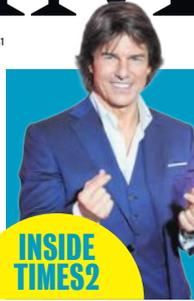




21 best exercises for midlife aches



Tom Cruise A real-life Action Man (5ft 6 and 62)

INSIDE
TIMES2

Zelensky takes war to Putin

- Russians flee incursion into Kursk region
- Fight 'coming home' to you, Kremlin told

Tom Ball Kyiv

President Zelensky warned last night that war was "coming home" to Vladimir Putin as the week-long Ukrainian assault inside Russia forced tens of thousands to flee.

The attack in the Kursk region has been the largest incursion on Russian territory in more than two years of war, prompting Putin to claim yesterday that it was intended to "intimidate society and to undermine stability".

Zelensky said in his nightly address: "Russia brought war to others, now it's coming home. Ukraine has always wanted only peace, and we will certainly ensure peace."

Putin had earlier said that "with the help of its western masters" Kyiv was trying to gain a bargaining chip for future negotiations to end the war.

Any hope that Ukraine might have of stalling Russia's advance on the eastern front by diverting troops to Kursk would not succeed, Putin said, claiming that his forces continued to capture territory in Donbas and vowing to "kick the enemy out of our territory".

The situation in Kursk is becoming a big test for the Russian leader, the first to cede territory to a foreign power since the Second World War.

"The losses of the Ukrainian armed forces are increasing dramatically for them, including among the most combat-ready units, units that the enemy is transferring to our border," Putin told a meeting with top security officials and regional governors.

Ukrainian troops have advanced more than 20 miles into Russian territory, seizing towns and villages. Oleksandr Syrsky, head of the Ukrainian

military, said yesterday that his forces had captured 386 square miles of Russian land. "The troops are fulfilling their tasks. Fighting continues along the entire front line. The situation is under our control," he said.

With the Kursk conflict now threatening to spill into neighbouring regions, officials announced mass evacuations for those living along the border. More than 120,000 residents have fled homes in Kursk and 59,000 have been told to leave, according to Alexei Smirnov, the governor. Ukraine controlled 28 settlements in the province, he said, adding that 12 people had died and the fate of 2,000 was unknown.

Belgorod became the second region to be evacuated after its governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, warned yesterday that Ukrainian forces were active on the border. Some 11,000 people have left the region, bringing the total number of those displaced in Russia to more than 130,000.

"For the health and security of our population, we're beginning to move people who live in Krasnoyarsk to safer places," Gladkov said on Telegram. He later warned residents that the whole of the region was under missile alert and urged them to "go down to the basement [and] stay there until you receive the all-clear".

Russian state media have been quick to play down the invasion, suggesting that Russian troops have the upper hand against the Ukrainians. However, videos on social media of civilians fleeing their homes along roads strewn with corpses undermined Kremlin attempts to preserve a sense of normality.

Kommersant, a Russian newspaper, Continued on page 2



Welcome dip Suzanne and Chloe Horwood cooling off in the River Cam at Grantchester, where temperatures reached nearly 35C on the hottest day of the year. Storms brought more than 15,000 lightning strikes in 24 hours. Britain swelters, page 13

Breakfast socials replace post-work pints

Eleanor Hayward Health Editor

The traditional pint after work is dying out as a result of remote working and the rise of sober Generation Z staff.

Employers have been issued with guidelines urging them to replace after-work drinks at the pub with daytime or virtual workplace socials.

The recommendations, from the Work Foundation, a Lancaster University think tank, and the International Alliance for Responsible Drinking, aim to create "inclusive and healthy workplace cultures" for staff who do not drink or who work from

home. Experts say employers should avoid describing socials as "drinks", but use "networking" or "gatherings". They should also consider daytime events, such as more inclusive away days.

The report said: "Whilst after-work drinks have long been a staple of socialising and workplace culture, in recent years there has been a shift in attitudes towards the appropriateness of centring workplace social activities outside of working hours or around the consumption of alcohol. This can include a need for virtual celebrations when teams are [remote], or an emphasis on socialising within work hours to

ensure those with long commutes or caring responsibilities do not miss out."

A trend for working longer means Baby Boomers born in the 1950s can have colleagues born this century. The latest figures show that one in five of Gen Z, those aged 18-27, do not drink and the report said they expected health and wellbeing to be a workplace priority.

The report involved a survey of 1,167 business leaders from across Britain. It found that only a fifth of employers had policies on responsible alcohol consumption in the workplace, and most Continued on page 2

IN THE NEWS

Deadly crossings

A total of 703 migrants crossed the Channel in small boats on Sunday, the highest daily number since Labour took power, and two people died in the attempt. Page 3

Fatal stabbing anger

The families of the victims of Valdo Calocane say the mental health services caring for him before the fatal Nottingham stabbings "have blood on their hands". Page 5

Tom Daley retires

As Team GB returned from Paris to cheering crowds, Tom Daley, Britain's most decorated diver, with five Olympic medals, announced his retirement aged 30. Page 7

Judge condemned

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, the British law lord who sits in Hong Kong's highest court, is facing criticism for upholding jail sentences against pro-democracy activists. Page 28

Tycoon's BT deal

A company owned by an Indian tycoon is to become BT's largest shareholder after agreeing to buy a 24.5 per cent stake from Patrick Drahi, the media investor. Page 31

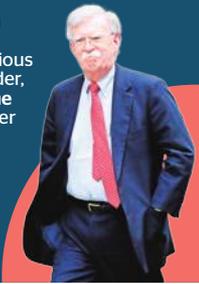
City await fate

Manchester City's hearing on 115 alleged breaches of Premier League rules is due to start next month, with the outcome set to be published in the new year. Page 60

News

Today's highlights

- 6.20am** Vadym Prystaiko, former Ukrainian ambassador to Britain
- 11am** Rebuilding after the riots: how previous governments have dealt with disorder, with guests including **Lord Heseltine**
- 3.35pm** **Dr Ian Graham**, Liverpool FC's former head of research, on his new book **How to Win the Premier League**
- 4.35pm** **John Bolton**, right, former national security adviser to Donald Trump



TIMES RADIO
DAB RADIO • ONLINE • SMART SPEAKER • APP

TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



ART ATTACK
Banksy unveils another new work in London
PAGE 9

WORLD



FIRE HAZARD
Thousands flee homes as wildfires threaten Athens
PAGES 26-27

TIMES2



FAMILY BUSINESS
The mother and daughter with rival shows at the Fringe
PAGE 9

COMMENT

The sudden axing of funding for a 'game changing' project deserves a fuller explanation

WILLIAM HAGUE, PAGE 21

LETTERS 24
LEADING ARTICLES 25
WORLD 26

BUSINESS 31
REGISTER 45
COURT CIRCULAR 47

SPORT 50
CROSSWORD 60
TV & RADIO TIMES2



The incursion that has humiliated Putin

The Ukrainian advance into Russia – the biggest by enemy forces into the country since the Second World War – is a bold gamble that may change the course of the war. So what is President Zelensky's plan?

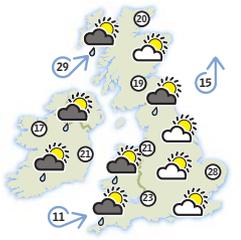
Available on the Times Radio app or wherever you get your podcasts

OFFER

Save up to 30% with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times

THETIMES.COM/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Showery rain across northern and western areas. Dry and sunny further southeast. Forecast, page 49

© TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2024. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters Holdings Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY, Kitting Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN and Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esy Drive, Carn Industrial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact NLA media access at copya@nla.co.uk, telephone 01892 525273. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

Tugendhat says Britain must be 'brutally honest' about riots

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Britain must have a "brutally honest" conversation about the "social unrest" that lies behind last week's riots, a Tory leadership contender will warn today. Tom Tugendhat, a shadow security minister, will say that people have preferred the "warmth and false comfort of denial and complacency" and moved on too quickly from moments of "extreme" violence.

He will call for disorder to be met with "uncompromising force" rather than telling police to go "softly, softly" and make arrests later. In a speech in central London he will say: "The story of the last two weeks is not only one of violence and destruction. It is a story of a nation divided — the result of social unrest we've allowed to percolate below the surface.

"Too often, over the last two decades or more, we have avoided being brutally honest, preferring instead the warmth and false comfort of denial and complacency ... we need to end the culture of denial — the tendency to move hurriedly on from acts of extreme violence, to obfuscate about the identities and motives of the perpetrators."

His intervention comes after Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, said that the riots were a sign that Britain had lost respect for policing and believes that crime has no consequences. She said that she wanted to "restore respect for the police".

However, Tugendhat is expected to accuse Sir Keir Starmer of a "failure of leadership" over the crisis. He will say: "For officers on the streets, policing a violent crowd is a dangerous job. We sometimes hear of the need to go softly, softly, and to make arrests later. But visible lawlessness encourages others to join in and commit crime."

He will also criticise Nigel Farage, the Reform UK leader, for "reckless political rhetoric" and the spread of misinformation that erodes social trust. Tugendhat will argue that prison both provides effective punishment and

keeps dangerous offenders off the streets, criticising the government's decision to reduce the length of sentences that many offenders will have to serve before being released on parole.

Faced with the prospect of running out of prison spaces, the government temporarily has reduced the proportion of a sentence offenders must spend behind bars from 50 per cent to 40 per cent.

There are exceptions for terrorists, sex offenders, people convicted of crimes linked to domestic abuse and violent criminals serving more than four years. Rishi Sunak blocked similar plans in the run-up to the election despite being urged to act by Alex Chalk, the former justice secretary.

Tugendhat will say: "Prison punishes offenders and takes dangerous and prolific criminals out of circulation, allowing the rest of us to live in peace. We should be updating and improving our prisons, not releasing criminals."

Social media under scrutiny, page 16
Left-behind pupils, letters, page 24

Starmer tells new Iranian president to de-escalate

George Grylls Political Correspondent

Sir Keir Starmer has warned Iran not to attack Israel in his first call with the Islamic Republic's new leader.

The prime minister spoke to President Pezeshkian yesterday as western leaders engaged in urgent diplomacy to avoid an attack that could send the Middle East to the brink of war.

Israel is braced for a significant attack after the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, in Tehran last month. Haniyeh was attending the funeral of Ebrahim Raisi, the former president of Iran, when he was killed by an explosion that has been attributed to Israel. Pezeshkian, 69, a reformist who succeeded against the more hardline candidate, Saeed Jalili, replaced Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash.

Starmer spoke to Pezeshkian after a joint call with the leaders of the US, Germany, France and Italy. In a statement, the leaders told Iran to "stand down" and warned of serious consequences in the Middle East should an attack go ahead. The leaders also called for renewed ceasefire negotiations in Gaza, where 93 people sheltering at a school in Gaza City died over the weekend in an Israeli airstrike.

The statement read: "We expressed our full support for ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions and reach a cease-



Sir Keir Starmer during yesterday's call to President Pezeshkian of Iran

fire and hostage release deal in Gaza ... All parties must live up to their responsibilities ... We called on Iran to stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel and discussed the serious consequences for regional security should such an attack take place."

Unlike the US, Britain maintains an embassy in Tehran and Starmer's attempts to mediate between Israel and Iran is a significant statement of diplomatic intent from the UK.

A Downing Street spokeswoman said: "The prime minister spoke to the President of Iran this evening. [He] 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."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Russians flee Ukraine advance

reported the outrage last week among some Kursk residents who challenged the official "lies" that the situation was under control, as locals were left to cope on their own.

Meanwhile, Andrei Gurulev, a retired general and member of the Russian parliament with Putin's United Russia party, criticised the military for failing to properly protect the border.

"Regrettably, the group of forces protecting the border didn't have its own intelligence assets," he said. "No one likes to see the truth in reports, everybody just wants to hear that all is good."

President Zelensky's administration had refrained from commenting on the objectives of the cross-border opera-

tion. But after months of steady Russian gains along the front lines of Donbas, the move appears designed to relieve some of the pressure on Ukraine's beleaguered forces.

While there has been some evidence of Moscow redeploying certain battalions from along the length of the 600-mile front, Russian military leaders were proving "reluctant" to do so, one high-ranking defence official told The Times. "Right now, they do not want to have to stop their offensive in the east. But if we are able to maintain our positions [in the cross-border operation] for more time, they will be forced to," the official said.

Separately, a fire broke out on the premises of the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine. Zelensky said that

the Russian military had started it but Yevgeny Balitsky, the Russian-installed governor of Zaporizhzhia, blamed shelling by Ukrainian forces. Both sides said that there had been no detected change in the radiation levels around the plant.

The head of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy company, said that the cooling tower at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which has been held by Russia since March 2022, might need to be replaced.

The International Atomic Energy Agency requested that its team get "immediate access to the cooling tower to assess the damage". The UN body has previously called on both sides "to exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid a nuclear accident".

Pressure on Putin, page 26

Pink news: gay flamingos adopt abandoned chick

It has been more than 20 years since a gay couple became the first to adopt children in Britain but attitudes have changed more slowly among flamingos (Ellie McDonald and Jack Malvern write).

Curtis and Arthur at Paignton Zoo in Devon, have been celebrated as trailblazers after becoming the first male flamingo couple to have adopted a chick on British soil.

Zookeepers believe the egg had been abandoned by another couple. Farah Adaci, a spokeswoman, suggested that Curtis and Arthur could also be guilty of theft. "We believe the most likely scenario is that the egg was abandoned by another couple, so Arthur and Curtis adopted the egg.

There are other possibilities too, for example the egg being stolen from another nest.

"Same-sex parenting is also a known phenomenon among Chilean flamingos, as well as other bird species. Flamingos are social animals that thrive in large flocks, and therefore pairing up is a natural behaviour. Sometimes flamingos are drawn to another from the same sex. It could be for companionship or

friendship needs."

The chicks were the result of "love lagoon", an initiative named after the reality television show *Love Island*, to better document flamingo couples as they paired up over the summer.

The zoo has 51 flamingos and the public were encouraged to name them in a social media campaign.

"One of the reasons we asked the public to help name our flamingos earlier in the year was so we could better observe their behaviour over the breeding season, and this is the first time we have observed this phenomenon at this zoo," Adaci said.

The success of the breeding programme is a testament to the zoo's commitment to conservation.

"The team are thrilled by the success of this year's breeding programme overall, as it is the first time we've had chicks since 2018.

"We are also all incredibly intrigued by the adoption from a behavioural research point of view, and is a cherry on top of what has been a great year for our flamingo flock so far, because it means one more chick being raised by attentive parents."

Flamingo eggs hatch



Curtis and Arthur are thought to have adopted the chick after an egg was abandoned

WILD PLANET TRUST/COVER IMAGES

after about 28 days of being incubated on mud piles by both parents.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed the species as near-threatened. Irrigation projects, habitat disruption from mining and quarrying and hunting have all led to the decline.

The first human gay couple to adopt children in Britain were Barrie and Tony Drewitt-Barlow, who had twins born to a surrogate mother in 1999. They were the first same-sex couple to win the legal right to be named on a birth certificate as parents.

Users of Twitter/X celebrated the flamingo adoption. Josh Luke Davis, a natural history writer, wrote with delight that Curtis and Arthur, as "gay flamingos, are raising a chick in Paignton Zoo".

