until 2028, when the television deal with Sky expires. India, because of their sheer wealth in this respect, control the future of short-form cricket. Their own T20 is the most successful in the world and the format has now been exported around the world, notably to America. The Hundred is, quite simply, the Betamax of white-ball cricket to T20's VHS. It will suffer the same fate.

The decline in the standard of Test cricket is rapidly killing it, and it might be a higher priority for the game's authorities to do what it can to stop that. The recent West Indies series might have been an embarrassment for the tourists, but it was another handful of nails in the coffin of the highest form of the game.

I have looked in vain for anyone predicting an exciting series with Sri Lanka, though with Stokes likely not to be playing the sides might be evened up a little. At least this is not an August entirely without first-class cricket to watch, as last year's shamefully was. But what has happened to Stokes, robbing England of their star cricketer for the most futile of reasons just before a Test series, ought to be another warning to those in charge that they have to think far more strategically about the future of cricket.

It may well be that Test cricket has to be pared back to just half a dozen countries if it is to survive; but if it is to work even then there must be a shift in the balance in those countries. It means more first-class cricket and less white-ball. It means making the first-class game more dynamic, and perhaps attracting younger people to it by giving free tickets to full-time students – after all, they would not be depriving anyone else of a seat. But it also means considering two codes, as I have been arguing in these pages for years, so that men essential to our Test side do not cripple themselves in a Mickey Mouse match and prevent themselves taking part.

We can go on like this, and I fear we shall, but the game as we know it will soon be dead if we do.



Blow: Ben Stokes is helped off the field (right) after sustaining an injury playing for Northern Superchargers

Woakes withdrawn All-rounder pulled out of Birmingham Phoenix matches to protect fitness

Chris Woakes will play no part in this year's Hundred as his fitness is protected following Test captain Ben Stokes's injury.

Stokes pulled up running between the wickets playing for Northern Superchargers on Sunday. He later left Old Trafford on crutches, with a scan on his hamstring injury delayed until today, in part because the area remains swollen.

England's first Test against Sri Lanka, at Old Trafford, begins a week tomorrow, with Stokes appearing extremely unlikely to be involved. If he has suffered a bad tear, his season is likely to be over.



Woakes (right) was due to make his first appearances for Birmingham Phoenix this season in their final two group games against Trent Rockets yesterday and Manchester Originals on Thursday, but was withdrawn by the England management to protect his workload.

England said it was not directly related to Stokes's withdrawal. However, Woakes would take on an even greater role if Stokes were ruled out of the Sri Lanka series, possibly including promotion to No7 in the batting order to accommodate an extra seamer.

Another option would be to stack the batting line-up by handing a debut to Jordan Cox, or to select another all-rounder such as Sam Curran.

Will Macpherson

ECB



... but potential replacement Cox is perfect Bazball fit

INTERVIEW

Keeper-batsman reflects on 'disgusting' finger injury that ended up being blessing in disguise for Test ambitions

By **Will Macpherson**
CRICKET NEWS CORRESPONDENT

When Jordan Cox joins up with England's Test team for the first time next week, it is not hard to see him fitting in.

Whether batting or in the field, with or without the gloves, he is a feisty firecracker of a cricketer. The 23-year-old is unafraid of taking the brave option, as he showed when moving from his home county, Kent, to rivals Essex this season, and rarely bites his tongue. Cox is a scratch golfer, too, which just about gives him a full house on the Bazball bingo card.

Cox recounts the call he took from Brendon McCullum, informing him of his call-up for the Sri Lanka series, as he walked through Battersea Park with his girlfriend: "He said I just want to get you around the group, see what you're like in the environment because we want aggressive cricketers, which is what you have been doing. Oh, and bring your golf clubs."

Cox is not yet capped by England – but he has come close. In 2022, he was an unused squad member on a T20 tour of Pakistan, and was on standby for this year's World Cup. Had he not picked up a "revolting" finger injury playing the Hundred last year, he would almost certainly have played both white-ball formats by now.

For the Sri Lanka series, Cox was called up after Zak Crawley's own broken finger led to Dan Lawrence's promotion. A Test bow could now come following the injury to captain Ben Stokes, with white-ball debuts against Australia next month also likely.

"I didn't get a game in Pakistan," Cox says. "I loved the experience, but I was gutted. This time, I'm not going into the Test squad thinking about getting a game. If that happens, great. But I'm thinking, 'How much experience and how much can I learn from these few weeks, playing with the best players?'

"In Pakistan, I learnt more in a month than I have in the rest of my career so far. It will be unbelievable to watch these guys, like Joe Root, go about their business, even in the nets. Pakistan made me desperate to be involved with England again."

Cox admits that he "didn't expect" his Test call-up, "and still doesn't really believe it". Before this season, he had only really considered white-ball international cricket, because his red-ball returns at Kent had been modest.

The move to Essex came because of a logjam of glovemen at Kent which also led England aspirant Ollie Robinson to leave for Durham before three-cap Test keeper Sam Billings retired from red-ball cricket and stepped down as club captain. Suddenly, Kent had lost three outstanding, homegrown County Championship keeper-bats in a couple of years.

For Cox, though, there was a fly in the ointment. That finger injury was so severe that he is only just returning to keeping, so having moved to fill the role, he has played all year as a specialist batsman.

Cox suffered the injury when hit by Adam Milne and "knew something was up because my whole body went into freeze mode". When he removed his glove, the top of the ring finger on his right hand was "next door to my pinkie, like I had two pinkies, the most disgusting thing I've ever seen". He left the field with the injury covered by a towel, so the cameras could not see the state of his finger.

"It didn't feel great, leaving Kent," he says. "To leave some of my best mates who you have a great connection with is sad and emotional. I felt the grass was greener, but I sat on the move, weighing it up for three or four months.

"But when I was injured over the winter, I was thinking, 'Why am I moving?' I've moved from my childhood county to keep. I wasn't getting that guarantee at Kent, with Sam Billings having a sniff in the Test side. They couldn't promise me that, and I wanted that guarantee about what my role was. To get injured at that time, I was wondering have I made the right decision?

"I have always said I would give any role a crack. I want as many strings to my bow as possible. I absolutely love keeping. This month I am allowed to get back into keeping, and it's been tough not doing it this season. But in a way it has been a bit of a blessing because I've focused on my batting."


Gory story: Jordan Cox shows off the finger injury that has put his wicket-keeping on hold for the past year

Cox has settled at No4, replacing Surrey-bound Lawrence at Essex. His average of 34.5 in red-ball cricket for Kent has doubled to 69 for Essex. Kent have been hit hard by his form. In his first meeting with his old county, Cox made 116 not out from 89 balls; in the second, he made 207 from 255.

"Kent had been my club since I was 10, so it did feel brave to accept a new chapter and challenge," he says. "Moving to a new club, I had to impress and prove to people that I could do this. It was a high-profile signing, I was effectively replacing Dan Lawrence. He would score 1,000 runs a year and had been part of a lot of success across formats. I was excited to accept that challenge. I didn't want people to say Dan Lawrence was really missed."

There were two principle reasons for choosing Essex – the first was Jason Gallian. The Australian-born former England batsman has been Cox's coach since he was 13 and arrived at Felsted School as the golf-mad son of two tennis coaches. Cricket soon became his focus under Gallian's stewardship.

"Jason is my coach," he says. "He knows my batting better than anyone else, so being close to him is great. The other thing about Essex is the club's record, always fighting for the championship and the Blast. That's what I want. I didn't care that Essex wasn't a Test-match ground. I looked at the players there.

"I was gutted when Sir Alastair Cook retired because I would have learnt so much from him, but Dean Elgar has come in and I've learnt loads off him. He's helped me learn how to bat long periods. I used to get to 20 and get bored. Now I want to be a guy who can block to save a game if that's the best result for the team, or go crazy."

In late June, Cox's first summer was stopped in its tracks when his appendix was removed after experiencing stomach problems during a game against Surrey. He was told he would be out for up to three months. Instead, he battled back to fitness in five weeks, and last Thursday made a match-winning 46 not out from 29 balls to shore up Hundred champions Oval Invincibles' position at the top of the table and underline his own white-ball credentials. Cox is still playing through pain in his abdomen.

With injury, illness, a move and now a Test call-up, Cox describes the past year as a "roller coaster of emotions". On the verge of international cricket, the ride is about to get wilder.