There is no evidence that the couple have a sexual relationship but the species has been embraced as a mascot by some in the gay community. In an article about plastic flamingo lawn ornaments, *The New York Times* said they had become a symbol of "transgression of social and cultural convention".

Birds of a feather

● In 2022 it was reported that Elmer and Lima, male Humboldt penguins at Rosamond Gifford zoo in Syracuse, New York, had become the first same-sex penguin parents. As a vulnerable species, they were given an egg to incubate as part of the zoo's Humboldt penguin programme and tasked with hatching and raising the chicks of breeding pairs not equipped for the job.

● Penguins are not the only bird species taking this path: the phenomenon has been seen in vultures, according to reports. Outside captivity, same-sex parenting between males has not been commonly observed, but in captivity there are examples. A foster scheme was established in 2017 with a pair of male griffon vultures, who successfully hatched an abandoned egg at Artis zoo in Amsterdam. It was the zoo's first hatching in five years. The young vulture was released into the wild in 2018 as part of a conservation programme.

● On Oahu, an island in Hawaii, it was reported that 31 per cent of pairings of Laysan albatrosses were made up of two unrelated females. After mating, the female pairings raise chicks together.

Deadly day as 700 migrants arrive

Laurence Sleator
Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Two people died attempting to cross the Channel on Sunday, as the warm weather prompted the highest number of crossings since Labour was elected last month.

The incident in which the migrants died involved a small boat in French waters, according to the Home Office. Fifty-three people were rescued in an operation involving a helicopter and two boats and were returned to France. The French authorities are said to be leading the investigation into the deaths.

Figures published by the Home Office yesterday show that 703 people crossed the Channel in 11 boats, the single highest day of arrivals under the Labour government.

The latest crossings take the provisional total for the year to 18,342 — 13 per cent higher than at this point last year but lower than the same period in 2022.

Downing Street warned that crossings were likely to increase over the summer, with Sir Keir Starmer saying that his response would be modelled on the government's reaction to riots.



Border Force helped to bring migrants to shore on a busy day in the Channel

"We know the summer is a challenging time, and we expect to see increases before we see improvements," No 10 said. "We know that it is in these months that the criminal gangs seek to exploit people, taking ever more dangerous tactics and approaches."

A Downing Street spokeswoman declined to say when crossings would fall, stressing "hard work with enforcement agencies" was needed.

"As you've seen in the response to the riots, taking a methodical, evidence, intelligence-led approach does have a positive effect," she said.

But No 10 denied claims that scrapping the Rwanda scheme had encouraged more migrants to attempt the crossing.

James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, said: "Since Labour have 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."

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

It comes after a lull since August 6, with no migrants arriving over a four-day period. Last Tuesday 355 arrived in seven boats.

The Home Office said: "We all want to see an end to dangerous small boat crossings, which are undermining border security and putting lives at risk."

"The new government is taking steps to boost our border security, setting up a new border security command which will bring together our intelligence and enforcement agencies, equipped with new counterterrorism-style powers, and hundreds of personnel stationed in the UK and overseas to smash the criminal smuggling gangs making millions in profit."

Another 50 people were rescued in a separate incident to the one that led to the two fatalities, including several who had suffered petrol burns.

The deaths bring the small boats death toll to 17 this year.

On July 28, a woman suffocated while trying to make the crossing in an overcrowded dinghy. Dina Al Shammari, 21, was travelling with her three younger siblings, aged 13 to 19, and parents, when she died off the coast of Calais on July 28.

Her mother, Amira Al Shammari, 52, said the family had tried the crossing five times before the night when her eldest daughter died and have "no options" but to attempt the journey again.

"We have no options here, where should we go?" she said. "Who's going to give us the protection? We have to do that again."

A UK government spokesman said: "We can confirm there has been a tragic incident in the Channel involving a small boat in French waters which has resulted in the loss of two lives."

"This latest tragedy underlines the terrible dangers of small boat crossings and we continue to do everything we can to prevent callous criminals exploiting vulnerable people."

"Our thoughts are with those affected."

Migration debate, letters, page 24



WATTIE CHEUNG

Moor the merrier A shooting party on the Lammermuir Hills in East Lothian celebrating the Glorious Twelfth, the traditional first day of the grouse-shooting season

Hundreds of patient suicides at 'prison-like' mental health units

Eleanor Hayward Health Editor

Hundreds of patients have killed themselves on NHS mental health wards over the past five years.

Campaigners are particularly concerned about the number of suicides among young women and girls.

Patients report feeling "unsafe, unheard, alone and frightened" on understaffed, "traumatising" and "prison-like" psychiatric wards.

Since 2018 more than 232 inpatients at NHS mental health trusts in England have taken their own lives, figures obtained using freedom of information laws show. The NHS has 50 mental health trusts in England; just over half provided data, meaning the true number of deaths is likely to be much higher.

The greatest number of deaths were reported at hospitals in Essex, where a statutory public inquiry has been launched. Bereaved families are demanding a similar investigation at Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust in the northeast, where three teenage girls are among 17 patients to have died.

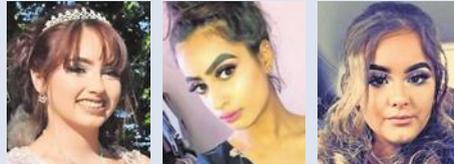
An audit by The Times also revealed thousands of incidents in which patients have been affected by crumbling infrastructure on mental health wards, including sewage leaks, floods, and cockroach and rat infestations — including dozens of cases on specialist children's wards.

Each year more than 50,000 patients are sectioned in hospitals under the Mental Health Act. Patients are only hospitalised if they are at high risk of harm to themselves or others, but charities say that hospitals are not fit for purpose and are failing to do their basic duty of keeping patients safe because they are short-staffed and have been underfunded for years.

In the King's Speech last month, the government included plans to reform

Case studies

Christie Harnett rang her mother in tears saying that she "was going to end up dead" if she was sent back to an NHS mental health unit (Eleanor Hayward writes). Four months later, the 17-year-old was found unconscious in a bathroom at West Lane Hospital in Middlesbrough. Christie's death by suicide in June 2019 was followed by the deaths of two other girls at the hospital: Nadia Sharif, 17, and Emily Moore, 18.



Christie Harnett, 17, Nadia Sharif, 17, and Emily Moore, 18

The girls took their own lives in an eight-month period under the care of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) Foundation NHS Trust, amid "unacceptable failings" in their care.

There have been at least 17 suicides of mental health inpatients in the past five years at TEWV

trust, including those of the three girls.

Michael Harnett, Christie's stepfather, is leading a campaign, Rebuild Trust, demanding a public inquiry to prevent further tragedies. "It has been five years since Christie died," he said. "How can it be that there are still

people dying now, in very similar circumstances?"

"It was horrible. We would go in there to visit ... Christie would smash her head against the wall and be told to clean the blood up herself."

In April the trust was fined £210,000 after pleading guilty to failing to provide safe care for Christie and another woman who took her own life in November 2020.

A spokesman for the trust said it had "recruited more staff, made significant investment to make our wards safer and continued to prioritise patient safety".

"outdated" Mental Health Act to "ensure mental health is given the same focus as physical health".

Deborah Coles, executive director of the charity Inquest, which supports bereaved families, said that a fundamental overhaul was needed to stop more lives being lost. "When somebody then takes their own life within a mental health setting, that [raises] very serious questions about how they were looked after," she said.

Nil Guzelgun, of the mental health charity Mind, said that inpatients were often unable to access not only appropriate treatments but even fresh air. Its research found that more than half said their mental health deteriorated in hospital, with some comparing the environment to a prison. "Mental health hospitals can be cold, frightening, noisy and traumatic places," Guzelgun said.

"People are there because they need help but feel unsafe, unheard, alone and frightened. Having cockroaches and rodents on wards is unacceptable and poses a general health risk.

One patient, Emma Powell, 32, an actor and Cambridge graduate, said that she found mice on the ward when she was admitted to hospital in south London under the Mental Health Act. She has been hospitalised six times over the past decade with psychosis and depression. She described an environment in which it was almost impossible to get better. "The rooms are grotty and in disrepair. The whole environment is underfunded, unloved, uncared for. You're just stuck inside. There are days when staff just don't have time to take you outside."

Claire Murdoch, the NHS's mental health director, said: "Our thoughts are

with all those families who have lost a loved one in such tragic circumstances ... The health service is working to transform the culture of mental health wards for those who need to be in hospital, including implementing new standards which were developed by former patients and their families to ensure care is therapeutic and close to home and patient safety is tailored to people's specific needs."

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "Many people with mental health issues are not getting the care they need. We're determined to fix this: expanding mental health support in the community to ease pressures on hospitals, and making sure inpatients are treated with dignity and respect."

For confidential support, the Samaritans can be contacted by calling 116 123 or going to samaritans.org.

Quintagram® No 2019

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Children's board game (4)

2 Racehorse rider (6)

3 --- Potter, noted screenwriter (6)

4 Ringing instrument (8)

5 Physical result of weight loss (8)

A	B	C	D	D	E	E
E	G	H	I	I	J	K
L	L	L	L	M	M	N
N	N	O	O	S	S	U

Solutions see Times2 p15
Cryptic clues Times2 p14

Killer to have retrial

A man accused of murder will face a retrial next year after the jury failed to reach a verdict. Hassan Jhangur, 24, hit and killed Chris Marriott, 46, with his car as Marriott was helping Jhangur's sister, whom he found hurt in the road. Jhangur denied murder and manslaughter at Sheffield crown court but admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

Wonky House saved

A 16th-century house in Lincoln with a notable lean is likely to be saved after the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire raised £61,000 to combat an infestation of deathwatch beetles in its timbers that was discovered in April. An initial investment of £451,000 had been made last year to turn the grade II listed "Wonky House" into holiday lets.

Hotel thief jailed

A thief who was on bail awaiting trial for stealing from nurses at a London hospital broke into a hotel room and stole items worth £3,320 while the occupants were out. At Southwark crown court Maciej Garlej, 42, admitted the hotel burglary in August last year and was given 11 months to run concurrently with 34 months he is already serving.

Balloon death appeal

A coroner has called for better regulation of hot air ballooning after a man died in a craft he built himself. Peter Gregory, 25, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, died in Worcester in June last year when his balloon deflated at 500ft. David Reid, the county's senior coroner, suggested that the Civil Aviation Authority inspect homemade balloons.

TIMES RADIO

Breakfast: 6am to 10am

Our free radio station has all the latest headlines, interviews and debates every morning

Listen seven days a week

On DAB, app, website and smart speaker



Bad news for busy parents: iPads only make toddler tantrums worse

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Trying to calm down an upset toddler by giving it a screen to play with may backfire, after a study has found that children who used tablets often went on to have more tantrums.

The researchers recruited 315 children, whose behaviour and tablet use was tracked for three years. They found that those who used tablets, such as iPads, more often at the age of three had more “expressions of anger and

frustration” by the time they were four years old. The researchers found that these children were likely to be using tablets more frequently a year later — possibly because their parents had taken to handing them the devices to try to settle them down. “These results suggest that early childhood tablet use may contribute to a cycle that is deleterious for emotional regulation,” they wrote in the journal *Jama Pediatrics*. “Children who spend more hours using screens may forfeit opportunities to

engage in activities, such as interactions with caregivers or free play with other children that are essential for rehearsing and eventually mastering self-regulation,” they added.

Parents were asked to assess their children by saying how much they agreed with statements such as “my child gets angry when told they have to go to bed”. They did this on a seven-point scale where a score of one suggested that a child succumbed to tantrums rarely, and seven meant they

were often upset. For every additional 70 minutes of tablet use a day at the age of three and a half, there was a quarter-point increase on the tantrum scale a year later. The study was observational, which means it could not prove that tablet use caused children to express more anger, and experts said the findings should be viewed with caution.

However, the authors called on parents to avoid relying on devices as “digital pacifiers”. According to Ofcom, about a quarter of five to seven-year-

olds in the UK owns a smartphone, and three quarters use a tablet.

Caroline Fitzpatrick, a professor of child development at the University of Sherbrooke in Canada, who led the research, said: “Parents should ... avoid handing children mobile devices as a strategy for calming them. Parents of children more prone to outbursts of anger and frustration could also favour child activities that help build self-regulation skills — playing make-believe, book reading, and physical activity.”

Killer's care team have 'blood on their hands'

Will Humphries

The families of the victims of Valdo Calocane have said the mental health services caring for him in the lead-up to the Nottingham attacks “have blood on their hands”, after it emerged that care staff “minimised or omitted” key details of the risk he posed to others.

The final part of a Care Quality Commission (CQC) review into the care of Calocane, who had paranoid schizophrenia, by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) found that risk assessments had played down the fact that he was refusing to take his medication, had persistent symptoms of psychosis and was increasingly violent.

It also questioned how well the trust engaged with Calocane's family, who repeatedly raised concerns about his deteriorating mental health.

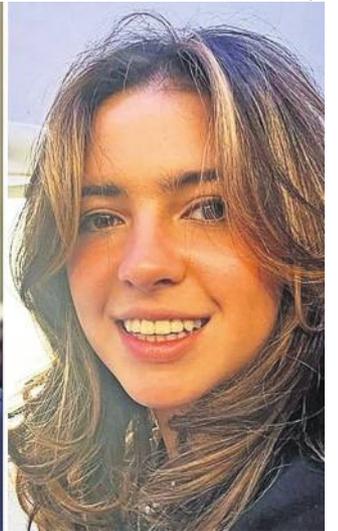
Calocane, 32, had paranoid schizophrenia diagnosed in 2020 after two incidents when he broke into neighbours' flats believing his mother was being raped inside. He was sectioned four times in less than two years.

In June last year he rampaged through the streets of Nottingham, killing the students Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both 19, with a knife as they returned from a night out, before stabbing to death Ian Coates, 65,

near the school where he worked as a caretaker. Calocane then stole Coates's van and crashed into three people, inflicting serious injuries. He was convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and sentenced to an indefinite hospital order.

Calocane's family said medical records given to them after the killings showed that in 2020 a psychiatrist was so worried about his illness they had to a meeting of health professionals that “perhaps Valdo will end up killing someone”.

The victims' families said the CQC report “demonstrates gross, systematic failures” and claimed the government had told them a public inquiry would take place. The families said clinicians



Ian Coates, 65, and Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both 19, were killed by Valdo Calocane in June last year

involved at every stage of Calocane's care “must bear a heavy burden of responsibility for their failures and poor decision-making”.

They said in a statement: “Alarming, there seems to be little or no accountability amongst the senior management team within the mental health trust.”

The CQC review found “systemic issues” with community mental health care, including a shortage of staff and a lack of integration with other support services, including the police. “It is clear

that after four admissions in two years, and repeated disengagement and refusal to take medicine, Calocane required a much more robust package of care,” the review concluded. “More assertive engagement and restrictive measures were crucial to managing his illness and the risk he posed to others when unwell.”

Throughout his two years of treatment he displayed an “obvious pattern” of not taking his medication while in the community and clinicians made “a series of errors, omissions and misjudgments”, the CQC said.

“Risk assessments minimised or omitted key details” and, despite hospital admissions and evidence that Calocane was not improving, there was “no real change to his care and treatment”.

Chris Dziki, interim chief inspector of healthcare at the CQC, said it was clear “the risk [Calocane] presented to the public was not managed well and that opportunities to mitigate that risk were missed”.

Calocane was first admitted for mental health treatment in May 2020 after he attempted a break-in. He was prescribed medication for psychosis and

released. He was arrested an hour later for trying to enter another flat.

Four weeks later he broke into another neighbour's flat and was sectioned. Calocane was discharged in July 2020 and a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia was sent to his GP.

Records show that in autumn 2020 Calocane admitted to his community mental health team that he had lied to doctors that he no longer heard voices because he was tired of being in hospital. Calocane's mental health nurse told doctors he was missing appointments and not taking his tablets. She thought he should be given long-lasting injectable medication, known as a depot injection, but this did not happen.

The CQC made recommendations to NHFT. Wes Streeting, the health secretary, called for these to be implemented nationally.

Families of the victims have said they are “very disappointed” not to have been involved in a *Panorama* documentary on the case, which was shown last night.

The BBC said the documentary had been produced in accordance with editorial guidelines.



Valdo Calocane, left, whose mother, Celeste, and brother, Elias, appeared on *Panorama* last night

French call off search for doctor missing in the Pyrenees

Mario Ledwith

The search for a British doctor who has been missing in the French Pyrenees since August 6 has been suspended.

Tom Doherty, 67, a retired tropical medicine consultant, was on a solo walking and camping trip when he sent a text message to his family saying: “Help, I've fallen and cannot [m]ove.” The distress signal triggered a mountain rescue operation involving helicopters and ground searches involving dogs.

The French authorities said yesterday that the search, centring on the Col d'Escots mountain pass in the Ariege region, had been suspended. “After five

days, we haven't managed to find him,” a representative of the prosecutor's office said, adding that an investigation into his disappearance would continue.

Doherty, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, set out on a solo walking and camping trip from his second home near Bergerac in southwest France on August 3. He had stayed in contact with his family by sending photographs of the mountainous area near the border with Spain and Andorra, though he did not note his exact location.

After 24 hours with no contact, Doherty sent a series of images to a family WhatsApp group a week ago. At 4.20pm that day, he sent a further picture of a vista with cloud encroaching

over a ridge, captioned with the word “bugger”.

He then sent another flurry of messages at 7.07pm to two family WhatsApp groups. On a wider family group, Doherty wrote: “Hello hello help.” In another group with more immediate family members, he said: “Help, I've fallen and cannot [m]ove.”

Relatives tried to contact Doherty, a father of four daughters, but their calls and messages went unanswered. His wife, Anne Lyons, immediately

Tom Doherty was last heard of a week ago

contacted officials in France, triggering a search operation by specialists from the Peloton de Gendarmerie de Haute Montagne, which began the following day.

Lyons travelled to the Pyrenees with family members to assist in the search. Doherty's car, a grey Renault Clio, was found near Pouech de Gèrac, a few miles from the Chalet de Beaugerard.

The operation has been complicated by the fact that Doherty's phone location could not be accurately triangulated in the remote area. His family have been trying to seek

access to his Apple account in the hope they might be able to locate him through photos taken.

Lyons told French television on Thursday that her husband was an experienced walker but he is not a mountaineer with climbing equipment.

Doherty, a specialist in malaria, had worked in countries including Jamaica and Zimbabwe before moving back to the UK about 20 years ago. Since retiring he spent much of his time in France.

One of his four daughters, Rachel Doherty, told The Times last week that her father had “always loved an adventure and been very independent”. “He is a character and he has always done his own thing,” she said.



Shrinking number of maths students

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

The number of students taking maths degrees has stagnated despite the subject booming at A-level, a new report has found.

More than 100,000 teenagers will get maths A-level results on Thursday — a record — and it has been the most popular A-level subject for ten years.

Wealthier male school-leavers and those from Chinese and Indian backgrounds are more likely to study maths at university. However, the overall proportion of students taking maths has shrunk and several universities have cut provision and closed departments, according to the Campaign for Mathematical Sciences. Today it will launch a

project, Maths Degrees for the Future, offering grants of up to £500,000 to fund innovation in maths teaching and curriculum design.

A report commissioned by the campaign into the state of maths degrees found that the number of undergraduates studying the subject has remained almost flat in that time.

Professor Paul Wakeling, of the University of York, who wrote the report, found that first-year enrolments in maths were only slightly higher in 2021-22 than in 2012-13. This compares with growth at that level in all subjects of around a quarter over the same period. Maths has a lower proportion of students from disadvantaged homes than average across all subjects, his report

said. Growth in maths enrolments in the past decade is concentrated among students from managerial households studying at Russell Group universities.

The east of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Yorkshire and Humber have lower numbers of maths students than would be expected given the population of school leavers in those regions. Cuts in university spending have led to departmental cuts and closures, the report adds. Last year Oxford Brookes University ended its maths courses while Birkbeck, University of London, reduced its provision.

The campaign warns of emerging “maths deserts” and less diversity in the subject.

Professor Jens Marklof, president of

the London Mathematical Society, said: “The record number of pupils receiving A-level maths results this week is incredibly encouraging.

“Maths is key to the UK’s brightest future — it underpins many of our most urgent technologies from AI and quantum computing to cybersecurity, and is key to solving the nation’s challenges from climate change and epidemiology to national security. The fund will set a pathway for the future of teaching maths, with the aim to increase the overall pool of students going into a mathematical sciences degree.”

Wakeling said: “Over the past decade, maths has been losing share within UK undergraduate education and there are clear patterns in how the under-

graduate population skews in terms of geographical location, sex, socioeconomic background and ... institution where the subject is likely to be studied. There is a danger or an unhelpful feedback loop where maths becomes the preserve of a narrower slice of the population.”

Bobby Seagull, the maths teacher and broadcaster, said he wanted as many people as possible to be persuaded to pursue the subject to a higher level, adding: “Maths is too often taken for granted. There is a huge amount of maths talent in this country ... and we must do everything we can to ensure we harness all of it. It fills my heart with joy to see so many students getting A-level maths results this week.”

TRISTAN FEWINGS/GETTY IMAGES/SOTHEBY'S



Into the blue “Abstract 5”, by Alshaiikh Idris, is in the exhibition *Hafila*, meaning celebration, at Sotheby’s, London, showcasing Middle East culture. It ends on August 31

Apprentice degrees go to older, richer candidates

Georgia Lambert, Nicola Woolcock

Degree apprenticeships are more likely to be snapped up by older and wealthier students instead of school leavers, according to analysis of Department for Education figures.

A degree apprenticeship allows people to study towards an undergraduate or master’s degree while working and earning. In 2022-23 more than 46,000 people in England started degree apprenticeships, with most (53 per cent) pursuing Level 6 qualifications, equivalent to a bachelor’s degree, and 47 per cent aiming for the equivalent of a master’s degree.

Analysis by the Sutton Trust shows that degree apprenticeships favour wealthier candidates, with 23 per cent of places going to those from the least deprived areas. Apprenticeship starts are rare in the most deprived areas, with only 14 per cent across all ages and 12 per cent for under-25s.

The share of degree apprenticeships claimed by people aged 25 and over has jumped from 13 per cent in 2015-16 to 57 per cent.

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute, said: “There are very few degree apprenticeships for 18 or 19-year-olds. They can be in different parts of the country or not in the right industry that suits school leavers. They’re incredibly selective and more dominated by the middle classes than elite universities. And if you get one, they’re really hard work.”

Degree apprenticeships have also become increasingly competitive, with demand outstripping supply as more candidates vie for limited spots. Courses at the top consulting firms have reported 1,600 applications for 30 places.

Daniel Green, 18, from Shropshire, was offered a four-year degree apprenticeship in business accounting at PwC in partnership with the University of Manchester. He faced a series of competency and problem-solving exams followed by a group interview.

Green will study at university, receive a maintenance loan and live in a hall of residence. He said that a degree apprenticeship “gives you comfort knowing that in your final year, you don’t have to worry about getting a job”.

The education secretary has pledged to turn around “baked-in” educational inequalities, to ensure young people from all backgrounds have a chance to “get on in life” after leaving school.

Nearly half of GP surgeries taking part in strike

Poppy Koronka Health Correspondent

Almost half of general practice surgeries in England are undertaking some form of collective industrial action, a snapshot survey suggests.

Of 283 surgeries surveyed in England, 46 per cent were undertaking collective action of some type, according to the GPs’ magazine *Pulse*.

A further 20 per cent, however, said they would be taking collective action in the future, with 22 per cent considering it.

More than half — 51 per cent — said they would be willing to keep the collective industrial action going indefinitely.

The British Medical Association’s general practitioners’ committee in England launched collective action at the start of this month, which involved ten potential work-to-rule style measures, including limiting the number of patients seen each day to 25.

The action is in protest at the funding

for surgeries for 2024-25, as outlined by the general practice contract. The previous government had increased the funding by 1.9 per cent, which doctors said would not be enough to cover their costs.

The Labour government has updated the pay element of the contract, increasing GPs’ remuneration by 6 per cent.

The BMA is now consulting GPs about the proposed funding increase.

More than a quarter of the practices surveyed were limiting the number of patients they see each day to 25.

Julius Parker, the deputy chairman of the BMA’s England general practitioners committee, said: “We’ve always been clear that this action will be a slow burn, and its effect will be incremental. We also know and support the fact that colleagues will need time to consider how they want to take collective action.”

“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.

“GPs voted overwhelmingly in support of collective action and the profession is united in our goal: that general practice needs its share of the NHS pound to increase from 6p to 15p, while protecting existing funding across the wider system.

“GPs are currently struggling to give patients the care they need. We can’t afford to hire staff, keep on top of rising running costs, or, in some cases, even stay open at all.

“We believe this very early survey demonstrates a strong commitment to collective action and that GPs are prepared to do whatever it takes to protect their patients and the future of general practice.”

Amanda Doyle, the NHS’s national

director for primary care and community services, said: “As some practices continue collective action, it is vital that patients continue to come forward for care in the usual ways — practices remain open and services are still running.”

“We will be monitoring the impacts of this action to ensure that practices fulfil their contractual requirements and continue to meet the needs of patients.

“The NHS remains committed to tackling the issues within general practice, and while changes have been introduced to help staff and improve patient access, we know general practice remains under significant pressure and is experiencing record demand, so we will continue to work together with GPs and other stakeholders to support the profession.”

The Department of Health and Social Care has been contacted for comment.



LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES; JORDAN PETTIT/PA

Sadiq Khan, front right, the mayor of London, was on the platform to welcome Team GB home. Tom Daley, below, announced he had left his silver medal back in Paris

The BBC said coverage of the Olympics was streamed a record-breaking 218 million times online and had a peak audience of over six million viewers on 14 separate days.

Keely Hodgkinson's gold medal in the women's 800m final was the most watched event, with 9.1 million viewers on BBC1 and BBC iPlayer. Adam Peaty's silver in the men's 100m breaststroke final was watched by 8.5 million and 7.3 million saw Katarina Johnson-Thompson secure her first Olympic medal with a silver in the heptathlon.

A British man arrested while climbing the Eiffel Tower hours before the closing ceremony was named yesterday as Louis Davis, 33. French authorities confirmed he faces a possible charge of "endangering the lives of others" which has a maximum one-year prison sentence and £12,800 fine.

The stuntman, who has appeared in films starring Tom Cruise and Johnny Depp, was convicted last year of recklessly causing a public nuisance and aggravated trespass in climbing the 50-storey, 802ft tall Leadenhall Building in London.

Team GB stars return home tired but elated

Team GB athletes were welcomed back yesterday with cheers from waiting supporters as they arrived in London after a night celebrating a successful Paris Olympics at the closing ceremony (David Brown writes).

The Olympians took selfies with each other and hugged during an emotional homecoming at St Pancras International station following a chaotic closing ceremony starring Tom Cruise on Sunday night. Alex Yee, 26, who won the men's triathlon, said

he wanted to "live in the moment". His period of rest, however, will be short-lived. "We've got a race on Saturday — it's non-stop for us triathletes," the gold medal winner said. Even so, Yee said he hoped to squeeze in some golf before his next race.

Tom Daley arrived only to discover that he had left his silver medal in Paris. "I made a little croissant bag for it and I took it out to pack the duvet and I left the ...



anyway, it's on its way back to London but it's not with me right now."

Team GB won 65 medals — the nation's joint third highest total — but finished seventh in the international rankings with 14 golds.

Daley, 30, announced that Paris was his final Olympics and owed his medal to his husband, Dustin Lance Black, 50, as he was an "absolute hero" for caring for their children so he could train and compete.

Daley hangs up his trunks as Britain's most decorated diver

Seren Hughes

Tom Daley struggled to speak as he held back tears after announcing his retirement following the Paris Olympics.

Revealing his decision in British Vogue, Britain's most decorated diver said that it was "emotional" standing on the diving platform in Paris, knowing that it was going to be his last competitive dive.

That emotion was visible as he spoke to the BBC on his arrival back in the UK after his fifth Olympic Games.

Asked about his retirement, Daley, 30, could not answer for a few moments before saying: "It's hard to talk about." He wiped his eyes and collected himself. "I have to hang it up at some time," he said. "I'm very proud."

He added: "I'm really happy with how everything's gone. It's always hard when you say goodbye to a sport. Lots of things to process but I think it's the right time. This year felt like such a bonus. I got to compete in front of my family, my kids, to be flag-bearer. It's just hard to talk when you've loved something so much."

Daley made his Olympic debut at Beijing in 2008, aged 14. He won a gold

medal at Tokyo in 2021 in the ten-metre synchronised event alongside Matty Lee, then took two years out from the sport until his son, Robbie, convinced him to return. It paid off, as Daley and his diving partner Noah Williams secured silver in Paris.

Daley also has three bronze medals in his Olympic medal cabinet alongside eight world championship medals, eight European championship medals and five Commonwealth Games medals.

He told British Vogue that he felt "incredibly nervous" going into this Olympics, knowing that it would be his last, combined with the pressure and expectation on him.

He said: "I've spent my whole life doing this. Actually being able to let go of it — it's going to be hard. And it's going to be a major adjustment to figure out how my days are structured."

Daley has not decided if he will dive recreationally, saying "it's hard to dive that way", but he does have successful ventures away from the pool.

The father-of-two is often spotted knitting as he supports his team-mates at diving events and has his own knitted clothing line, Made With Love. He has now enrolled in a class at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles to learn how to sew.

Daley has already designed "a couple pieces" of underwear that he plans to launch and he is also hoping to launch a swimwear project next year.

Tom Daley, 30, has five Olympic medals and dived in five Games



Champion unwell after Seine swim

David Brown, Craig Lord

The Olympic legacy of the Seine has taken another hit, with a second athlete going to hospital after competing in the murky waters.

Daniel Wiffen, who swam in the 10km marathon, fell ill shortly before he was due to be Ireland's flag-carrier in the Olympics closing ceremony on Sunday night.

He took part in the marathon on Friday, having already won gold in the 800m race and bronze in the 1,500m race, held in the swimming pool.

Wiffen, 23, from Magheralin, Co Down, was being treated in hospital on Sunday night for a viral gastrointestinal infection. Writing on Twitter/X yesterday, he explained why he pulled out of the closing ceremony at the Stade de France. "I'm incredibly disappointed to miss out on the opportunity to be flag-bearer last night," he wrote. "Yesterday, I rushed to hospital as I was very unwell with a bug that I am being treated for, and am feeling better now. I hope everyone enjoys the evening and I hope to be well enough to see everyone when we get home."