Sport
Football

Arteta's £250m wall is key to title assault

Arrival of Calafiori and return of Timber complete Arsenal back line that could provide platform to overhaul City

By **Sam Dean**

Mikel Arteta prefers not to leave things to chance. The Arsenal manager is a believer in data, percentages and minimising footballing risk. He hopes to win the Premier League not by gambling, but by going through the right processes, again and again, in the most consistent and sustainable way possible.

In other words, Arteta has no intention of sitting back and hoping that Arsenal get lucky this year. He has had enough of that, after a season in which he and his coaches effectively crossed their fingers and prayed to the heavens that their key defenders would not get injured.

As they chased the Premier League title last season, Arsenal knew their hopes of overcoming Manchester City would be drastically reduced by the absence of any one of William Saliba, Gabriel Magalhaes and Ben White. The squad, as it was then, could barely have handled an injury to one of those players, let alone two or three.

"We were really short in the back line last year in terms of numbers," Arteta said this summer. "We demanded so much from them. We only had six defenders and at this level you have to be really lucky to sustain the season like this. We were."

The perfect illustration of his point is that Saliba played every minute of Arsenal's Premier League campaign. Gabriel started 34 of 38 league matches, while White started 35. Those three stalwarts bore the heaviest of physical loads, but cannot be asked to do so again.

"William and Gabriel played nearly every minute," Arteta said. "Are we able to do that consistently over the next three or four years?



ARSENAL FC

Strength in depth: Riccardo Calafiori looks at home in an Arsenal shirt in Sunday's match against Lyon

That is a big question mark. Obviously, you cannot just bet on that. We don't want to take that bet."

All of which effectively answers the question that many Arsenal supporters have been asking this summer: why was the club's top priority in the transfer market to sign yet another defender? Riccardo Calafiori, the Italy international, joined in July for a deal that could ultimately be worth £42 million.

With Calafiori on board, and with Jurrien Timber back in action after missing almost the entire season through injury, Arsenal suddenly have genuine depth in their back line. Their defence was the best in the league last season (29 goals conceded) and it is now looking even more formidable.

Much is made of Arsenal's attacking quality and their thrilling passing football, but it is their defence that will determine whether they can finally lift the Premier League trophy next May. Any team looking to overcome Arsenal will have to get past their collection of defensive giants, who have been assembled in north London at a cost of more than £250 million.

Arsenal's defensive wall is now stronger than at any point since they last won the title, in 2004. For the first time in Arteta's tenure, the Spaniard has at least two high-class defensive options in each position of the back four. There is strength, versatility and technical quality. White, Calafiori, Timber and Takehiro Tomiyasu can play as centre-backs or full-backs, while Oleksandr Zinchenko offers outstanding passing from left-back.

> 'Saliba and Gabriel played nearly every minute last season. You cannot just bet on that'

Arteta will spread the minutes between these players – just as Pep Guardiola did with his City defenders last season. Saliba, Gabriel and White played at least 200 more league minutes than any City player in the 2023-24 campaign.

This complete defensive rebuild has not been easy for Arsenal, and it has certainly not been cheap. Since Arteta's appointment in December 2019, the club have signed 11 defenders of varying quality. Also in that time, they have either sold, loaned or terminated the contracts of 13 defenders.

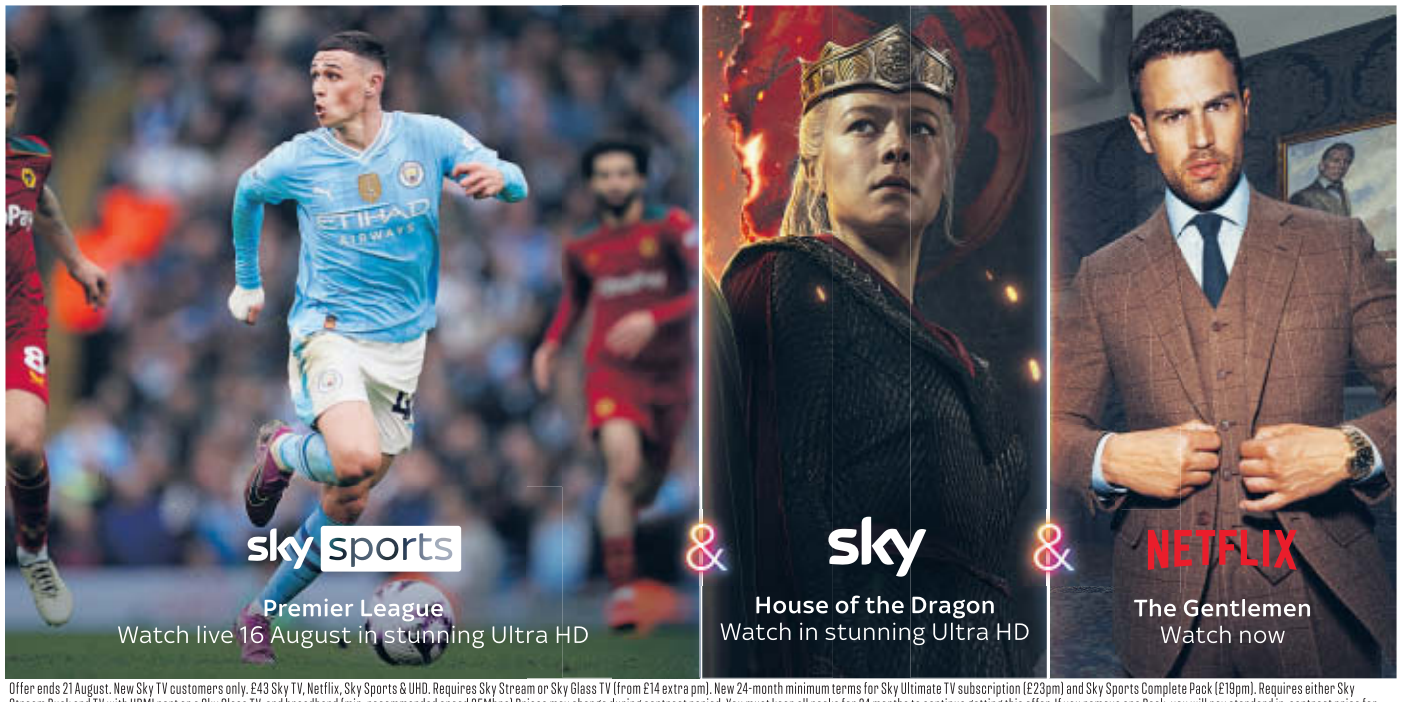
Window after window, deal after deal, the back line has been carefully remoulded by Arteta and sporting director Edu.

It says plenty about the former state of Arteta's defence that, under his management, Arsenal have spent twice as much on defenders as they have on forwards. Arteta's first line-up featured a back four of Ainsley Maitland-Niles, David Luiz, Sokratis Papastathopoulos and an out-of-position Bukayo Saka.

Times have changed. Zinchenko aside, Arsenal have targeted physically imposing defenders who can also play passing football. A back four of White, Saliba, Gabriel and Calafiori would have an average height of 6ft 3in.

They can all run at pace and can all receive the ball under pressure. If Arteta wants to play a more silky game, Zinchenko and Timber can split the opposition with their passing range.

Arsenal are coming into the new campaign with more options, more power and more adaptability in their defence. The foundations are in place for another assault on the Premier League title, and those foundations look sturdier than ever.



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Gallagher left in limbo over Atletico move

£33.7 million transfer on hold as Omorodion deal collapses

Chelsea could re-sign Felix but still want outright striker

By **Matt Law**
FOOTBALL NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Conor Gallagher was in limbo last night as he waited to find out whether Atletico Madrid would complete his £33.7 million move from Chelsea.

The collapse of Samu Omorodion's switch from Atletico to Chelsea stalled Gallagher's move and the midfielder is in the dark over the Spanish club's bid to send Joao Felix to Stamford Bridge instead.

Gallagher has spent the past five days in a hotel in Madrid having to train on his own while he waits for Atletico to raise the cash to finalise his transfer.

Contrary to some reports from Spain, the England international had not trained with his prospective Atletico team-mates and instead maintained his fitness on his own.

Despite agreeing to the move, Gallagher has been waiting to sign his Atletico contract, which is contingent on the Spanish club selling Omorodion or Felix.

Atletico announced the signing of Julian Alvarez from Manchester City yesterday for £81.5 million.

Chelsea's busy transfer window took another twist after Omorodion's move was called off at the last minute and the club were offered the chance to re-sign Felix.