Claire Michel, 35, a Belgian triathlete, was hospitalised with *E. coli* the day after her swim in the Seine.

He is also looking forward to spending more time with his two children.

As for his legacy, Daley said that he "would love for people to remember me for being a person that persevered, who persisted and didn't give up on his dream until he was able to achieve it".

"To currently be Britain's most decorated diver ... I feel so incredibly proud," he said. "When I look back, I'm really, genuinely satisfied with what I've done."

Daley, who came out mid-career and is married to the American screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, 50, also said that he hoped the world of sport would continue to become more open for gay people.

He said that he was pleased that "with every Olympics, there are more and more out athletes", but added that the pressure to become an activist can hold people back from coming out.

He added: "I also think that [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."

Olympics, sport, pages 56-60
Olympic memories, letters, page 24

Underground water raises hope of life on Mars

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

A vast reservoir of water is hidden beneath the surface of Mars and may harbour life, US researchers say.

The planet is now a frozen desert but evidence of ancient rivers, deltas and oceans is etched into its surface, suggesting that it glistened with water more than three billion years ago.

A new analysis suggests that much of that water did not, as widely thought, escape into space when Mars lost its atmosphere, but filtered down into the crust, where temperatures are higher.

The readings suggest that enough water could be trapped to cover all of

Mars, which is half the diameter of Earth, with an ocean up to a mile deep.

"The water is the same as ground water on Earth," said Vashan Wright, a geophysicist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, who led the study, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It would be challenging to drill down to extract it, however. The liquid is thought to be stored in tiny cracks and pores in rock between seven and twelve miles beneath the surface. The deepest man-made hole on Earth, the Kola Superdeep Borehole, is 7.6 miles deep and took Russia almost 20 years to drill.

"It would be better to look for places where geological activity might expel groundwater," Wright said.

Even at great depth his team believe the Martian groundwater could harbour microbial life. Michael Manga, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, said: "It's certainly true on Earth. Deep, deep mines host life, the bottom of the ocean hosts life.

"We haven't found any evidence for life on Mars, but at least we have identified a place that should, in principle, be able to sustain life."

Manga and his colleagues analysed data gathered by British-built instruments carried to Mars in 2018 by Nasa's

InSight spacecraft. These produced the first measurements of seismic activity on another planet, detecting and measuring hundreds of "marsquakes".

Some of the larger marsquakes were traced to a geologically active area known as the Cerberus Fossae, about 1,000 miles from InSight. They may be the result of pockets of magma cooling and contracting in an area that was volcanically active a few million years ago. The lander also recorded seismic activity from meteor strikes.

These events produced seismic waves, the speed of which depended on the material they were passing through. This allowed geophysicists to build up a

picture of the planet's interior.

At the same time, the strength of gravity over the planet's surface was mapped by tracking the position of satellites orbiting Mars. Gravity depends on mass and, therefore, density. This means that maps that show gravity and surface elevation can be converted to show the density of the crust, providing clues on its composition.

"The speed of seismic waves depends on properties of rocks, what they are made of, are they cracked, what fills the cracks," Wright said. "A mid-crust whose rocks are cracked and filled with liquid water best explains both seismic and gravity data."

EUROMILLIONS®

£51M*

GET THAT EUROMILLIONS FEELING

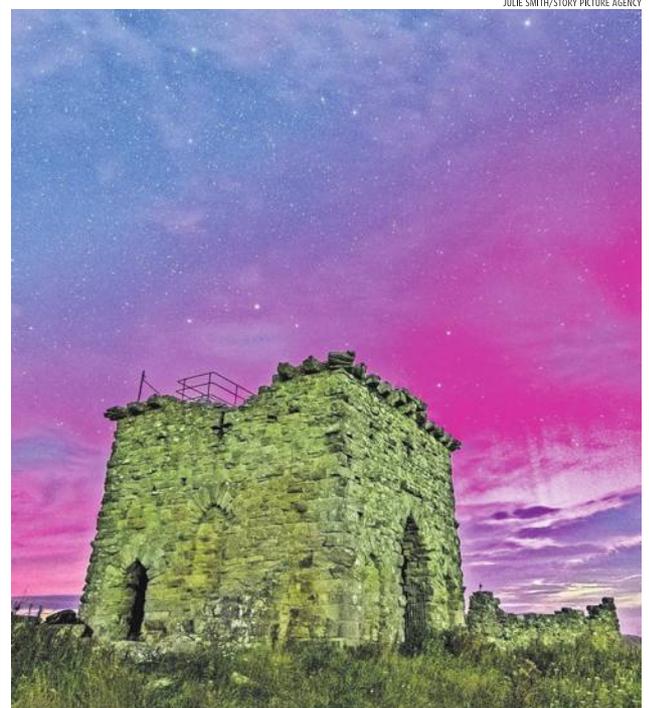
TONIGHT

PLAY ON APP

YOUR PLAY SUPPORTS

TEAM GB Paralympics GB

*Estimated Jackpot. Account Terms, Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 18+.



In the pink The northern lights lit up Rothley Castle, in Northumberland, on Sunday night, and a Perseid meteor shower was expected to peak last night

University pledges to fight for £800m supercomputer

David Leask

Edinburgh University has said it will fight to win back funding for an £800 million supercomputer shelved by the UK government this month.

The university has already constructed a £31 million building to house the giant "exascale" machine, which was at the heart of British efforts to keep up with global advances in artificial intelligence. Sir Peter Mathieson, the principal, lobbied ministers, including Ian Murray, the Scotland secretary, for the money.

The new Labour government said the supercomputer — and another £500 million for AI development at other universities, including Glasgow — had been announced by the previous Conservative administration without any funding being made available.

It has asked a leading entrepreneur, Matt Clifford, to review AI opportunities over the next six weeks to help inform an October spending review.

In an email to all academic staff Mathieson said: "I requested a meeting with the new secretary of state for science, innovation and technology, Peter Kyle, on the day of the announce-

ment. He stated that the reasoning was that the previous government had not identified any funding for the pledge.

"While this announcement is disappointing, we remain committed to our place as the centre for supercomputing and AI in the UK. The University of Edinburgh has led the way ... within the UK for decades, and is ready to work with the UK government to support the next phase of this technology in the UK, in order to unlock its benefits for industry, public services and society."

SNP and Conservative politicians expressed alarm when the project was called off, as did academics at other Scottish universities.

Ana Basiri, of Glasgow, said it was "very disappointing", and Chris van der Kuyf, a businessman and founding chairman of Entrepreneurial Scotland, said the decision was "idiotic".

A spokesman for the university said: "Professor Sir Peter Mathieson has now met with the secretary of state for science, innovation and technology and the secretary of state for Scotland, and we welcome the continued dialogue on this vital issue."

Ministers must explain why they've cut major project, William Hague, page 21

City police try to catch Banksy over piranha artwork

Police are investigating criminal damage after the artist Banksy turned a City of London police sentry box into a fish tank (Ali Mitib writes).

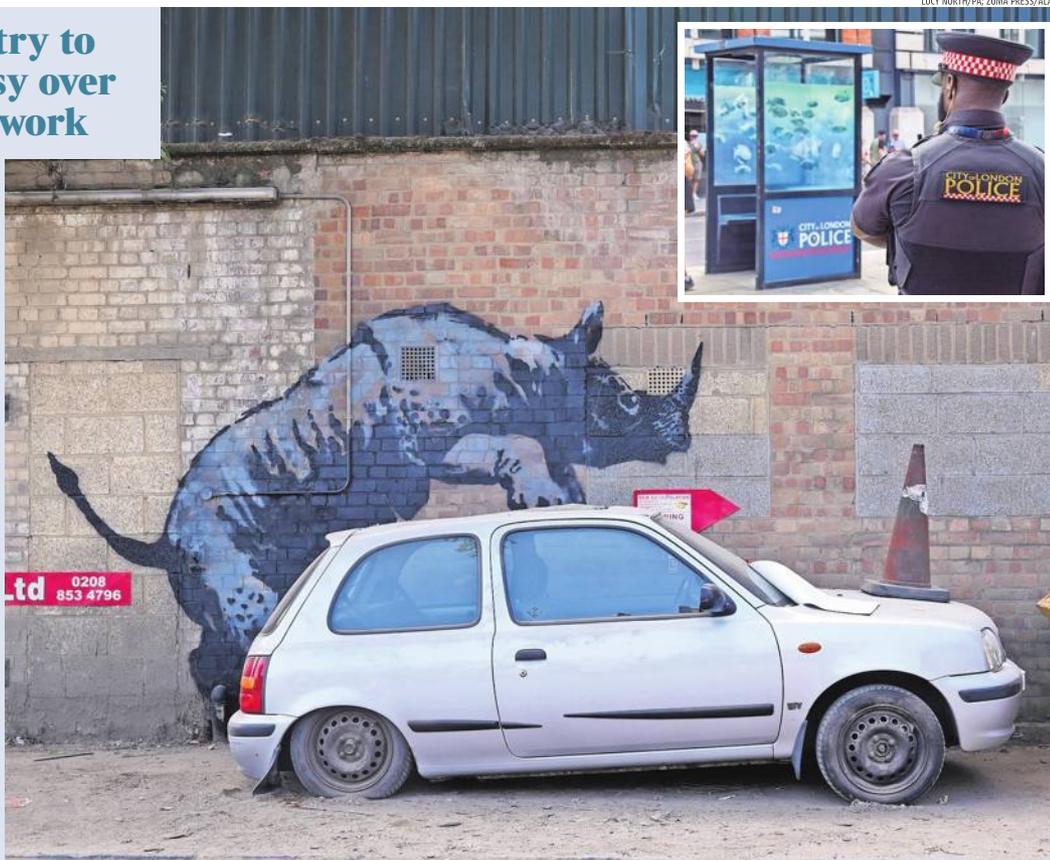
The piece was Banksy's seventh artwork revealed in the capital in as many days, while yesterday he announced an eighth piece, of a rhino mounting a Nissan Micra.

A glass box on Ludgate Hill near the Old Bailey was sprayed with translucent paint to look like a tank containing a school of piranhas. After the elusive artist claimed the piece on Sunday, the governing body of the City of London said it was working on options to preserve it.

Crowds gathered around the box until barriers were erected to stop people posing for pictures inside.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Spooner, of the City of London Police, said: "We are aware of criminal damage to a City of London Police box ... We are liaising with the City of London Corporation who own the box."

Daniel Lloyd-



Banksy unveiled another new artwork — his eighth in his animal-themed London collection — on Westmoor Street in Charlton, yesterday

Morgan, an artist who has painted his own versions of Banksy's pieces this week, said the new collection was "really uplifting for people in London at the moment". He added: "There's a buzz around his work. It's

nice to capture that as I do the people as well. It's not just about the artwork, it's about the whole environment he's creating, it becomes a work of art itself — what happens to it, people steal it or take it away."

Avi Yasitli, 63, a photographer who has seen all the new pieces, except the wolf painted on a satellite dish that was stolen in south London last week, said he thought the animals were a message from the

artist that the city has "turned into a zoo". On Saturday crowds booed as workers removed a piece of a stretching cat on an empty advertising billboard hours after the work was unveiled in Cricklewood,

northwest London. A contractor said it was in case someone "rips it down and leaves it unsafe". An officer at the scene said the owner of the billboard told police that he would donate it to an art gallery.

How deaths of his sons refocused Nick Cave

Seren Hughes

Nick Cave has said that his "disgraceful self-indulgence" collapsed after the death of two of his sons.

The 66-year-old singer of the Bad Seeds told ABC's *Australian Story* "that the idea that art trounces everything just doesn't apply to me any more".

"I'm a father and I'm a husband and a person of the world, these things are much more important to me than the concept of being an artist," he said.

Cave's son Arthur, 15, died in 2015 after falling from a 60ft cliff at Ovingdean in Brighton after taking LSD for the first time.

Seven years later his eldest son Jethro Lazenby, 31, was found dead of undisclosed causes at a motel in Melbourne a few days after being released from jail for attacking his mother, Beau Lazenby.

Cave spoke to Leigh Sales, an Australian journalist, on the second anniversary of Jethro's death in May, which she apologised for once he revealed it.

"For me, when I do interviews, it just very quickly lands back at this place," he responded.

The episode was released yesterday.

Cave said that the "void" left by his losses allowed him to become "much more compassionate towards the human predicament" and "connected to people in general".

He also said that the idea of turning to drugs again after his sons' deaths "just wasn't something that crossed my mind".

The Australian musician, known for hits such as *Into My Arms*, *The Mercy Seat* and *One More Time with Feeling*, said: "For most of my life I was just sort of in awe of my own genius, and I had an



Nick Cave says he is now more compassionate and "connected to people in general"

Lynam tackles Lineker's £1.3m salary and female TV pundits

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The former *Match of the Day* host Des Lynam has said that it is "hard to justify" the amount the BBC pays Gary Lineker for his presenting role.

Lynam, who presented the weekly football highlights programme for 11 years from 1988, said that the £1.3 million his successor earned last year for his work on the show only made sense in commercial terms.

"I don't suppose you can justify it in terms of what a nurse or fireman does, but it's the market — that's what the BBC feel they have to pay to get his services," Lynam told *Radio Times*.

"You can't say that anybody saying a few words into a television screen is worth more than someone who saves lives, but money dictates. He's a very lucky chap."

When Lynam joined the BBC as a sports reporter aged 26 in 1969 his annual salary was £2,030, a sum paid to Lineker in a few hours.

Lynam quit the BBC for ITV in 1999 when he was offered the opportunity to do "much less work and extraordinary money", which in hindsight he wished he had taken longer to consider. "I



PETE DADDS/BBC

The former *Match of the Day* host, below, told the *Radio Times* Lineker's pay was hard to justify



missed doing *Match of the Day*," he said. "It belongs there at the BBC. If they ever get rid of it, or can't afford it, they're finished."

Lineker provoked controversy this summer by describing the England team's performances in the early stages of the Euro 2024 tournament as "shit" on his *The Rest Is Football* podcast.

Lynam, 81, said that the former England football captain was too nervous to speak his mind when he first took over *Match of the Day* presenting duties 25 years ago but improved "very rapidly". Lynam added: "He wasn't comfortable at the

beginning. He's been highly critical of the England team in the Euros but when he first came on he wouldn't criticise anybody. He's not everyone's cup of tea but for my money I think he does a first-class job."

The growth of female pundits has been another hot topic since the former footballer Joey Barton criticised the quality of analysis from ITV's Eni Aluko and Lucy Ward in December. Lynam indicated that he agreed that women should not analyse men's sports, owing to a lack of experience.

"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," he said.

office and I would sit there and write every day and whatever else happened in my life was peripheral, even annoyances, because I was involved in this great work...

"And this just collapsed completely and I saw the folly of that, the kind of disgraceful self-indulgence of the whole thing.

"My priorities changed; I still work all the time, I still go on tour, I still piss everyone off because I'm making a new record or I'm maybe depressed because I can't write songs.

Asked about why he did not turn to drugs in his grief, Cave, who has a new album coming out with his band on August 30, said: "Mostly, I had responsibilities to other people, it wasn't just me, it was an honouring of the people that had actually died for one thing and I had my wife to look after..."

"And the idea that I would go off and become a junkie again, or whatever, was clearly a bad idea.

"And there were the other children too, so it just wasn't something that crossed my mind."

Cave is married to the fashion designer and former model, Susie Bick, 53, and they have one living son together, Arthur's twin Earl, 24.

He has another son, Luke, 33, with his first wife Viviane Carneiro, a Brazilian journalist.

Crypto scammers use deepfake PM and prince

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Deepfake videos of Sir Keir Starmer and Prince William are being used to sell a scam on Meta platforms, a new analysis shows.

AI versions of the prime minister and Prince of Wales appear in hundreds of adverts promoting a fraudulent cryptocurrency trading platform. The ads have reached up to 890,000 people on Meta's social media sites, which include Facebook and Instagram.

More than 250 of the adverts directed people to the scam platform called Immediate Edge, which was supposed to be part of an official trading platform endorsed by Starmer and William.

The adverts were discovered by Fenimore Harper, a media insight and research firm, using Meta's open source AI software, called LLama 3.1.

In one advert, the fake Starmer introduces a National Invest Platform where users can make money, emphasising its transparency and reliability.

In another, the AI prince "and the entire royal family fully support prime minister Keir Starmer's initiative and his new platform". The prime minister appears to say in one ad that the viewer is one of 100 people chosen to earn "huge sums of money".

Up to £21,053 was spent on the ads that reached 891,834 people, according



The fake Sir Keir Starmer "selling" a fraudulent cryptocurrency trading site

to data from Meta's advertising platform. The fraudulent videos represent 43 per cent of all Meta adverts about Starmer, Fenimore Harper found.

In January, Fenimore discovered 100 deepfake ads of Rishi Sunak when he was prime minister and has concluded "the disinformation on Meta's platform is getting worse, not better". The firm said that Google compounded the problem with an incorrect search answer. If a user wanted to check the company and searched for "immediate edge finance scam", the result was: "When it comes to Immediate Edge you can be assured that you are dealing with legitimate trading software."

Marcus Beard, the founder of Fenimore Harper, said: "Recent events have shown how even small pieces of false information can cause serious harm if not addressed immediately. Platforms, the government, the public and the media all need to be doing more to support the healthy and safe online discussion."

Henry Ajder, an expert on deepfakes and a government adviser, said the cloning here was "not of the highest quality". He added: "These scams don't require a huge amount of people to fall for them to be profitable. When we combine that with the fact that these tools are increasingly accessible and cheap to run and scale, bad actors have a lower barrier to entry and lower cost to recoup from these deepfake AI scams."

Under the Online Safety Act, which comes into force next year, companies will have to remove the scams or face fines and other penalties.

The Department for Science and Technology said: "Social media companies have a responsibility to ensure their sites are not providing a platform for such material intended to rip the public off. When the Online Safety Act is fully implemented, platforms that fail to have adequate systems to remove fraudulent content will face fines of up to 10 per cent of qualifying worldwide revenues." Meta said: "Our systems detected and removed the vast majority of these adverts."



Toy story A carousel with Margaret Thatcher and other famous 1980s faces is part of a fairground memorabilia collection being auctioned by Bonhams in London

Representative example	Duration of agreement	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable	Interest Rate Fixed	Representative APR	Device Cash Price (to buy outright)	Airtime Plan	Airtime Plan June 2024 - April 2025	Airtime Plan May 2025 - March 2026
iPad 9th Gen	48 months	£20	£9.40	£451.10	£471.10	0%	0%	£471.10	£4.00	£4.00 + RPI% announced in Feb 2025 + 3.9% = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2026 + 3.9%

RPI rate is announced in February each year. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. Subject to availability. £9.40 Device Plan for 48 months and £4.00 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. £20 upfront. **48 Months O2 Refresh custom plans:** Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months. 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. Devices subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, RG26 6UU. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms.

Smart traps bring deadly mink to heel

Will Humphries
Countryside Correspondent

They have cut a deadly swathe through British wildlife since escaping fur farms last century. But the tide is finally turning against the American mink thanks to a remarkable team of volunteers and the latest technology.

Smart traps are now in place across a quarter of England and genetic analysis shows that the invasive species is not recolonising areas from which they have been cleared. Such is the success that some volunteers believe that mink could be eradicated in Britain entirely.

Thousands of American mink escaped into the wild during the 1960s and have since wreaked havoc on native species. The number of water voles, immortalised by Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, has fallen by 90 per cent in the past 40 years.

But in the past three years conservationists and volunteers from the Waterlife Recovery Trust have removed mink completely from East Anglia. No mink have been caught in their 500 traps for

duced the number of trap visits by 98 per cent and enabled the hundreds of volunteers to cover vast areas.

Bill Amos, professor of evolutionary genetics at Cambridge University, said: "It's a huge area and we have actually started reusing traps from East Anglia. That is really extraordinary, given all the concerns before the project with people saying this won't work because mink will recolonise."

Amos has led the genetics analysis of the more than 1,600 mink caught in traps, which he said showed they did not tend to travel far.

He said: "We put a lot of genetic markers across every mink we trap and can work out pretty much where it was born. What you find is that almost all mink — 90 to 95 per cent — were caught within 15 to 20km of where they were born and most were under 5km. This wasn't known before we started this project. We now know that actually they are not going to recolonise [cleared areas] that fast. That means we can keep track of them, certainly in England."

Amos said that farmers were in tears as water voles returned to their land for the first time in decades. Once mink have been vanquished, water voles often seem to materialise out of thin air, even in places where none have been recorded for decades.

The East Anglia eradication cost only £500,000, with one paid project officer organising a team of hundreds of volunteer trappers.

Tony Martin, emeritus professor of conservation at the University of Dundee, has led the effort under the banner of the Waterlife Recovery Trust. Natural England has now spent £500,000 on the new scheme ranging from the Thames to Lincoln. But to clear the entire country of mink, which it says is a realistic goal, more money is needed.

Amos said: "We do now need major funding because £500,000 doesn't go far if you are trying to employ a project officer and genetics and go country-wide. Tony [Martin] has estimated that it may cost £20 million to £30 million. If you just plough money into water vole releases when you haven't got rid of mink first then you are just going to end up with a lot of fat mink. Several of us have put in quite a lot of our own money. I have put in £30,000 out of my own pocket to pump-prime it. But it's such a worthwhile project and we are starting to get more and more funders involved."



How it works



an entire year. After being captured the mink are killed and liquid from their glands is used to make scented lures.

With further funding and the help of wildlife charities and internal drainage boards, they have expanded their operations to cover 26 per cent of England in smart traps, from the Thames to Lincolnshire and the Midlands.

These floating cage traps send a text message and email whenever an animal is caught, meaning they do not need to be checked every day. This re-

First beaver births in city sprawl for centuries

Two kits have been seen in a wetland in Ealing, making them the first beavers to be born in urban London for more than 400 years (Adam Vaughan writes).

The pair were noted by staff at Paradise Fields, a woodland surrounded by houses, a retail park and a Sainsbury's hub.

The kits will be the offspring of Eurasian beavers introduced to the site last autumn, and there may be more than the two seen so far.

"This is showing that beavers can live back in towns and cities," said

Sean McCormack, a vet and the founder of Ealing Wildlife Group, one of the conservation organisations involved in the project.

A kit was born last year in woods in a semi-rural part of Enfield, north London, but the Ealing family is the first in a built-up area.

Five adult beavers were released in October and they have built lodges, dams and new waterways.

"Beavers are nature's environmental engineers and it's very encouraging

to see what a positive change they've already had for communities and nature," said Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, who helped to fund the scheme.

The Ealing beavers are not the only ones breeding in urban areas. Plymouth has reported a kit born in an enclosure within the city boundaries and other beaver enclosures exist from Cornwall to Cheshire.

The beaver boom is an improvement on a decade ago when wild beavers

were seen on the river Otter in Devon for the first time since the species was hunted to extinction in England in the 1500s.

Wild beaver releases remain unlawful despite Boris Johnson, the former prime minister, saying Britain should "build back beaver" when the idea went to a consultation in 2021.

Thérèse Coffey, who was an environment minister, was lukewarm on releases, telling conservationists that "there are more important things than beavers".

Ecologists hope that Steve Reed, the environment secretary, will be more receptive to wild releases of the animals. They have been found to improve water quality and reduce flood risk because of how they shape the ecosystem.



Adult beavers were released at the site in Ealing last year and now the kits have been spotted. Staff say it is possible there are more than two

Britons cut back on clothes and eating out to afford their holidays

Charlie Parker

Britons are still splashing out on holidays but cutting back on shopping, eating out and going to festivals as financial pressures hit households, travel industry experts have said.

While signs of a travel slowdown are said to be surfacing in the US, the UK has seen overseas holidays "boosted" by bad weather at home.

Research by Abta, the UK trade body for tour operators and travel agents, found that more people were planning to go abroad this year than last year.

Consumers told the association that

they would reduce their discretionary spending elsewhere to afford their holidays. A survey of 2,000 people found that 57 per cent planned to cut back on eating out, while 46 per cent aimed to avoid leisure activities like festivals and 42 per cent said that they would buy fewer clothes, shoes and accessories.

More than half of respondents also said that they would spend "about the same" this year as they had during trips the year before, while 28 per cent said that they would spend even more now. Overall, 64 per cent of those surveyed said that they planned to travel this year, up from 61 per cent two years ago.

Graeme Buck, Abta's director of communications, said: "[Our] research continually finds that, even with pressure on household finances, people are very reluctant to cut back on their holidays. In particular, overseas holidays have been boosted by the largely wash-out summer we've had in the UK this year, with many customers looking for much more reliable sunshine."

Two million British holidaymakers were estimated to have headed overseas for the first weekend of the school summer holidays, between July 26 and 29. Spain remained the leading destination for families and there was also

strong demand for trips to Greece, Portugal, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Cyprus. Longer haul, Florida and Dubai have been popular choices for British travellers.

Tour operators have also reported a shift in consumer habits over the past year, with all-inclusive breaks increasingly popular as holidaymakers look to "lock in" their costs.

A groundswell of people who would normally book 14 nights have instead been settling for ten, it was previously reported, while others took to "dropping a star" — staying somewhere a little cheaper — in an attempt to keep the

overall cost similar to that of last year.

Ed Pyke at Simpson Travel said: "The resounding message from our clients is that they are not willing to compromise on their annual holiday. Though they may be cutting back in other areas, their appetite for travel is stronger than ever post-pandemic."

Across the pond, however, the opposite seems to be true, where demand has been slowing, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. Expedia, Marriott, Airbnb and Hilton signalled in recent earnings results that many Americans were scrapping their holidays or choosing cheaper accommodation.



IAN GEORGE/SON

Taking off Scottish Dance Theatre presents *Take Flight*, inspired by migrating birds, and *Moving Cloud*, a fusion of dance and Celtic music, at the Edinburgh Fringe

Pupil denies attempted murder

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A teenage girl accused of stabbing two teachers and a pupil at a school in Wales has denied three charges of attempted murder.

The 14-year-old defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, also faces three charges of wounding with intent and one of possession of a bladed article on a school premises.

Amman Valley school in Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, went into lockdown on April 24 after two female teachers and a female pupil suffered stab wounds at the end of the school's mid-morning break.

The teachers, Fiona Elias and Liz Hopkin, and the pupil were treated in hospital for stab wounds. They did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

The school remained in lockdown for four hours until 3.30pm, when pupils were released to the hundreds of concerned parents and family members who had gathered outside the school waiting for news.

The defendant, who wore a white shirt, black tie and waistcoat, with her hair tied back, appeared in the dock at Swansea crown court yesterday. She spoke to confirm her name and enter her pleas. She denied the three charges of attempted murder but pleaded guilty to the lesser charges of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Judge Paul Thomas KC said she would be tried for the three charges of attempted murder. The trial was scheduled for September 30.

Have-a-go heroes save girl in Leicester Square stab horror

Two arrested after man dies in fall

**Ali Mitib, Emma Yeomans
Christian Oliver**

The 11-year-old victim of a stabbing in Leicester Square yesterday was put in a headlock and stabbed repeatedly by her attacker, according to a witness.

A man was arrested after the incident in central London in which the girl and her 34-year-old mother were stabbed.

The Metropolitan Police said the child required hospital treatment but that her injuries were not life-threatening, while the woman suffered minor injuries. They do not believe the attacker and victims were known to each other, and said there was nothing to indicate the attack was terror-related.

Detective Chief Superintendent Christina Jessah 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. I would like to pay tribute to the members of the public, including staff from local businesses, who bravely intervened in this incident. "They put themselves at risk and showed the best of London in doing so."

Desmond, 45, a Darth Vader impersonator, said that a white man wearing a black T-shirt and jeans had been walking with a woman and her child before attacking the girl.

"I saw a young man put the little girl



Police arrest the man in the black T-shirt after yesterday's double stabbing

in a headlock and stab her in the armpit," he said. "Before I could jump down and go to help, two men grabbed him, put him on the ground and the police came immediately. I think the woman was also stabbed but the child was targeted mostly. They were just walking together, these three people. Before the attack everything was normal."

Desmond added: "It's terrible. I've never seen such a thing like that." A bloodied paper towel was seen outside the TWG Tea shop, close to the popular Lego and M&M's World stores. Inside, there was a bloodied first-aid kit and a child's hat and hoodie.

A security guard, Abdullah, 29, who works at the shop, said he had wrested the knife from the attacker. He said: "I heard a scream. At that moment I saw there was one person, roughly mid-thirties or early thirties, and he was 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 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."

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

David Hawkes, 43, from Billingham, Teesside, was on a family trip to London to visit the Harry Potter Studios when he saw armed police take the suspect to a van.

He said: "We were sat in Leicester Square and heard a female scream. Police were just arriving quite promptly followed by ambulance crew. There was a police helmet on the floor and a guy wearing black had his hands in cuffs and armed police were putting him in a van."

"An air ambulance was trying to land and it was circling overhead. People were saying that an 11-year-old girl had been stabbed in the face. The area around the Lego store was taped off and police and armed police went inside the TWG tearoom."

The London Ambulance Service said the woman and child had been taken to a major trauma centre. A spokesman said: "We were called at 11.36am on Monday, August 12, to reports of a stabbing at Leicester Square. We sent resources to the scene, including an ambulance crew, an advanced paramedic and an incident response officer. We also dispatched members of our tactical response unit. We treated a child and an adult at the scene and took them to a major trauma centre."

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of murder after a man fell from a balcony in a 15-storey tower block, police said.

Officers were called after a report that the man had fallen from the fourth floor of Black Friar Court in the Bridgewater Estate, Salford, on Sunday evening. Greater Manchester police said the 57-year-old was pronounced dead in hospital.

A man, 37, and a woman, 40, were arrested on suspicion of murder. They were being questioned in custody yesterday evening.

Callum Balderstone, who witnessed the incident, said he saw a man holding onto the edge of the balcony before falling. "His finger tips were holding onto the edge. I said to my son that I couldn't look any longer as he was going to go and then five seconds later, I heard a bang," he said.

"I looked down and he was there, it was horrible. It was scary, when I looked down and saw his body on the floor, I had to go for a walk to clear my head and I've been feeling sick all day."

Inquires into the incident are ongoing and police asked anyone with information to come forward.

Detective Inspector David Ogden said: "We know the community will be concerned about this tragic death, and we share their concern. We're appealing to anyone who has not yet spoken to us. The smallest piece of information may be crucial to our investigation and towards getting answers for this man's family."