Telegraph Sport revealed that Felix has indicated a desire to move back to Chelsea, where he spent half a season on loan in 2023, and a willingness to take a significant cut to his salary to fit into the club's wage structure.

It is anticipated that Chelsea could land Felix for an initial fee under £40 million and the terms of the deal may prove too favourable to turn down.

Were Chelsea to sign Felix, who has been a target for Aston Villa, it would put a significant question mark against the future of Raheem Sterling.

Juventus have contacted Chelsea to try to understand the conditions for a move for Sterling. The biggest obstacle would be his wages of more than £300,000 a week, but there is a sense that the former England international could leave during this transfer window.

Chelsea may also be forced to listen to any inquiries for Noni Madueke if Felix, who can play as a second striker, on the left wing and as a No 10, re-signs and Sterling does not move.

A move for Felix would not change Chelsea's desire to sign an outright striker. A deal had been agreed for Omorodion with Atletico, the player and his agent before the move fell down at the final hurdle. Omorodion is now being offered to other clubs.

Chelsea remain interested in Victor Osimhen if he becomes available on loan, while there is an expectation that other opportunities will arise in the final weeks of the window.

Chelsea are confident that the first-team squad will be a manageable size for new head coach Enzo Maresca once the transfer window shuts. It is believed the club are hoping to have a first-team squad of around 23 or 24 outfield players, with a number of players in line to leave either permanently or on loan.



AMA SPORTS PHOTO AGENCY

Waiting game: Conor Gallagher is in a Madrid hotel and training on his own

City hearing could begin next month

By **Tom Morgan**

Manchester City's hearing for 115 alleged financial breaches could begin as soon as next month, with the club potentially learning their fate by early next year.

The most consequential case in Premier League history is reportedly on track to be heard from late September, although further delays are possible. By then, City will have the results of a separate arbitration hearing against the competition on associated-party transaction rules. In that case, City have already claimed they are victims of "discrimination" from rival clubs.

The long-awaited financial case against City, to be heard by an independent panel, had been originally pencilled in for October and November. It has emerged there will be a 10-week likely timescale for the hearing, with a verdict possibly returned early next year.

The Times reports that the timescale for the case has been brought forward to a likely September start date. City and the Premier League both declined to comment.

Potential expulsion from the league is among available punishments should the club be found guilty. The case cannot go to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Cas), but either side could appeal.

The charges against City, who deny wrongdoing, include 54 failures to provide accurate financial information from 2009-10 to 2017-18, 14 failures to provide accurate details for player and manager payments from 2009-10 to 2017-18, five failures to comply with Uefa's rules including financial fair play from 2013-14 to 2017-18, seven breaches of the Premier League's PSR rules from 2015-16 to 2017-18 and 35 failures to co-operate with Premier League investigations from December 2018 to February 2023.

In 2020, Uefa banned City from the Champions League for two seasons and fined them €30 million. Cas overturned the punishment.

Kompany captured swearing 15 times at Gudmundsson during Burnley training

By **Tom Morgan**

Vincent Kompany, the former Burnley manager, was filmed for a documentary launching a training-ground rant in which he swore at a player 15 times in a minute.

The tirade, filmed during his two-year spell at Turf Moor, was aimed at midfielder Johann Berg Gudmundsson and features in Sky's *Mission to Burnley*.

An 89-second clip of Kompany's version of Sir Alex Ferguson's notorious "hairdryer" treatment has since attracted millions of views on social media. The segment begins with Kompany, now in charge at Bayern Munich, explaining his occasionally combustible training ground methods. "You can't say 'I want confidence'," he says. "You can't say, 'I want results'. You have to live in a certain way to achieve results. Then it's about controlling your emotions, that fine limit of being passionate and driven but never reckless. People who behave in that way become winners."



Tirade: An 89-second clip of Vincent Kompany firing off the f-word has attracted millions of views

Footage then cuts to Kompany turning on Gudmundsson during a training session last season. Kompany screams the f-word 15 times in less than a minute.

Kompany, 38, took charge of Burnley in June 2022 and each of the Belgian's two seasons at the helm at Turf Moor was heavily documented. His first season ended with Burnley winning the Championship with 101 points, but his team were relegated the next season after winning just five of 38 games.

Burnley started life after Kompany with successor Scott Parker masterminding a 4-1 thrashing of Luton at Kenilworth Road in last night's Championship opener. Josh Brownhill and Wilson Odobert put Burnley 2-0 up before half-time, and added further goals via Dara O'Shea and Vitinho after Tahith Chong had scored for Luton.

Bissouma sorry as Spurs probe laughing-gas video

By **Sam Dean**

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Yves Bissouma is facing an internal investigation after filming himself inhaling nitrous oxide, better known as "laughing gas" or "hippy crack".

In footage, Bissouma can be seen taking hits from a balloon. *The Sun* has reported that the videos were filmed on Saturday evening, after Spurs had played Bayern Munich in their final pre-season match.

In a statement, Bissouma said: "I want to apologise for these videos. This was a severe lack of judgment. I understand how serious this is and the health risks involved, and I also take my responsibility as a footballer and role model very seriously."

A Tottenham spokesman told *The Sun*: "We are looking into the events. This will be dealt with as an internal matter."

Bissouma must wait to see if he faces any punishment from his club or indeed a police investigation, as it is now a criminal offence to possess nitrous oxide with intent to inhale it for a psychoactive effect.

The ban on laughing gas came into place last November. Potential consequences include an unlimited fine, a "visible community punishment" or a prison sentence for repeat serious offenders.

It is still legal to use the gas for catering or pain relief during labour.

Sport
Rugby Union

Premiership weighing up rookie league

Aim is to give 18-23-year-olds more meaningful game time

England's under-20 world champions face club struggle

By **Charlie Morgan**
SENIOR RUGBY WRITER

A "rookie league" is one of several options being explored by Premiership Rugby bosses as they aim to solve a long-standing blind spot for player development in England.

This competition, which would not be established until the 2025-26 season at the earliest, would likely be set between under-19 and under-23 levels. Its purpose would be to stage matches among "the best of the best" in that bracket, supplementing the Under-18 Premiership Academy League.

It is widely accepted the English system could provide more meaningful game time for those aged 18-23 after they graduate from Premiership academies and before they establish themselves in senior squads.

These concerns are sure to be brought into focus next season as members of the England Under-20 side, who recently won the World Championship in South Africa, strive to represent their clubs. Among them are Sean Kerr (Harlequins), Finn Carnduff (Leicester) and Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale).

Outside of those fast-tracked into the first team, most players of this age are typically dispersed across three tiers of the club pyramid between the Championship and National Two on loan agreements. The Premiership Cup is viewed as another stepping stone.

BUCS Super Rugby, the competition for universities in England and Wales, has become more prolific as a breeding ground, too. However, there is a desire to co-ordinate a "whole-system solution" for the Premiership academies, which constitute 11 bodies; those affiliated to the 10 top-flight clubs, plus a separate academy for Yorkshire.

"The challenge for the English game is post-18 competition," said Neil McCarthy, the head of player development at Premiership Rugby. "Currently, only 11 per cent of England academy players play in BUCS, even though 40 per cent will be doing a degree at university.



Success story: Asher Opoku-Fordjour, of Sale, helped England win the Under-20 World Championship

"When clubs have a close relationship with a university, that works really well. But for those who don't have a BUCS side on their doorstep, the post-18 competition offering is really problematic.

"Another 60 per cent of academy players don't go to university. Those guys are scattered across National Two and National One. It's rare that under-19s and under-20s would play in the Championship."

"We've talked about a potential rookie league," McCarthy added. "The problem we need to solve is the immediate post-18 competition offering – under-19, under-20, possibly under-21. Some clubs have solutions, but not all.

"Our intentions would be similar to what we did at under-18 level with the academy league, which allows the best of the best to play against each other."