Costa staff 'knew of teenager's allergy'

Lara Wildenberg

The mother of a girl who died after taking one sip of a hot chocolate drink made in Costa Coffee said she had asked staff that her daughter's severe allergy to dairy products was not a joke, an inquest was told.

Abimbola Duyile, the mother of Hannah Jacobs, 13, said she had asked the staff to clean the jug used for the hot chocolate after placing an order for two takeaway soya milk hot chocolates, which they agreed to do.

Hannah, who had been allergic to dairy products, fish and eggs since she was a toddler, suffered an "immediate reaction".

She died within hours of having the drink on February 8 last year, East London coroner's court was told.

"I made sure that the staff was aware

that this was not a joke," Duyile said, while giving evidence at the inquest yesterday.

She said she was being "extra picky" about the order, even though she might sound like a crazy mum, because she wanted to be straight with the staff.

"Hannah was busy telling me off for being so picky," she said, adding: "I feel that [the staff member] did not understand what I was saying, which is why I lean forwards so that she could hear what I was saying."

Hannah first took a sip of the drink while she was at the dentist, a short walk away, Duyile recalled, describing how her daughter "abruptly got up and went to the toilet and shouted, 'That was not soya milk'".

Duyile said Hannah reacted quickly, coughing up phlegm and complaining of chest pains. She took her daughter to



Hannah Jacobs, 13, died after taking one sip of a Costa hot chocolate

a nearby chemist as her "lips and mouth were very swollen and she was itchy".

She added: "My initial response was of anger to the Costa Coffee staff — it gave way to terror."

The inquest was told that Hannah collapsed in the chemist's shop, where the pharmacist gave her an EpiPen injection in her leg and a customer called an ambulance. Paramedics arrived and she was taken to hospital, where she was pronounced dead by lpm, according to her family's lawyers.

Dr Shirley Radcliff, the assistant coroner, asked whether an earlier or higher dose of adrenaline could have affected Hannah's chances of survival.

Dr Rahul Chodhari, who had been involved in the management of Hannah's allergies, said that although it would be hard to predict, the 150 micrograms she received in the pharmacy

"was certainly too small a dose to be given" for her weight and age.

Duyile also told the inquest how the family had managed the risk Hannah's whole life. She described their policy of "complete avoidance", adding that Hannah herself was diligent about what she ate, trying only things that had been cooked by her mother or aunt or that had been checked.

Hannah even took her own bottle of ketchup with her for some meals and would check with shop staff before ordering as she understood that "managing her allergies was just part of life".

Duyile described her daughter as a proud, kind and confident child who had a "strong sense of right and wrong".

She said: "I know that she would have achieved anything she set her mind to. I loved my child so much and my heart is broken." The inquest continues.



Britain swelters in 34C on hottest day of year

Temperatures reached 34C in some parts yesterday as the UK sweltered in the hottest day of the year so far (Laurence Sleator and

Seren Hughes write). In Cambridge it hit 34.8C, still some way below the record high of 40.3C recorded in Coningsby, Lincolnshire, in July 2022.

Forecasters had predicted temperatures nearing 34C across central and southern England.

The weather service said: "Provisionally this is only the 11th year since 1961 when temperatures as high as this have been recorded. Eight of those years have

been since 2000 and six of them have been in the last decade."

A yellow health alert for heat was issued for all of England besides the northeast and will remain in place until tomorrow.

West Midlands police said a two-year-old boy died after falling into a

canal in Ettingshall, Wolverhampton. Police are not treating it as suspicious.

The humid spell is thanks in part to Tropical Storm Debby, which brought flooding to the eastern US last week. The storm swept north to Canada, bringing the wettest day

on record to Montreal on Friday.

Parts of the UK experienced storms with more than 15,000 lightning strikes recorded, mainly in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Highs of 29C are possible in the east and southeast today. Full forecast, page 49

Britons cooled off in the heat in the Sky Pool in Nine Elms, London, and at the sea in Somerset, bottom left, and Dorset, while a cyclist went out before dawn in Richmond Park and the Household Cavalry suffered

Thousands of deaths but Europe adapts to face dangerous heatwaves

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

More than 1,850 people are estimated to have died because of heat in Britain last year but more than a thousand deaths were probably avoided thanks to adaptations made since deadly heatwaves wracked Europe two decades ago.

As the UK sweltered through the hottest day of the year yesterday, researchers said that authorities across Europe had adapted to heat in ways that are preventing tens of thousands of deaths.

The study by the Barcelona Institute

for Global Health (ISGlobal) found that there were 47,690 heat-related deaths last year across Europe.

However, without measures to avoid people overheating and dying prematurely, the number would have been 86,000 — about 80 per cent higher. That would have been significantly higher than the extreme heat of 2003, which resulted in about 70,000 deaths across Europe.

The elderly and young children are particularly at risk from high temperatures, which can lead to heat stroke, heart attacks and lung problems.

Adaptation measures include warn-

ings issued by the Met Office and UK Health Security Agency.

In the UK, there were more than 1,850 deaths attributed to heat last year. But that number would have been about 80 per cent greater without adaptations such as early warning systems, said Marcos Quijal at ISGlobal.

Spain suffered 8,352 deaths linked to heat last year, the highest in Europe. Accounting for population, Greece topped the list, with 393 heat deaths per million people, compared with 175 per million in Spain and 28 per million in the UK.

"Southern European countries are

the most vulnerable. They experience more heatwave days, and more intense heatwaves. The UK has less vulnerability, but even there temperatures are increasing," said Quijal.

The team arrived at the figures by modelling a counterfactual world without adaptation. Adaptation measures include public education programmes to make people more aware of the negative health impacts of heat exposure, which Quijal said had been one of the most effective actions.

Other solutions included air conditioning, energy-efficient buildings and more green spaces, which

have been shown to lower temperatures.

Given climate change's continuous increases, with this year on course to be the hottest on record, the researchers said that the study showed the need for further adaptations to keep people cool. "We need to adapt because all climate projections show temperatures increasing in coming years," said Quijal.

Europe is warming twice as fast as the global average, and two years ago the UK experienced unprecedented 40C heat. There were more than 3,000 unexpected deaths in the UK during the hot summer of 2022, a record high.

V O L V O

Big electric performance in a small package

The Volvo EX30, now available with free home charger

Discover our fully electric EX30. It travels up to 295 miles on a single charge* and has the smallest CO₂ footprint of any Volvo car to date**. Made with recycled materials, featuring advanced Safe Space technology and an immersive sound experience with Harmon Kardon Premium Sound.

Order before the end of September to get a free home charger worth £975***.

Order online or at your local retailer.



Fuel economy and CO results for the Volvo EX30: Mpg (l 100km): Not applicable. CO emissions: 0 g/km, electric range 213.8 – 295.8 miles. These figures were obtained after the battery had been fully charged. The Volvo EX30 is a battery electric vehicle requiring mains electricity for charging. The electric range shown was achieved using the new (WLTP) test procedure. Figures shown are for comparability purposes. Only compare fuel consumption, CO and electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

*Based on Volvo EX30 Single Motor Extended Range Plus.

**Based on lifecycle CO₂ emissions over 200,000 kms of driving using charging electricity from the EU27 energy mix. Relates to globally available products.

***Offer available to retail customers on new model year 2024 EX30 stock cars ordered and delivered between 1/7/2024 and 30/9/2024. Not available with subscription purchases. Standard installation only. UK residents. 18 and over. Terms and conditions and further eligibility apply. Subject to availability. Visit us to find out more.

Something fishy about Roman mosaic

The latest wonder to be uncovered at Wroxeter could be the work of a Shropshire blagger, writes **Jack Blackburn**

It appears that at some point 1,900 years ago, a Shropshire lad might have fibbed a little bit to get a job. A high-status person wanted a mosaic of fish and dolphins and the craftsman took on the task even though, as certainly seems probable, he'd barely seen a fish in his life.

Nearly two millennia on, that craftsman's work is an archaeologist's delight as excavators at Wroxeter Roman City have discovered the mosaic — the first one found on the site in almost 200 years.

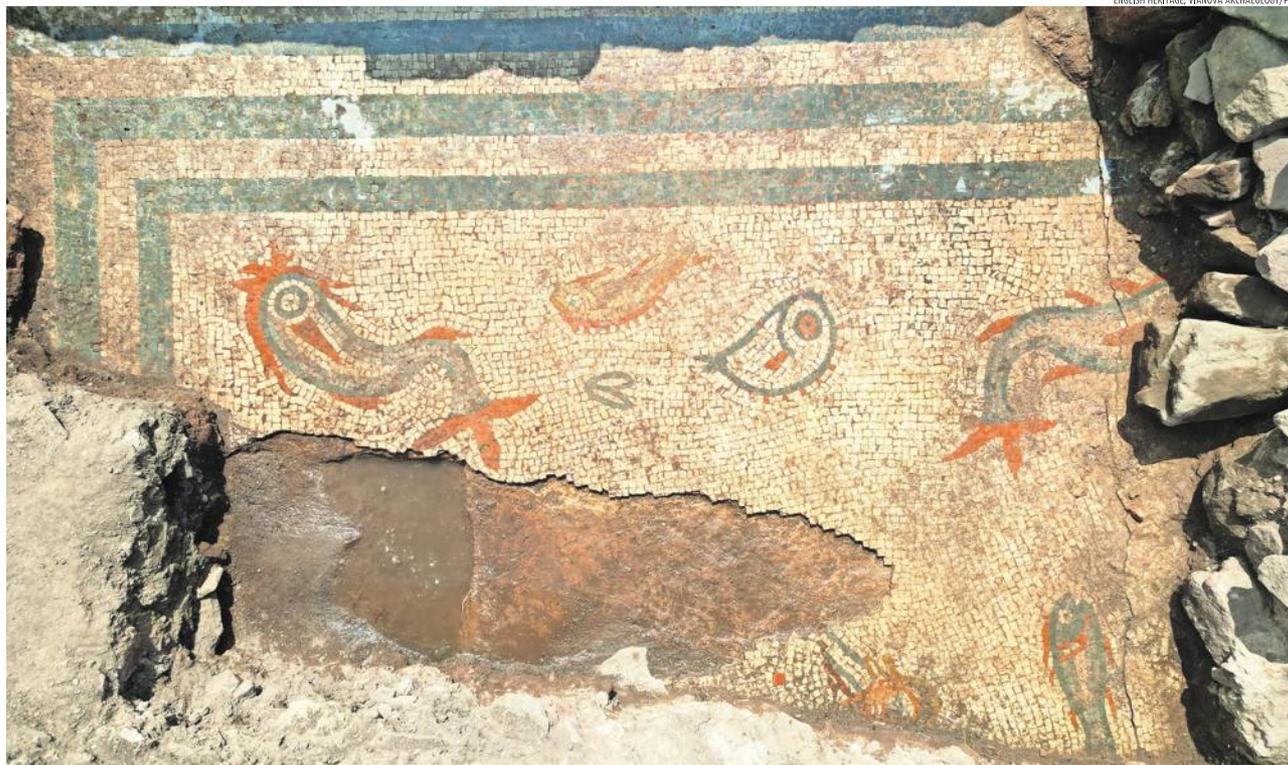
Excavations at the settlement formerly known as Viriconium have revealed a mosaic of marine life which the archaeologists have described as "an aquarium frozen in stone". The mosaic depicts dolphins, an oyster and fish in the colours of red, white and blue — though they are far from biologically accurate.

The excavations have also revealed a large monumental building of mysterious purpose, as well as something that looks like a shrine or mausoleum. The dig has given just a little extra insight into the Roman city, which was founded in the AD90s and was a thriving urban hub — the ancient answer to Birmingham.

The mosaic, the first discovered at Wroxeter since 1839, was found near the monumental building and it is quite the sight, even if it is a little crude in style. The choice of dolphins and fish was probably to do with status — creatures of the sea were rare away from the coasts, and eating them was a sign of prestige. Certainly, it would have been a rare Salopian who would have seen them, which is perhaps why the fish look a little odd.

"They're rather strange fish, almost as if the maker didn't know what a fish looked like," said Win Scutt, senior properties curator at English Heritage. "It's beautiful actually — although it's quite naive in its style, it is quite stunning to look at. It strikes just the right note: simple and elegant, without being too fussy."

The monumental building has been described as such because of its very large walls but beyond that it remains a



Found miles from the sea, the astonishing depictions feature dolphins and fish in striking white, red, blue and yellow tiles. Wroxeter Roman City in Shropshire was once a bustling urban centre, built in the AD90s

puzzle. It has a furnace but whether this was for commercial use or whether it was part of a place which was used for ritualistic offerings is anyone's guess at this stage. The researchers will compare it to other buildings from across the empire to see if its function can be divined.

They also found some well-preserved painted plaster next to the mosaic. The walls of the area show how successive generations built and rebuilt on the work of their ancestors across the 300 and more years of the city's heyday. Alongside the big-ticket items is the usual detritus one would expect

from a Roman dig: coins, pottery, tiles and bowls. A bronze bangle has also been discovered.

"This discovery will go a long way in helping us to date the various phases of the city and indicate the kinds of activities that were taking place," Scutt said. All in all, the dig has been tantalising

as the excavators were allowed to explore only certain places and to a certain depth, creating what are known as evaluation trenches. A geophysical survey had indicated that there was a walled segment and they were hoping to find a civic temple. That is not what awaited them but there were treasures nevertheless.

The dig, which was organised by English Heritage, the University of Birmingham, Vianova Archaeology and Heritage Services and Albion Archaeology, also offered training to 20 student archaeologists as well as groups of volunteers. Their final task was to re-bury the finds for their preservation.

Pompeii couple clung to wealth as volcanic rocks rained down

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

How did this man and woman end up spending their last hours together? Were they friends or strangers, family or colleagues or lovers? When did they realise there was no way out? And why did the woman clutch coins and jewels and a pair of pearl earrings?

The discovery of two skeletons, a young man and an older woman, in the bedroom of a house that probably belonged to a politician, may solve a mystery around the latest dig at Pompeii.

The two bodies were found at Regio IX, Insula 10 in the city, which was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. This year the same area turned up a black dining room decorated with paintings of Helen of Troy and other figures from the Iliad.

About a month ago, when the skeleton of the woman was found, the archaeological team contacted Lion TV which made the BBC series *Pompeii*:

The New Dig. A new episode has been commissioned, which will be broadcast early next year after more research has been carried out on the remains.

"It was a poignant scene," Richard Bradley, chief creative officer of Lion, said, adding that "For the archaeologists and for our filming team, no matter how often they confront this sort of thing, there is no getting away from the fact that these were real people who died in a terrible tragedy".

Analysis of their bones will be able to show whether they had a good diet and health, which would indicate their status and possibly connect them to ownership of the property.

Archaeologists believe that the property was owned by Aulus Rustius Verus, a politician. His home had a commercial bakery and laundry at the front and a grand living space at the back. At the time of the eruption, the building was being altered and the bodies were found in a small bedroom, used tempo-



The skeletons of a young man and an older woman were found in a bedroom

rarily during building work. After Vesuvius erupted the two adults went into the room, presumably to take shelter from the lapilli — volcanic pumice stone that rained down from the sky. Other rooms in the house collapsed but this room remained intact, with the pair trapped inside.

There was a stool, a chest, a table with a marble top, glass and ceramic items, and a bronze candelabrum that had toppled over.

The man was found by the door, and the woman was found on top of a wooden bed and as she died she held gold, silver and bronze coins and jewellery including gold and pearl earrings. "The pearl earrings are beautiful, and it is rare to find people with gold coins in Pompeii," Bradley said.

It would have been a slow death. Hours of torment would have been endured before hot pyroclastic flows buried them.

There are many theories about who

they were. Were they looters taking advantage of a deserted house? Or workers trying to grab some valuables? Or were they members of the family who owned the house, desperately hoping that the gods would deliver them?

At the very least these bodies are in contrast to the two women and a child found in the bakery section of the property, crushed under a collapsed roof. They may have been passers-by seeking shelter or slaves who worked there, but there was no possibility that they were high status.

Gabriel Zuchtriegel, director of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, said: "The opportunity to analyse the invaluable anthropological data relating to the two victims found within the archaeological context that marked their tragic end, allows us to recover a considerable amount of information about the daily life of the ancient Pompeians and the micro-histories of some of them".

News

Social media under scrutiny over role in stoking unrest

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Social media's role in encouraging riots will be reviewed by ministers, in a veiled threat of further regulation if firms do not tackle incitement to violence.

Downing Street said the police would be "going after" influencers who stirred up violence online as part of a rapid justice programme.

Sir Keir Starmer now wants to "look more broadly at social media" in response to the wave of violence across the country. However, the prime minister denied claims by Elon Musk that he was a threat to free speech as he sought to avoid getting dragged back into a war of words with the tech billionaire.

Starmer, who has cancelled his holiday, welcomed signs that disorder was coming to an end, while insisting that the government was still on "high alert". A spokeswoman for No 10 said: "The job is not done until people feel safe in their communities but thanks to the work of our police officers, prosecutors and judiciary, we have seen a swift response from the justice system."

Starmer and Musk have been feuding since the owner of Twitter/X claimed that "civil war is inevitable" in Britain while accusing the prime minister of overseeing two-tier policing and suppressing free speech. Starmer's spokesman said last week that there was "no justification" for the comments.

Starmer has said that "violent disorder was clearly whipped up online" and yesterday No 10 said ministers would review the role of



Elon Musk has criticised the prime minister

tech companies after the riots. While his priority has been policing, Starmer "does agree that we're going to need to look more broadly at social media", the spokeswoman said, adding that "does also involve police going after influencers and those who are stirring up hatred online alongside those who have been committing violence".

As well as Musk, far-right activists and influencers such as Tommy Robinson and Andrew Tate have been criticised. Ministers are not unpicking the Online Safety Act passed by the previous government but are "doing separate work to look more broadly at social media", the spokeswoman added.

This is likely to be a hint that further regulation could follow if companies do not take more action, something Musk has repeatedly rejected.

Rioters could be released from prison early as part of the government's scheme to tackle overcrowding, No 10 also confirmed.

Last night it was reported that Labour MPs were moving away from Twitter/X after concerns that it had turned into a place for "foreign adversaries" and "far-right fringe groups" to spout hate speech.

Noah Law, the MP for St Austell & Newquay, has disabled his account, according to The Guardian. Josh Simons, the MP for Makerfield, is considering switching to Bluesky because of how "Musk has changed X's algorithms". Jess Phillips, the MP for Birmingham Yardley, who has more than 700,000 followers on Twitter/X, said that it had become a "bit despotic" and a "place of misery now".

Musk is picking the wrong free speech fight, Hugo Rifkind, page 23



Round the bend Karmila Purba, 25, otherwise known as Princess Tong Setan, rides the Ken Fox Wall of Death at Retrofestival at the Newbury Showground in Berkshire. The travelling show, which features 1,000 classic cars, has been touring since 1928

Boy, 12, admits violence in two riots

David Woode Crime Correspondent
Constance Kampfner Northern Correspondent

A 12-year-old boy was told to "stop letting your mum down" when he became one of the youngest rioters convicted after the violent disorder that followed the Southport killings.

District Judge Joanne Hirst said that the boy, who cannot be named, had been "more involved in the violence and disorder than any other defendant I've seen coming through these courts".

Manchester youth court was told that he was part of a hostile mob that surrounded a Holiday Inn hotel housing asylum seekers in Newton Heath on July 31. He also kicked a passing bus.

On August 3 he was "filmed by police

kicking the front window of a vape shop" while wearing a balaclava. Yesterday he admitted two charges of violent disorder. Hirst remanded him into council accommodation with a curfew between 7pm and 7am. She added: "It's time to stop letting your mum down now. You are to do one thing: do as you're told." He will next appear at Manchester youth court on September 2.

A far-right protester draped in a Union Jack charged into a police officer "like a rhinoceros" in Southampton last week, the city's crown court was told. Ryan Wheatley, 40, was seen running towards anti-racism demonstrators when Sergeant Rob Perry intercepted the "large fat man" and deployed incapacitant spray. Wheatley, from the vil-

lage of Fair Oak, near Southampton, admitted assaulting an emergency worker and was jailed for 12 months.

In Middlesbrough, Thomas Rogers, 22, threw a vacuum cleaner through a Nigerian university student's window, threw stones at police and told an officer: "I hope your kids get raped." At Teesside crown court he admitted violent disorder and possessing stones as offensive weapons. He got two years and two months.

Lucy Connolly, 41, a childminder and the wife of a Conservative councillor, has been remanded in custody after she allegedly tweeted for hotels housing asylum seekers to be set alight. She was charged with inciting racial hatred and will return to Northampton crown court on September 2.

TIMES Travel Offers

QUEEN MARY 2'S

Literature Festival at Sea 2025

Departure | December 8, 2025



New voyage just announced for 2025

Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word.

Find yourself in literary heaven, surrounded by authors, journalists, historians, and fellow book lovers, on this seven-night sailing dedicated to the power of the pen. Curated by the programming team of The Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival, this unique voyage celebrates the written word in its many forms.

Sailing on board Queen Mary 2 is the ultimate way to cross the Atlantic. You'll find an incredible sense of freedom from the space she offers. Whether you're in the mood for complete relaxation or something more active, you can find it on board. Immerse yourself in enthralling entertainment, indulge at the spa, or simply relax with a book in her vast library.

*Cunard Fares shown are based on two adults sharing the lowest grade of stateroom available within the applicable stateroom type and are subject to availability. Fares for sole occupancy and supplementary fares are available on request. Programme of Literature Festival at Sea talks are included in your fare. Literature Festival at Sea workshops will be at an additional charge and are available to book on board. Other activities may incur an additional charge. Speakers and on-board activities are subject to change. For full terms and conditions visit cunard.com. Cover charge applies for alternative dining options. Complimentary money to spend on board applies to new Cunard Fare bookings only. *Book via the phone number on this advert and quote TIMES to enjoy access to additional on-board events for Times readers. This offer is available to UK residents only. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Cunard, ABTA V8764 ATOL 6294 protected, a company wholly independent of News UK. All information is correct at the time of going to print.

Our trusted partners

Cheltenham Literature Festival

CUNARD

ABTA Travel with confidence

UK TOUR OPERATOR

Confirmed Speaker
MANY MORE NAMES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Richard Coles

Writer, broadcaster and an Anglican priest, who co-presented Saturday Live on BBC Radio 4 for 11 years and appears on QI, Have I Got News For You, and Would I Lie To You? He writes regularly for the Sunday Times, and is the author of half a dozen books.



SEVEN NIGHTS FROM
INSIDE: £1,089 PP
BALCONY: £1,389 PP
GRILL SUITE: £2,889 PP



CALL TODAY ON
0808 304 2724

thetimes.com/litfest2025

QUOTE TIMES*

Shoplifter commuted from Spain to steal handbags from Harrods

Christian Oliver

A woman who commuted from Spain to steal almost £20,000 worth of handbags from the luxury department store Harrods has been jailed.

Margarita Del Carmen Valdés Torres, 38, a mother of five, stole bags made by the luxury brands Hermès, Valentino, Chanel, YSL and Gucci on five separate occasions between October and May.

After arriving in the country as a tourist, she stole a Hermès bag worth £2,120 on October 25, and three days later was spotted on CCTV running off with a £2,400 Valentino bag, evading security in the department store.

She returned home but was back in Harrods, in Knightsbridge, west London, on March 14 to grab a £5,220 Chanel bag and, two days later, a £2,880 YSL bag, the Old Bailey was told.

She was eventually stopped by a security guard on May 10 after trying to

steal a Gucci bag and sunglasses worth a total of £6,735. Having taken off with the stolen goods, she was pursued down Brompton Road towards the V&A museum, where she was stopped and searched.

When police officers opened the handbag, they discovered an electric wire cutter and electronic de-tagger.

Valdés Torres admitted five charges of theft and one of going equipped for theft. The value of her thefts totalled £19,355.

Lyall Thompson, for Valdés Torres, told the court that she had expressed remorse. "She understands its seriousness. I detected an element of relief that she was caught when she was. She said it could have gotten even worse if she had not been caught," he said.

Thompson noted that she made a full admission to the security guard who caught her and "entered guilty pleas at the earliest possible opportunity".

Recorder Jeremy Brier told Valdés

Torres: "The sentencing must reflect the fact that the total value of the theft was almost £20,000 and there were five separate occasions of theft. It is aggravated by the going equipped count."

The judge said he would take her "good character prior to this offence" into account and that she had "shown remorse for your offending".

Valdés Torres was jailed for 28 weeks. She will serve half her sentence in custody before being released on probation.



Harrods in Knightsbridge, London, from which the woman stole almost £20,000 worth of designer handbags using wire cutters and an electronic tag remover

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

A pulse for the Pythons

Eric Idle is publishing his diary of the making of *Spamalot*, a musical take on *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Idle had engaged Mike Nichols as his director but as the show neared he grew worried when Nichols started to talk about Gower Champion, who it turns out had been the director of *42nd Street*, not an ambassador for the Welsh tourist board. Champion had died ten hours before curtain-up on opening night, ensuring that his show was a hit. "I said the price was too high," Idle wrote. "Couldn't he just get sick a little?"

Despite Nichols retaining a pulse, the show did well, meaning a healthy pensions top-up for the other Pythons. Idle, below, who often complains on social media about being skint, wrote that their only involvement in the show was to demand a third of the royalties. "The norm is 25 per cent," he said.

Simone Biles, the American gymnast who won three Olympic golds in Paris, posted on Threads after her competition finished that she was heading straight for a tequila bottle. Four days later her next message simply said: "I'm never drinking again." Turns out Biles didn't need a spangly leotard to nail the doubles and triples.

EMBARRASSING OLDIES

Will Young wishes his parents would stop gatecrashing his concerts. The singer had an "ask me anything" feature on his recent tour, in which fans could email questions for him to answer between songs, but he tells Music Week that at one concert a message appeared on screen from his mother asking: "Can you tell your father to stop varnishing the chairs?"



PATRICK KIDD

This was followed by one from his father saying: "Your mother shouldn't have this email address."

FORTHRIGHT PHILIP

The late Queen and Prince Philip took a good cop, bad cop approach to musical criticism. Interviewed on the *Rosebud* podcast, the singer Aled Jones said that the Queen was always gracious, especially when he was a teenager, asking how long it had taken him to learn a piece and complimenting him on it. Her husband was more blunt. "Invariably he would ruin it all by saying 'Has your voice broken?'" Jones said. "Which he did often."

My item on Saturday about Ravi Shankar being applauded just for tuning his sitar in 1971 brought an email from Pauline Baycroft about a concert at the Barbican. As the LSO went through their tuning exercises, a lady sitting next to her turned to her friend and solemnly declared: "They always play this piece."

SUPERMAC'S HOME RUN

Corridors of Power, a new BBC Four series on US diplomacy, has one of the last interviews with Henry Kissinger. Generations of politicians wanted to hear the former secretary of state's wisdom but there comes a point in life when other things matter more. The historian Lee David Evans recalled a dinner in Kissinger's honour in the 1980s at which the ageing Harold Macmillan got restless during the guest's speech, making people wonder if the former prime minister was ill. Finally, Macmillan

rose noisily, Kissinger still speaking, headed for him and then, as he passed, said in a loud whisper: "Sorry, the 10.58 from Victoria" and left. The only special relationship Macmillan wanted at that moment was with his pillow.

GREAT MUSIC. GREAT HOSTS. GREAT GUESTS.




BEAT THE INTRO

AND GREAT GAMES! JUST ASK ALEXA TO PLAY VIRGIN RADIO'S BEAT THE INTRO AND YOU COULD WIN £5,000

For full T&Cs visit virginradio.co.uk/win

News

Firm digs in over cash for cleaner

Mark Sellman

A French multinational company that refused to allow one of its British staff to accept a holiday from residents of the streets he cleans is standing by its decision.

Veolia, the waste management company with a stock market value of almost \$22 billion, has said Paul Spiers cannot accept the money for contractual reasons.

Spiers, 63, was offered the gift by people in Beckenham, south London, who value his work in their community and wanted to buy him a birthday present. He had said he was saving for a holiday in Portugal with his brother and locals have donated about £3,000.

After the story was reported in The Times donors were hoping that the company would change its decision, but Veolia said it had given money to a charity of Spiers's choice and made him "employee of the quarter".

Residents said he also appeared to be wearing a new company cap.

Veolia said its contract with Bromley council "does not permit our staff to accept any monies or incentives outside of agreed pay structures". The council says it is a contractual matter between company and employee.

Lisa Knight, an estate agent who started the fundraising campaign, said: "It's terribly sad that an exception can't be made when we're trying to go about it in the most correct way."

Spiers has become something of a celebrity locally. Knight said: "I think what's really endearing is that he's just so blown away by all of the people on the high street that are now stopping him to say, 'Congratulations. When's he going to Portugal?'" She said she would have to return the cash to donors. Spiers had been concerned that if he took the cash or the holiday in any capacity, even indirectly, it would jeopardise his job.

Veolia said that employee of the quarter was "an internal financial reward to recognise his hard work".

Show some humanity, Thunderer, page 22



Sail of the centuries The Duchess of Edinburgh, patron of the Association of Sail Training Organisations, takes the helm of Prolific, the Ocean Youth Trust South's vessel, off Guernsey before a race to Dorset to mark the RNLi's 200th anniversary

Memorabilia reveals royals' flying habits

Nicole Cherruault

Memorabilia amassed by an air hostess who served the late Queen has revealed some of Her Majesty's flying etiquette, from her bedtime routine to her favourite airborne tippie.

The collection, which was found in Elizabeth Evans's study after her death and subsequently passed to her niece Jo Smallwood, 53, will go on sale at Hansons Auctioneers on August 20.

Across her 28-year career for British Airways, Evans, from Birmingham, served a number of prominent clients, including the late Queen and Prince Philip on their 1989 tour of Singapore and Malaysia, and stars such as Rod Stewart, Cliff Richard, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Patrick Swayze.

The memorabilia, which is expected to sell for between £400-£600, includes confidential instructions on how to look after the Queen and Prince Philip such as allowing Her Majesty to nap before landing and ensuring she has her own pillows. It also revealed that she liked to have a bowl of Velva mints at hand and often ordered a Martini before meeting guests.

Smallwood, a retired police officer from Solihull, West Midlands, said that she knew her aunt had kept some mementoes from her career but "nothing of this scale".