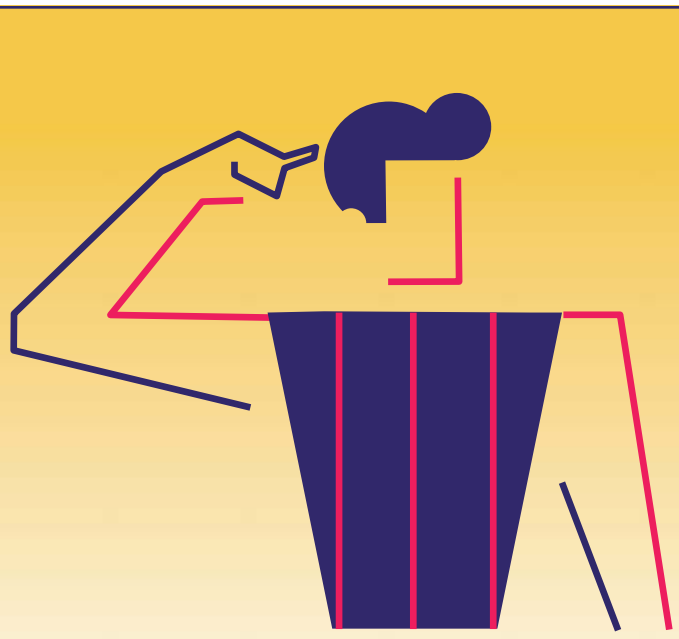
Strengthening links between Premiership and Championship clubs, such as the one between Northampton Saints and Bedford Blues, is another aim. Because of the physical demands of the second tier, however, encouraging clubs in the Championship to take risks with players who may not quite be ready is a challenge. McCarthy suggested this was "a balance that needs to be worked through".

Soberingly, of the nations to have reached the quarter-finals of the last World Cup in 2023, only England and Wales do not have a designated development competition for over-18s. McCarthy said a Premiership rookie league would not serve the same purpose as an A-League, which existed in various guises between 2003 and 2020.

Meeting costs, such as those associated with medical provisions, and achieving consensus on an age level, are thought to be the next steps towards starting the rookie league. There is, though, a determination to advance the project.

"We know players don't play enough between 18 through to 22 or 23," McCarthy said. "Either that or they're not playing at the right level and are not being exposed to the type of experiences they are going to have in the Premiership."

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Doris: Lead Lions? I am not even Ireland captain

By **Gavin Mairs**
CHIEF RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Caelan Doris underscored his credentials as a leading contender to be the British and Irish Lions captain for the tour of Australia next year by leading Ireland to a second-Test victory over the Springboks last month. Not that he has thought about it himself.

The 26-year-old replaced Peter O'Mahony as captain for the second Test in South Africa, following defeat in Pretoria. And now Doris appears to be in line to take the Ireland leadership role full time next season.

He was earmarked as a potential captain by Ireland head coach Andy Farrell following the World Cup last year. He then captained Leinster for the first time in January and deputised for O'Mahony as Ireland captain in the Six Nations victory over Italy.

For now, though, Doris is saying the right things. "I haven't heard anything about it [the Ireland captaincy]," he said. "And Pete has signed for another year and has done an unbelievable job. He was tour captain [in South Africa] and I am sure he will be involved in November as well."

Doris is equally humble on being linked with the Lions captaincy. "It is just under a year away and there is plenty of rugby to be played between now and then. I am not thinking that far ahead. Over these next two weeks, before I return to training, there is going to be a lot of goal-setting and most of that will be around how I want to evolve and get better as a player."

On the charge: Caelan Doris' leadership skills are not going unnoticed ahead of the Lions tour next year



One of those goals is to make the Lions squad, with the battle for back-row places to be keenly contested. "There's a hell of a lot of competition in the back row in the northern hemisphere in general. Even within Ireland, you've got so much depth and in Leinster, there is quality in the back row. There are always guys coming from above and below. You need to perform, which is a good thing," he said.

One player who has caught his eye has been his England counterpart Ben Earl, one of the most improved players under Steve Borthwick over the past year and a potential back-row colleague with the Lions.

"I think he [Earl] has been unbelievable over the past couple of seasons," Doris said. "He's got a very varied game. He's taken that to another level on the biggest stage. We've had some good battles over the years, and hopefully some more to come.

"It is a pretty special thing for the Lions for that reason," added Doris, when asked about the possibility of playing with, rather than against, Earl. "And you've got such big rivalries through the Six Nations and through all those Test games, and then in such a short time, trying to unite and grow bonds off the field and then play together on it…"

Both have played across the back row but seemed to have settled at No 8. Doris, for one, sees his future there. "I prefer No 8," he said. "I think my lack of ability in the line-out makes me more of an eight, which I am quite happy about."

Caelan Doris is an ambassador for the Ohk Energy group

‘I know it stinks’: Kuchar apologises for early finish

By **James Corrigan**
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Matt Kuchar has apologised for refusing to finish his last round on the PGA Tour on Sunday and admitted “it stinks” that workers had to return to the course yesterday so he could play his final few shots.

Kuchar’s bizarre behaviour overshadowed the Wyndham Championship victory of Aaron Rai, the Englishman whose United States breakthrough has lifted him to world No 22.

“Nobody wants to be that guy that’s showing up today, one person, one hole. Not even one hole, half a hole to putt,” Kuchar said yesterday. “I know it stinks, I know the ramifications. I apologise for forcing everybody to come out here.”

Kuchar’s remorse was in stark contrast to his attitude the previous evening when, with Rai assured of the title and $1.4 million (£1.1 million) first prize in North Carolina, the former US Ryder Cup player declined the referee’s offer to conclude his round in the fading light.

As they had already hit their drives on the last hole, Kuchar’s playing partners decided to complete the par four and thus allow the tournament to end. But not Kuchar, 46. As was his right under the rules, he insisted on returning in the morning.

At 8am, it took him only a few minutes. Getting line-of-sight relief from a scoreboard near the green that permitted him to drop in the adjacent fairway, he duly saved par to come away with a 10-way share of 12th place that earned him $134,695. A bogey would have lowered his payday to just over $77,000.

Kuchar, who has won more than $60 million in his career, made headlines a few years ago after initially paying a local caddie $5,000 when he earned nearly $1.3 million for winning the Mexico Open, when the standard payment to the bagman would have been $102,000.

Rai’s maiden PGA Tour win has secured the 29-year-old from Wolverhampton his debut in next year’s Masters. “It truly is a dream come true,” he said.

Database

Sky Bet Championship

Luton (0) 1
Chong 55

Burnley (2) 4
Brownhill 6, Odobert 37
O’Shea 72, Vitinho 80
11,777

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheff Wed	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Burnley	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
Blackburn	1	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
West Brom	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
Sunderland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Oxford Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Watford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	1	3
Middlesbrough	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Stoke	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Sheff Utd	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1
Portsmouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
Leeds Utd	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bristol City	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Hull	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Millwall	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0
Coventry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Swansea	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Derby County	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	-2	0
QPR	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Cardiff	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Norwich	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Preston	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Luton	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	-3	0
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

*Sheff Utd deducted 2pts

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREM.-Central: Barwell 0 Banbury Utd 1-Redditch Utd 2 Halesowen Town 2-St Ives Town 3 Lowestoft Town 1.

ISTHMIAN PREM: Carshalton Ath 3 Wingate & Finchley 2.

Cricket

THE HUNDRED (MEN).-Edgbaston: Trent Rockets 118 (100 balls; T Alsop 51; T Southee 5-12); **Birmingham Phoenix** 120-4 (93 balls; J Bethell 38no, B Duckett 30, L Livingstone 30no). **Birmingham Phoenix (2pts) bt Trent Rockets by 6 wickets.**

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Oval Invincibles	7	6	1	0	0	12	1.072
Southern Brave	7	5	2	0	0	10	0.595
Birmingham Phoenix	7	5	2	0	0	10	0.324
Northern S'chargers	7	4	2	0	1	9	-0.684
Trent Rockets	7	3	4	0	0	6	0.330
Welsh Fire	7	2	4	0	1	5	-0.215
Manchester Originals	7	1	6	0	0	2	-0.823
London Spirit	7	1	6	0	0	2	-0.884

THE HUNDRED (WOMEN).-Edgbaston: Birmingham Phoenix 112-6 (100 balls; S Kalis 47, R Ghosh 41); **Trent Rockets** 114-7 (97 balls; N Sciver-Brunt 34). **Trent Rockets (2pts) bt Birmingham Phoenix by 3 wickets.**

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Welsh Fire	7	4	2	0	1	9	0.086
Oval Invincibles	7	4	2	1	0	9	-0.016
Northern S'chargers	7	3	2	1	1	8	1.267
Trent Rockets	7	4	3	0	0	8	0.526
London Spirit	7	3	3	1	0	7	-0.088
Manchester Originals	7	3	4	0	0	6	-0.398
Birmingham Phoenix	7	3	4	0	0	6	-0.742
Southern Brave	7	1	5	1	0	3	-0.493

WOMEN’S ONE DAY INT’NAL.-Amstelveen: Scotland 187 (49.5 overs); **Netherlands** 153 (44.4 overs). **Scotland bt Netherlands by 34 runs.**

Cycling

TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES (Rotterdam-The Hague, 124km).**-Stage 1: 1 C Kool** (Netherlands) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL 2h 47m 40s; 2 A Ahtosalo (Finland) Uno-X Mobility; 3 E Balsamo (Italy) Lidl-Trek; 4 L Henttala (Finland) EF-Oatly-Cannondale; 5 M Vos (Netherlands) Team Visma | Lease a Bike all at same time. **Selected:** 51 A Henderson (GB) Team Visma | Lease a Bike; 70 P Georgi (GB) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL; 96 E Holden (GB) UAE Team ADQ; 100 L Deignan (GB) Lidl-Trek all at same time; 141 A Towers (GB) CANYON//SRAM Racing +1m 14s; 147 B Storrie (GB) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL +2-46. **DNF:** N Grinczer (GB) Roland. **Overall:** 1 **Kool** 2h 47m 30s; 2 Ahtosalo +4s; 3 Balsamo +6; 4 Henttala +10; 5 Vos at same time. **Selected:** 51 Henderson +10; 70 Georgi (GB); 96 Holden; 100 Deignan at same time; 141 Towers +1m 24s; 147 Storrie +2-56.

Golf

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Greensboro, North Carolina).**-Leading final scores** (US unless stated): **262—A Rai** (GB) 65 65 68 64; **264—M Greyserman** 69 60 66 69; **265—R Hisatsune** (Japan) 67 67 64 67; **J. J. Spaun** 68 67 66 64; **266—L Clanton** 68 67 62 69; **267—A Eckroat** 64 72 64 67; **268—E Cole** 68 68 69 63; **T Crowe** 65 67 69 67; **B Griffin** 65 70 63 70; **B Horschel** 62 68 71 67; **A Svensson** (Canada) 68 65 66 69; **269—B Todd** 64 68 71 66; **J Bridgeman** 68 64 67 70; **C Hoffman** 64 68 70 67; **B Hossler** 60 70 71 68; **C Kim** 69 66 67 67; **M Kuchar** 64 64 70 71; **M Meissner** 65 70 67 67; **K Mitchell** 70 64 67 68; **R Sloan** (Canada) 70 65 65 69; **D Thompson** 66 66 66 71. **Selected: 271—S Power** (Rep of Ireland) 66 70 69 66; **M Wallace** (GB) 69 66 70 66; **276—B Taylor** (GB) 64 70 68 74.

CHAMPIONS TOUR BOEING CLASSIC (Snoqualmie, Washington).**-Leading final scores** (US unless stated): **205—S Ames** (Canada) 71 67 67; **206—S Alker** (NZ) 66 72 68; **E Els** (S Africa) 69 69 68; **R Karlsson** (Sweden) 66 65 75; **208—K Triplett** 67 70 71; **C Wi** (S Korea) 69 64 75; **209—P Stankowski** 69 71 69; **210—M Allen** 67 75 68; **D Barron** 74 69 67; **D Bransdon** (Australia) 67 72 71; **R Green** (Australia) 68 73 69; **B Langer** (Germany) 72 69 69. **Selected: 214—B Davis** (GB) 70 74 70; **216—D Clarke** (N Ireland) 73 73 70.

Fixtures Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

CARABAO CUP 1ST RD
Barrow v Port Vale
Bolton v Mansfield
Bristol City v Coventry
Bromley v AFC Wimbledon
Burton v Blackpool
Cambridge Utd v QPR
Cardiff v Bristol Rovers
Carlisle v Stoke (7.30)
Charlton v Birmingham
Colchester v Reading
Crawley v Swindon
Derby v Chesterfield
Fleetwood v West Brom
Grimsby v Bradford
Huddersfield v Morecambe
Leyton Orient v Newport Co (7.30)
Lincoln City v Harrogate Tn
Northampton v Wycombe
Norwich v Stevenage
Oxford Utd v Peterborough
Portsmouth v Millwall
Preston North End v Sunderland
Rotherham v Crewe
Salford City v Doncaster
Sheffield Utd v Wrexham (8)
Shrewsbury v Notts County
Stockport Co v Blackburn (7.30)
Swansea v Gillingham
Tranmere v Accrington
Walsall v Exeter
Watford v Milton Keynes Dons
Wigan v Barnsley

CHAMPIONS LGE
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG
Apoel Nicosia (0) v Slovan Bratislava (2) (6)
Bodo/Glimt (1) v Jagiellonia Bialystock (0) (6)
FCSB (1) v Sparta Prague (1) (7.30)
Fenerbahce (1) v Lille (2) (6)
Ferencvaros (0) v Midtjylland (2) (7)
Ludogorets (2) v Karabakh (1) (7)
PAOK (2) v Malmo (2) (6.30)
Rangers (1) v Dynamo Kiev (1)
Twente (1) v Red Bull Salzburg (2) (6)
Union Saint Gilloise (1) v Slavia Prague (3) (7.30)
EUROPA LEAGUE
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG
The New Saints FC (0) v Petrocub (1) (6.30)
EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG
Mornar (0) v Paks (3)
Paide Linnameeskond (1) v Hacken (6) (5.30)
SPFL TRUST TROPHY 2ND RD SOUTH
Albion v Cowdenbeath
Dumbarton v Berwick
Stranraer v Bonnyrigg Rose
SPFL TRUST TROPHY 2ND RD NORTH
Dundee Utd U21 v Dundee U21
East Fife v St Johnstone U21
Elgin v Banks O'Dee
Fraserburgh v Forfar (8)

EMIRATES FA CUP.-Extra Preliminary Round replay: Walsall Wood v Worcester City.

NORTHERN.-Prem: Bamber Bridge v Hyde Utd, Basford Utd v Leek Tn, Blyth Spartans v Hebburn Tn, FC United of Manchester v Worksop Tn, Gainsborough Trinity v Morpeth Tn, Macclesfield v Prescot Cables, Matlock Tn v Whitby Tn, Mickleover v Ilkeston Tn, Warrington Rylands v Ashton Utd, Workington v Lancaster City.

SOUTHERN PREM.-Central: AFC Sudbury v Biggleswade Tn, AFC Telford v Stourbridge, Alvechurch v Harborough Tn, Bedford Tn v Royston Tn, Bromsgrove Sporting v Stratford Tn, Kettering v Spalding Utd, Leiston v Bishop’s Stortford, Stamford v Hitchin Tn. **South:** Basingstoke Tn v Swindon Supermarine, Frome Tn v Merthyr Tn, Gloucester v Plymouth Parkway, Hanwell Tn v Bracknell Tn, Hungerford Tn v Gosport Borough, Poole Tn v Taunton Tn, Sholing v AFC Totton, Tiverton Tn v Dorchester Tn, Walton & Hersham v Marlow.

ISTHMIAN PREM: Bognor Regis Tn v Lewes, Bowers & Pitsea v Cheshunt, Canvey Island v Hashtag United, Chatham Tn v Billericay, Cray Wanderers v Cray Valley (PM), Dartford v Potters Bar Tn, Dover v Folkestone Invicta, Dulwich v Hendon, Horsham v Chichester City, Whitehawk v Hastings Utd.

Cricket

THE HUNDRED.-Headingley: Northern Superchargers v London Spirit (Women 3, Men 6.30).

Sport on TV

CRICKET: The Hundred, Northern Superchargers Women v London Spirit Women - Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports Cricket, Sky Sports Mix, 2.30pm, BBC Two, 2.45pm; Northern Superchargers Men v London Spirit Men - BBC Two, 6pm, Sky Sports Cricket, Sky Sports Mix, 6pm.
CYCLING: Tour de France Femmes - Eurosport 1, 8.30am, 2.30pm.
FOOTBALL: EFL Cup, Sheffield United v Wrexham - Sky Sports Football, 7pm, Preston North End v Sunderland - Sky Sports +, 7.40pm; European Play Off, Rangers v Dynamo Kyiv - BBC Scotland, 7.30pm.
MOTORCYCLING: Swedish Speedway, Coverage of an Elitserien meeting - Premier Sports 2, 5.55pm.
TENNIS: The Cincinnati Open - Sky Sports +, 4pm, Sky Sports Main Event, 10.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports +, 12midnight.

Racecards and results

Lingfield

Marlborough
2.15 - **Outreach**
2.45 - **Ahlain**
3.15 - **Golden Paradise** (nb)
3.45 - **Star Jasmine**
4.15 - **Foinix**
4.45 - **Khangai**

Going: Aw: standard; turf: good to firm-good in places **TV:** Sky Sports Racing
Draw: Little effect.
[B] Blinkers [V] Visor [E] Eyeshield [T] Tongue Strap [P] Cheekpieces

2.15 Apprentice Handicap (AWT) (6) 7f £2,983

1 113 **Split Elevens** (**17**) (CD)(D) (BF) J Butler 6 9 9 — **Morgan Cole** (3) **5**
2 616 **Outreach** [P](**15**) (D) M Usher 4 9 9 — **G Bass 6**
3 778 **Brazen Diamond** (**17**) (D) C Poulton 5 9 7 — **C Hutchinson 2**
4 153 **Rinnovati** [B](**20**) (D) (BF) A Watson 3 9 6 — **Laura Coughlan 4**
5 -05 **Electrified** (**26**) K P De Foy 3 9 4 — **S D Bowen 7**
6 696 **Doonbeg Farmer** [T](**66**) (C) G Brown 6 9 3 — **Liam Wright** (3) **10**
7 135 **Forgotten Treasure** (**15**) (D) W Knight 3 9 3 — **Oliver Carmichael** (7) **1**
8 964 **Capallcliste** (**35**) D F Davis 4 9 3 — **Taryn Langley** (7) **8**
9 947 **Poles Apart** [B](**21**) (BF) H Morrison 3 9 1 — **Ethan Jones** (5) **3**
10 040 **Snow Eagle** [P](**21**) M Blake 3 8 11 — **Alec Voikhansky 9**

S.P. f’cast: 3-1 Rinnovati, **10-3** Split Elevens, **6-1** Capallcliste, **13-2** Forgotten Treasure, **8-1** Poles Apart, Outreach, **12-1** Others.

2.45 Handicap (AWT) (4) 3YO 7f £4,972

1 0-7 **Serene Seraph** (**87**) (D) R Hannon 9 11 — **James Doyle 1**
2 439 **Ahlain** (**48**) (D) J Tate 9 11 — **N Callan 5**
3 066 **Purefoy** [P](**18**) (CD) A Balding 9 6 — **O Murphy 2**
4 -28 **Pressure’s On** (**101**) (D) E Dunlop 9 3 — **D Muscutt 4**
5 -50 **Rockstar Icon** (**12**) (CD) P & O Cole 9 2 — **S M Levey 3**
6 262 **King Of Charm** (**18**) (D) Martin Dunne 9 0 — **D Keenan 7**
7 750 **Sky Warrior** (**22**) C Cox 8 13 — **H Doyle 8**
8 169 **Shelbourne** [H](**49**) G Scott 8 13 — **C Shepherd 9**
9 07- **This Time Maybe** (**300**) M Usher 8 8 — **G Rooke 6**

S.P. f’cast: 11-4 King Of Charm, **4-1** Ahlain, **5-1** Pressure’s On, Serene Seraph, **8-1** Rockstar Icon, **10-1** Purefoy, **12-1** Others.

3.15 Fillies’ Restricted Novice Stakes (AWT) (3) 2YO 5f £8,100

1 1 **Golden Paradise** (**120**) (D) G Scott 9 8 — **C Shepherd 3**
2 **Empowered Queen** Ollie Sangster 9 2 — **O Murphy 10**
3 85 **Facoulty** (**27**) K P De Foy 9 2 — **B Sayette 7**
4 **Glitterinthesky** [T]Miss A Murphy 9 2 — **H Doyle 5**
5 0 **Kensington Hope** (**22**) K P De Foy 9 2 — **S M Levey 8**
6 48 **Pure Artistry** (**49**) M Bell 9 2 — **H Crouch 2**
7 58 **Saint Fonteyn** (**20**) R Cook & J Bridger 9 2 — **S D Bowen** (3) **6**
8 3 **Miss Nightfall** (**15**) J Fanshawe 9 0 — **D Muscutt 4**
9 **Scent Of May** H Candy 9 0 — **T Whelan 9**
10 5 **Star Of Mehmas** (**22**) (BF) R Hughes 9 0 — **F Marsh 1**

S.P. f’cast: 15-8 Golden Paradise, **3-1** Miss Nightfall, **5-1** Empowered Queen, **13-2** Star Of Mehmas, **10-1** Facoulty, **14-1** Others.

3.45 British Stallion Studs EBF Fillies’ Hcap (3) 1m 1f £13,085

1 725 **Wisper** (**13**) M Tregoning 6 10 2 — **O Murphy 5**
2 414 **Circe** (**14**) R Hannon 3 9 9 — **H Doyle 1**
3 130 **Aiming High** [H](**25**) D M Simcock 5 9 7 — **C Shepherd 2**
4 119 **Mercury Day** (**14**) C Allen 3 9 5 — **J Gilligan 3**
5 036 **Star Jasmine** (**12**) G Boughey 3 9 3 — **P Cosgrave 7**
6 277 **True Wisdom** (**13**) C Johnston 3 9 3 — **J Mitchell 6**
7 326 **Shemozzle** (**24**) R Beckett 3 9 1 — **H Crouch 4**

S.P. f’cast: 3-1 Wisper, **7-2** Circe, **9-2** Star Jasmine, **5-1** Shemozzle, **7-1** Mercury Day, **8-1** True Wisdom, **10-1** Aiming High.

4.15 Classified Stakes (6) 1m 4f £2,983

1 541 **Foinix** [B](**5**) (D) J & S Best 4 10 0 — **J Leavy** (5) **5**
2 303 **Escobedo** [H,T](**10**) S Kirk 6 9 9 — **R Hornby 1**
3 502 **Fullforward** [V](**21**) M Madgwick 4 9 9 — **W Carson 4**
4 845 **Rita Rana** [H](**27**) A Wintle 5 9 9 — **F Marsh 3**
5 231 **Miss Dubai** (**8**) (CD) D Coakley 3 9 5 — **T O’Shea 6**
6 000 **Innisfree Pearl** [T](**24**) T Ward 3 8 13 — **S M Levey 2**

S.P. f’cast: 6-4 Foinix, **5-2** Miss Dubai, **4-1** Fullforward, **8-1** Escobedo, **14-1** Innisfree Pearl, Rita Rana.

4.45 Handicap (6) 1m 2f £2,983

1 296 **Manila Mist** [T](**22**) K Jewell 4 9 9 — **C Bishop 6**
2 267 **Thursday** (**14**) S Dow 4 9 8 — **N Callan 7**
3 815 **Chico Dulce** [T](**28**) (CD) (BF) M Madgwick 4 9 7 — **W Carson 3**
4 786 **Hazel Bear** (**17**) J Osborne 4 9 6 — **C Shepherd 2**
5 436 **Khangai** [B,T](**2**) (D) (BF) M Rimell 4 9 5 — **H Doyle 9**
6 378 **Mon Etoile** [V](**15**) C Johnston 3 9 2 — **O Murphy 5**
7 150 **Laurentia** (**35**) (CD)(C) (BF) J Long 8 9 1 — **G Rooke 1**
8 040 **Kodiac Brave** [V](**17**) Craig Benton 6 9 0 — **Georgia Dobie 8**
9 431 **Newfangled** [P](**21**) J Portman 3 8 13 — **R Hornby 4**

S.P. f’cast: 2-1 Newfangled, **3-1** Chico Dulce, **6-1** Khangai, **15-2** Manila Mist, **8-1** Thursday, **12-1** Hazel Bear, **14-1** Mon Etoile, **16-1** Laurentia, **25-1** Kodiac Brave.

Nottingham

Marlborough
2.30 - **Sun Festival** (nap)
3.00 - **Almasi**
3.30 - **Ever Hopefull**
4.00 - **Clan Chieftain**
4.30 - **Valentine Catcher**
5.05 - **Three Beauz**

Going: Good to firm-good in places **TV:** Racing TV
Draw: High best in 5f & 6f races.
[B] Blinkers [V] Visor [E] Eyeshield [T] Tongue Strap [P] Cheekpieces

2.30 AJA Novice Flat Amateur Jockeys’ Hcap (6) 1m 2f £3,229

1 23- **Sun Festival** (**250**) (D) J Parr 6 11 7 — **Mr L Kent 3**
2 -46 **Addosh** [T](**J23**) James Owen 6 11 7 — **Miss Teagan Padgett** (3) **11**
3 528 **Star Start** [B](**25**) (D) R Carr 4 11 6 — **Miss C Parker** (3) **13**
4 185 **Bakersboy** [P](**8**) (D) Alice Haynes 6 11 5 — **Mr N Sangster 5**
5 3-1 **Showlan Spirit** [V](**15**) G Baker 5 11 3 — **Mr Jack Callan 16**
6 743 **Sea Of Charm** [B](**15**) (D) G Nicholls 6 11 2 — **Mr William Dunlop** (3) **12**
7 408 **Daffin** [T](**15**) K Frost 4 11 1 — **Miss Lauren Frost 9**
8 221 **Star Of St James** (**13**) (D) I Furtado 7 10 12 — **Miss Stephanie Dorey 7**
9 -86 **More Diamonds** [P](**8**) James Horton 5 10 12 — **Miss S Shepard 10**
10 769 **Tio Mio** (**11**) M Chapman 6 10 11 — **Mr Harry Smith** (3) **15**
11 505 **Pittsburg** [T](**11**) R Potter 8 10 10 — **Miss E McGarty-Jones** (3) **2**
12 357 **Takes Time** [B](**15**) D Loughnane 3 10 10 — **Miss K McCammon** (3) **6**
13 639 **Twilight Guest** [P](**14**) G Margarson 4 10 9 — **Miss R Margarson 8**
14 307 **Gilbert** [T](**28**) (D) A West 5 10 7 — **Miss Milica Dusanovic** (3) **4**
15 566 **Straitouttacompton** (**14**) M Chapman 8 10 7 — **Miss A Bowers-Carter** (3) **1**
16 421 **Kinetic** (**1**) James Owen 3 10 11(6ex) — **Miss Margot Scudamore 14**

S.P. f’cast: 7-2 Star Of St James, **4-1** Showlan Spirit, **6-1** Kinetic, **13-2** Sun Festival, **7-1** Sea Of Charm, **10-1** Bakersboy, **12-1** Star Start, **16-1** Twilight Guest, **20-1** Others.

3.00 Maiden Fillies’ Stakes (5) 2YO 6f £3,725

1 8 **Addendum** (**18**) J & S Quinn 9 2 — **D Nolan 3**
2 5 **Almasi** (**23**) Dr R Newland & J Insole 9 2 — **K Shoemark 8**
3 **Bowerchalke** J Chapple-Hyam 9 2 — **Billy Loughnane 10**
4 **First Instinct** W Haggas 9 2 — **T Marquand 5**
5 37 **Impatiently** (**12**) J Chapple-Hyam 9 2 — **Laura Pearson 6**
6 53 **Kalahari Blue** (**25**) (BF) Ollie Sangster 9 2 — **K Stott 9**
7 **Kamand** I Mohammed 9 2 — **M Ghiani 11**
8 09 **Kokabah** (**18**) R Varian 9 2 — **S De Sousa 2**
9 76 **Smallbrook Lane** (**69**) C Cox 9 2 — **R Kingscote 7**
10 43 **Spiritualism** [P,T](**83**) Miss A Murphy 9 2 — **Rossa Ryan 4**
11 99 **Twilight Poppy** (**12**) K Frost 9 2 — **C Lee 1**

S.P. f’cast: 5-2 Kalahari Blue, **7-2** First Instinct, **5-1** Spiritualism, **7-1** Kokabah, **8-1** Almasi, **12-1** Kamand, **14-1** Bowerchalke, Impatiently, **20-1** Others.

3.30 Maiden Fillies’ Stakes (5) 1m £3,780

1 **Saved Lizzie** (**J56**) R Eddery 4 9 9 — **Oisin Orr 1**
2 6 **Coach From Liberty** (**13**) J & S Quinn 3 9 2 — **D Nolan 7**
3 24 **Dream Seeker** [H](**85**) C Cox 3 9 2 — **Rossa Ryan 5**
4 **Empress Of Hope** Harry Eustace 3 9 2 — **P-L Jamin 8**
5 7 **Ever Hopefull** (**11**) W Haggas 3 9 2 — **T Marquand 9**
6 **Jumeirah Sea** S & E Crisford 3 9 2 — **H Davies 6**
7 6-5 **Pasha** (**115**) P & O Cole 3 9 2 — **Billy Loughnane 10**
8 5 **Prevail** (**34**) Sir M Stoute 3 9 2 — **R Kingscote 2**
9 03 **Solara** (**16**) H Palmer 3 9 2 — **D Probert 3**
10 4-6 **Times Edition** [H](**20**) R Varian 3 9 2 — **S De Sousa 4**

S.P. f’cast: 3-1 Jumeirah Sea, **9-2** Times Edition, **5-1** Prevail, **11-2** Pasha, **13-2** Ever Hopefull, **8-1** Dream Seeker, **10-1** Others.

Whistler’s Nap

Clan Chieftain (4.00 Nottingham) is today’s nap for Whistler (Marcus Armytage) of Telegraph Sport.

4.00 Colwick Cup Handicap (4) 2m £10,308

1 089 **Solent Gateway** [T,V](**9**) (D) H Palmer 6 10 4 — **D Probert 6**
2 492 **Dreams Adozen** [V](**9**) C Johnston 4 9 9 — **Billy Loughnane 2**
3 844 **Clan Chieftain** [P,T](**18**) R Beckett 4 9 6 — **Rossa Ryan 1**
4 614 **Robusto** [B](**19**) (D) E J-Houghton 4 9 5 — **S Osborne 5**
5 322 **Valley Of Flowers** [H](**18**) (D) (BF) J Coward 6 9 5 — **Joanna Mason 3**
6 325 **Flickering Halo** (**19**) T Easterby 3 8 12 — **Oisin Orr 7**
7 431 **Almudena** [P](**13**) Sir M Prescott 3 8 3 — **L Morris 4**

S.P. f’cast: 7-4 Almudena, **4-1** Valley Of Flowers, **5-1** Flickering Halo, **6-1** Dreams Adozen, **8-1** Clan Chieftain, **10-1** Others.

4.30 Weatherbys Hamilton Handicap (4) 3YO 6f £5,496

1 42- **Valentine Catcher** (**248**) (D) T Easterby 9 9 — **D Fentiman 2**
2 -08 **Pen Portrait** [H,T](**12**) (D) S & E Crisford 9 8 — **H Davies 4**
3 857 **Midnight Affair** (**12**) R Fahey 9 8 — **Oisin Orr 3**
4 111 **Miss Stormy Night** [H](**17**) (CD)(D) C Cox 9 7 — **R Kingscote 6**
5 412 **Tourist** (**19**) (D) H Kobeissi 9 7 — **C Lee 8**
6 471 **Duran** (**18**) (D) N Tinkler 9 7 — **F McManoman 5**
7 446 **Exponista** [P](**12**) (CD) D Loughnane 9 5 — **Rossa Ryan 7**
8 547 **Call Glory** [P](**38**) M Appleby 9 0 — **A Rawlinson 1**

S.P. f’cast: 9-4 Tourist, **11-4** Miss Stormy Night, **5-1** Duran, **7-1** Valentine Catcher, **8-1** Exponista, **12-1** Pen Portrait, **16-1** Others.

5.05 weatherbysshop.co.uk Handicap (6) 5f £3,402

1 -64 **Just Glamorous** (**26**) (D10) C Mason 11 10 1 — **Gina Mangan** (3) **8**
2 065 **High Velocity** [B](**17**) (D) D Loughnane 5 9 12 — **Rossa Ryan 4**
3 192 **Frank The Spark** (**15**) (D) P Midgley 4 9 11 — **D Nolan 7**
4 098 **Fortunate Star** (**17**) (CD)(D) D Carroll 4 9 10 — **Z Wheatley** (3) **1**
5 012 **Three Beauz** [T](**7**) (D) R Menzies 4 9 5 — **C Lee 6**
6 062 **Chiedozie** [V](**8**) P McEntee 3 9 5 — **T Heard 3**
7 911 **Snow Berry** [P](**25**) (CD)(C)(D) M Appleby 6 9 4 — **A Rawlinson 2**
8 379 **Captain Bentley** [P](**7**) M Mullineaux 5 8 9 — **C Bennett 5**

S.P. f’cast: 5-2 Snow Berry, **7-2** Frank The Spark, **9-2** Three Beauz, **5-1** Chiedozie, **8-1** High Velocity, **10-1** Just Glamorous, **14-1** Others.

Hamilton
5.30 - **Strong Johnson**
6.00 - **Top Juggler**
6.30 - **Thomas G**
7.00 - **Arctic Mountain**
7.30 - **Jump The Gun**
8.00 - **Bristol Hill**

Results

Ayr

Going: Good-good to soft in places

2.25 (7f50yds nov): **Duty First** (H Doyle 10-11F) 1; **Shining Pearl** (11-8) 2; **Who Wants Me** (25-1) 3. 5 ran. 2¾, 1l. (A Watson).
3.00 (1m): **Believe Me Now** (A Mullen 10-1) 1; **Rebecca’s Girl** (7-1) 2; **Desert Dream** (15-2) 3. Rock And Royal 6-5F. 7 ran. nk, 2¼. (I Jardine). NRs: Millbuie, Our Noble Lord.
3.35 (1m): **Keep Me Stable** (T Jakes 17-2) 1; **Showmethewayhome** (12-1) 2; **Retirement Beckons** (4-1) 3. Aspire To Glory 2-1F. 9 ran. 4l, ½. (Miss L Perratt).
4.10 (7f50yds h’cap): **Braes Of Doune** (P Mulrennan 5-2) 1; **Sir Garfield** (6-5F) 2; **Jkr Cobbler** (14-1) 3. 10 ran. ½, ½. (J Goldie). NRs: Banner Road, Colour Code, Darbucks, Lumenbourg.
4.40 (1m2f h’cap): **Faylaq** (P Mulrennan 7-2) 1; **Pol Roger** (11-4JF 2; **Yorkshire Lady** (10-1) 3. Aviemore 11-4JF. 10 ran. ¾, nk. (J Gold
5.15 (6f h’cap): **Sixcor** (Billy Loughnane 4-1) 1; **Atomise** (5-2F) 2; **Earn Your Stripes** (14-1) 3. 8 ran. nk, 5l. (Miss L Perratt). NR: Sou Of Iona.
5.45 (6f h’cap): **Ramon Di Loria** (R Scott 10-3) 1; **See My Baby Jive** (9-2) 2; **Inanna** (9-4F) 3. 7 ran. ¾, ½. (Ewan Whillans). NRs: Piper’s Fort, The Gay Blade.
6.15 (1m2f h’cap): **Glasses Up** (Joanna Mason 6-1) 1; **Gregorina** (9-1) 2; **Bearaway** (5-1) 3. Ayr Poet 9-2F. 12 ran. ½, nk. (R M Smith) NRs: Catrake Force, Mix De Gris.
Placepot: £45.20. **Quadpot:** £9.10.

Kempton

Going: Standard to slow

2.10 (1m h’cap): **Lazieelunch** (D Muscutt 9-1) 1; **Matharu** (15-8F 2; **Bowndler** (6-1) 3. 14 ran. nk, 5½. (S Woods).
2.45 (1m h’cap): **Tribal Chief** (H Davies 4-1) 1; **More Than A Feelin** (14-1) 2; **Mbappe** (8-1) 3. Fior Di Bosco 5-2F. 10 ran. 1l, 3¼. Menuisier). NRs: Milliterries, New Kings Road, Onthemoneyhoney.
3.20 (7f mdn): **Likely Perspective** (Rossa Ryan 7-2F) 1; **Neoma** (9-1) 2; **Darn Hot Mystery** (25-1) 3. 14 ran. 1l, 3¼. (R Hughes).
3.55 (7f mdn): **Kaytwo** (S De Sousa 16-1) 1; **Shrimp Shady** (9-4) **Portnoy** (12-1) 3. Brize Norton 11-8F. 9 ran. hd, nk. (Miss A Murphy)
4.30 (7f mdn): **Amiloc** (Rossa Ryan 11-10F) 1; **Zou’s Your Daddy** (11-1) 2; **Uppercase** (8-1) 3. 8 ran. nk, 2½. (R Beckett). NR: Captair Brett.
5.00 (1m3f219yds h’cap): **Alpen Power** (J Fanning 15-2) 1; **Capre** (2-1F) 2; **Surrey Force** (16-1) 3. 8 ran. nk, 1½. (C Johnston).
5.35 (1m2f219yds h’cap): **Alacrity** (K Stott 3-1F) 1; **Carpathian** (9-2) 2; **Umbria** (5-1) 3. 10 ran. nk, nk. (A Balding). NRs: Bittalemon Measured Moments.
Placepot: £79.60. **Quadpot:** £16.90.

Windsor

Going: Good to firm

5.40 (6f12yds h’cap): **Piranha Rama** (R Kingscote 3-1F) 1; **Pugli** (18-1) 2; **Kaleidoscope Eyes** (25-1) 3. 12 ran. 2½, ¾. (P Evans).
6.10 (6f12yds nov): **Glitterati** (L Morris 3-1) 1; **Silca Bay** (33-1) 2; **Blewburton** (6-4F) 3. 13 ran. 4l, ½. (A Watson). NRs

Post-Paris jobs: cricket farmer and circus act

Athletes coming down from high of Olympics are finding employment in fascinating areas... as well as journalism

By **Thom Gibbs**
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER
in Paris

Once upon a time, the dream ticket for a retiring Olympic hero was to secure a berth as team captain on *Question of Sport*. Tragically, that avenue has been closed with the programme's cancellation. Paddy McGuinness has a lot to answer for.

So, Great British Olympians now need to look elsewhere for their next challenges. Time to fire up LinkedIn and, once they have remembered their password, cast around for steady employment in an uncertain world.

We are not talking about those whose exploits have led to cross-over fame. Tom Daley and Adam Peaty have such significant followings on social media that they have the world at their feet, or at least several dozen lucrative sponsored-content opportunities. Keep it sensible with their outgoings and they should be set for life.

Others beyond Team GB will not be short of lucrative work to fall back into should the top-level sport phase be over. Thierry Henry could not win footballing gold in charge of France but will have an open invite back to the Sky Sports punditry ranks, Simone Biles will have endorsement offers from the majority of the Fortune 500 and Italian high-jumping hunk Gianmarco Tamberi should have his pick of the world's modelling agencies.

But the overwhelming majority will need a less-glamorous plan for what happens when the sport stops. Many have already revealed theirs and they range from everything from jobs within the professional class to a canoeist who will teach you how to breathe properly.


AFP
Career change: Trampolinist Bryony Page wants to join Cirque du Soleil's ranks

Some are opting for the sorts of careers that would please any parent. Rower Imogen Grant will begin her foundation year shortly as a junior doctor in Slough. Her partner in the lightweight double sculls, Emily Craig, has a masters degree in East Asian art. She has previously worked for auction houses.

The aforementioned canoeist is Adam Burgess, who is an advocate of "breathwork" and runs the Inspired Breath Academy. He says his methods help to keep him present before competing which improves his performance. Sounds sensible, as does the job of long-jumper Jacob Fincham-Dukes, who is a health and safety compliance manager in Texas.

Some are eyeing up a future in different sports, like taekwondo artist Caden Cunningham who has designs on a sideways move towards MMA.

Bryony Page, trampolining gold medallist, is running off to join the circus. She has been a fan of Cirque du Soleil since childhood and said she hopes to make use of her transferable skills by joining their ranks. But if you want an example of someone going into a truly risky and unstable profession, what about diver Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix? The daughter of *First Dates*' Fred Sirieix has said she wants to train to be a journalist. Let us hope she likes reading comments underneath everything she writes which always ask the same question: "Did you get paid for this?"

Several competitors will surely be reactivating their side-hustling OnlyFans accounts. Diver Jack Laugher is one such supplementing his income on the platform, along with rower Robbie Manson and twerking pole-vaulter Alysha Newman.

Zachery Schubert, beach volleyball player for Australia, runs a cricket farm. That is not an Aussie euphemism for a high-performance academy churning out the next Marnus Labuschagne and Pat Cummins, but a breeding ground for protein-packed insects.

And, of course, who can forget the queen of our hearts, Australian breaker "Raygun", aka Rachael Gunn? Her routines during the first day of Olympic breaking launched thousands of social media jokes but Gunn has bigger fish to fry. Academic fish. She is a lecturer at Macquarie University in Sydney specialising in cultural theory, dance studies, popular music studies, media, and ethnography. Stick that in your memes and smoke it.

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