"Having found this treasure trove relating to my aunt's career with BA, especially the fantastic trips on Concorde and serving the Queen, I found it sad that none of it had seen the light of day," she said. "This collection is a little piece of history that should be shared and enjoyed by somebody."

Charles Hanson, the owner of Hansons Auctioneers, said: "Elizabeth must have been highly regarded by BA because she served some of the most important people in the world. Elizabeth gathered mementoes throughout her career. Her memorabilia captures Concorde at its height and the detail that went into luxury travel with British Airways. No VIP wish was too small to accommodate."

Nuclear sub boss sacked for sex video

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

The commander of a nuclear-armed submarine has been sacked after filming a sex video with a junior crew member.

The officer of the Vanguard-class submarine had a relationship with a younger submariner while on patrol. The commander was also accused of sharing explicit photographs, The Sun revealed.

The UK has four Vanguard-class submarines armed with up to eight Trident ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads. There is one submarine on patrol at all times to maintain the UK's at-sea deterrent.

The commander had previously had relationships with younger men occupying junior ranks, the Times understands. "He had a reputation for it," one source said.

The officer was one of the youngest officers to captain a hunter-killer submarine, then was promoted to take charge of HMS Victorious. He was moved to a desk job last year before being sacked for having a relationship with someone under his command.

A Royal Navy spokeswoman said: "It



GETTY IMAGES

The senior officer, who served in a Vanguard-class submarine, was dismissed from the navy

detailed how male submariners compiled a "crush depth rape list", which ranked women by those they would rape first if the submarine suffered a catastrophic failure.

On one occasion, she described returning to her bunk to find a married submariner naked in her bed. She also accused a senior officer of putting his penis in her pocket. The man was later promoted to become the commander of a Vanguard-class submarine.

All senior officers have to pass a gruelling test called "perisher" to qualify as a commander of a submarine. In the past those who failed were given a bottle of whisky and immediately kicked off the submarine as part of a ritual humiliation.

Another scandal in the Submarine Service concerned a notorious deployment to the US in 2017 when HMS Vigilant was given the nickname "HMS Sex and Cocaine" after nine officers failed drugs tests.

The crew allegedly had a drug-fuelled party while their submarine was docked in the US to pick up nuclear warheads. One crew member was alleged to have had sex with a prostitute in a swimming pool.

would be inappropriate to comment as we have a common law and Data Protection Act duty to protect the personal details of our current and former employees and are therefore not able to release any additional details on this matter.

"All forms of unacceptable behaviour are taken extremely seriously and anything which falls short of the highest standards will not be tolerated. Anyone who is found culpable will be held

accountable for their actions regardless of their rank or status."

The Vanguard-class submarines were designed to last 25 years but will be almost 40 years old by the time they are replaced by the Dreadnought class early in the 2030s. As a result the submarines are spending more time undergoing repairs, putting more strain on those that are seaworthy to provide Britain's nuclear deterrent.

Submariners serving in the Navy's

ageing fleet of Vanguard-class vessels have been forced to go on patrols lasting six months in recent years.

As crew members spend longer periods underwater, questions have also been raised about the culture and morale in nuclear-armed submarines. The Royal Navy was forced to open an inquiry into claims that women were sexually abused and bullied by senior officers.

Sophie Brook, a whistleblower,

Why faith is no longer a dirty word in publishing

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

Faith is no longer the persona non grata of the cultural world, one of the country's leading novelists has said, adding that people now seemed to be less embarrassed about religious belief.

Sarah Perry, an award-winning author raised in Essex by a "Six-Day Creationist" father, said she had noticed a change after years of people not expecting to see faith explored in mainstream culture. Perry, whose four novels all touch upon faith and science, cited her fellow novelist Francis Spufford and Seán Hewitt, the poet, as being in the vanguard of change.

Religious leaders have long bemoaned the absence of faith in contemporary culture with, for



Sarah Perry, the novelist, says modern readers now welcome religious themes

example, the BBC's output restricted to *Songs of Praise* and the short *Thought for the Day* segment on Radio 4's *Today*.

There are however broader signs of a religious revival in Britain, with the Church of England revealing in May that weekly church attendance increased to 685,000 last year — a rise of nearly 5 per cent. The number of children attending rose by nearly 6 per cent.

Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, said it was "first time in a long

time we have seen noticeable growth".

Perry, whose second novel *The Essex Serpent* was adapted into a 2022 Apple TV series, told the Edinburgh International Book Festival that she had "never been asked to dial it back or had a battle" with her agents or editors to include faith themes in her books.

She said that for her latest book *Enlightenment* she was "asked to put more in ... I assumed that everybody knew what the doctrine of predestination meant".

She added: "It has not of late been something that people expect to see in mainstream culture but I think that is changing. I don't know [if God exists], I'm not being didactic or preachy and if I was making points or trying to persuade people into faith or out of it then that is not good literature, which should ask questions and shine lights, not pin people down or shout at them."

Perry, who told the festival that by the age of seven she could recite the Five Points of Calvinism, added that those exploring faith in their fiction were not restricting themselves to that single theme.

"Francis Spufford does it brilliantly and the poet and memoirist Seán Hewitt in a slightly more elliptical way. But if you look at a Francis Spufford novel then first and foremost it is a thrilling read, beautifully written and full of lots of good ideas, one of which is faith," she said. "It is just another subject and I think the less embarrassed people are about it the better."

However, Perry did bemoan the loss of the "doctrine of original sin" from society, which she said originally meant "missing the mark, not met the standards we have set, it is not indicative of wickedness".

She said the loss of its true definition was "dangerous", adding: "If you lose it people can't apologise, can't admit they did wrong because if they did wrong it must be bad. But if we call accept we can err then what can be more natural than to say 'I erred and I'm sorry'."



Anne-Sophie Mutter, the night's soloist, with Daniel Barenboim, the conductor, and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

Was this Barenboim's Proms farewell?

Proms Rebecca Franks

West-Eastern Divan/
Barenboim
Royal Albert Hall
★★★★☆

Daniel Barenboim walked on stage, slow and frail, guided by the soloist, Anne-Sophie Mutter. He was met by a hero's welcome, the applause long and loud, topped only by the effusion after the music. Acknowledgement, surely, of the 81-year-old conductor's lifetime of achievement and the real possibility this may have been his last Prom, not that it was billed as such. Still, there was a valedictory air to the evening, a sense of an audience

paying its respects to a legendary musician. Now that he is living with a serious neurological condition, in the past two years his performances have become an ever-increasing rarity.

Some concerts matter too much, however, and this summer Barenboim is touring with the remarkable West-Eastern Divan Orchestra he co-founded 25 years ago, in which Arab and Israeli musicians play side by side. Plenty has been said elsewhere about its context and purpose, including recently in Clemency Burton-Hill's moving interview with Barenboim in this newspaper; Mutter's encore of a Bach saraband was, in her words, a musical prayer for lasting peace in the Middle East. It came after a Brahms Violin Concerto in which Mutter's sound was powerful and piercing, even if I'd

swap some of that dazzling gleam for more light and shade.

We had those qualities and more — grandeur, warmth and clarity — in Schubert's "Great" Symphony No 9, which accommodated Barenboim's trademark fondness for stately tempos better than the Brahms. Sitting down, he conducted with gestures that were contained and economical, he made this symphony feel more like a giant piece of chamber music than ever. No player names are given out by the orchestra but the purity of the opening horn solo and the eloquence of the oboist deserve their own mention. Yet the detail was always part of the whole, the shaping of this Schubert seeming entirely natural, rising and falling as if the orchestra were breathing as one. Available on BBC Sounds

DNA sheds light on Virginia governor's secret after 400 years

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

A family secret hidden for more than 400 years has been unearthed by archaeologists working at the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

Using the latest DNA techniques, research at the colony of Jamestown in Virginia, has revealed how the family of Thomas West, 3rd Baron De La Warr and first governor of Virginia, covered up an affair to save a child from the taboo of illegitimacy.

Researchers made the discovery when DNA technology found that two bodies, identified as members of West's family, were not as closely related as they should have been. The study's authors say that the case demonstrates

how new DNA technology can help to unlock long lost secrets.

"This study demonstrates the utility of combining genetic, archaeological and historical approaches to the study of the past", said Dr Eadaoin Harney from Harvard University, co-author of the research, which is published in the journal *Antiquity*.

Archaeologists excavated the church that stood on the Jamestown site between 1608 and 1616, and found remains near the altar in the chancel.

"This prominent location suggests the graves contained the remains of high-status individuals," said Dr William Kelso, emeritus director of archaeology at Jamestown Rediscovery.

Having aged the skeletons and checked the records, they concluded

that these were two relatives of the governor: Sir Ferdinando Wenman, his nephew; and Captain William West, whose parentage was somewhat less certain.

Surprisingly, DNA showed the men were related through the maternal line, rather than the paternal line as might be expected — suggesting that Captain West must have been illegitimate.

The family had maintained a cloak of silence on the subject and there was no clear indication as to who his parents were, although he had been granted the honour of being named after William West, 1st Baron De La Warr.

The critical clue was in Captain West's will, which left his estate to his aunt Mary, who had married a man called Richard Blount. A further piece

of the puzzle came from a court pleading in the National Archives, which showed Mary Blount trying to recover this inheritance after Captain West's untimely death aged 24. In it, it was made clear that Mary had brought up the young William after taking charge of his care after the death of her younger sibling Elizabeth, the aunt of Thomas West.

She was listed as a "cousin" of William who had left her possessions to him, and she had died unmarried and officially childless.

The researchers concluded that Elizabeth was the mother and that her family had taken care of her son after her death. The father is unknown, but the family's actions would have given Captain West some protection from the

stigma of illegitimacy. He was cared for, seemingly matriculated at Cambridge University and also had a precious military education. Nevertheless, leaving for America would probably have helped him get away from whatever stigma remained.

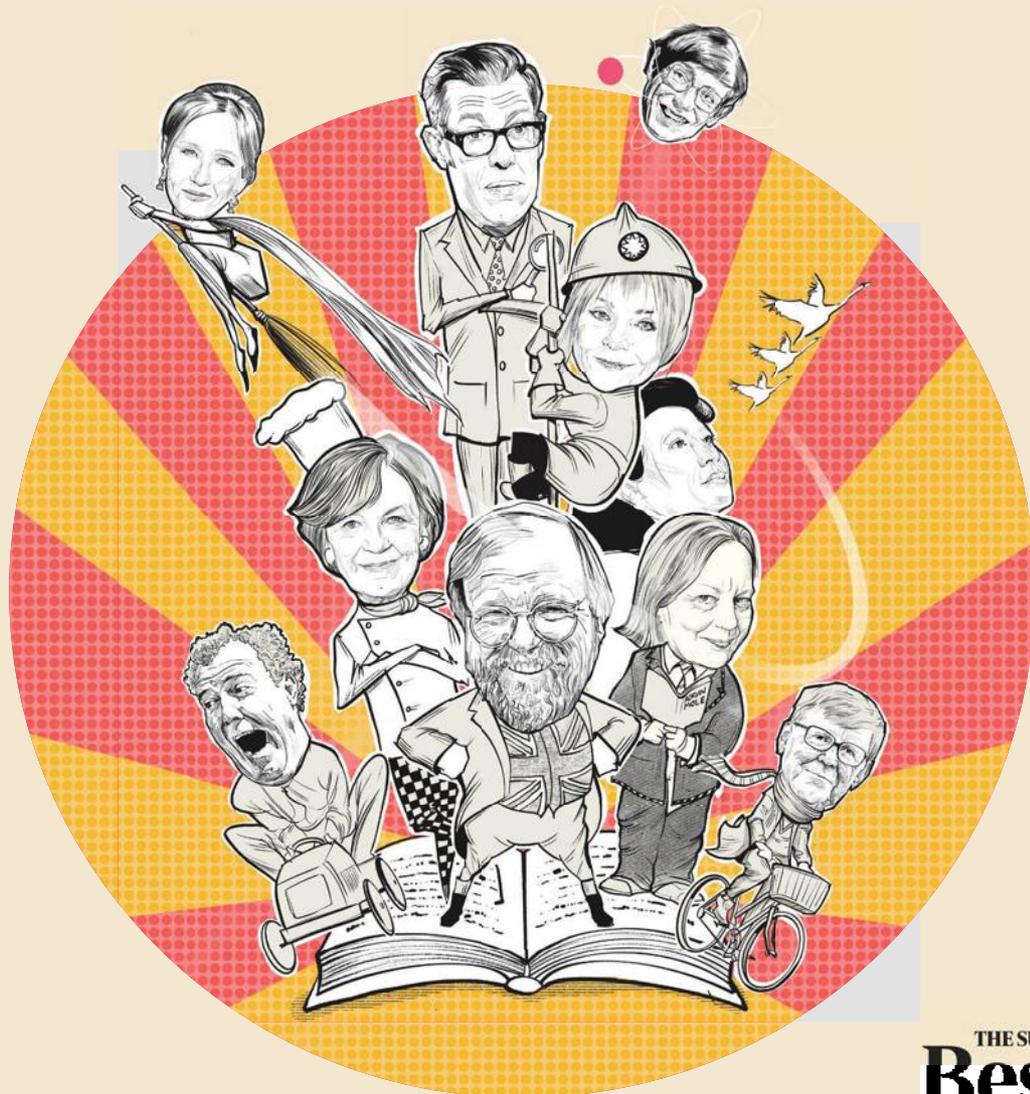
The Wests were in the fortunate position to have the means to cope with an illegitimate birth and the shunning that might cause. Poorer families in the same predicament would often require aid from the church.

Despite her family's privileged status, the consequences for Elizabeth would have been stark. While she was retained in her father's household, the research says that the incident would have "rendered her unmarriageable, isolated her and caused her considerable shame".

Did your favourite book make the list?

We're celebrating 50 years of the Sunday Times Bestsellers List by revealing the top 100 titles. From beloved novels to groundbreaking non-fiction, find out if your favourite book made the list in a special edition of *Culture* on August 18.

Available online from August 16 and in The Sunday Times this weekend



THE SUNDAY TIMES
Bestsellers List
FIFTY YEARS

My cricket heroes have had a brutal battering

Giles Coren

Page 22



Comment

Scrapping this tech project is not so super

Countries that fail to invest in supercomputers will be left behind — so why have ministers just axed one in Edinburgh?

William Hague



The events of early August have been so disturbing — brutal killings and horrifying riots at home, intensifying conflicts abroad — it is not surprising that other important events go unnoticed. The abandonment of £1.3 billion of funding for tech and AI projects, most of which was intended to build an exascale computer in Edinburgh, was one such little noticed event. It was quietly revealed by ministers on August 2 after parliament had risen for the summer.

Of course, most people do not know what an earth an exascale computer is, let alone worry about the government's policy towards it. Furthermore, the people who do know what it is — call them nerds if you like, and I admit I am slowly turning into one — disagree about whether spending money on this particular computer was a good idea. But the sudden axing of funding for a project previously thought “game changing” for the economy, and for which Edinburgh University had already spent £31 million on a building to house it, deserves a fuller explanation than has been provided. If it is right to cancel this project, there will be lessons that must be learnt quickly. If it's wrong, a big mistake is being made.

An exascale computer is one type of supercomputer, providing “compute” power to run calculations, experiments, data analyses and AI models dozens or hundreds of times faster than was possible until recently. Many advanced economies

are investing heavily in supercomputers because their capabilities are fundamental to the new industrial and technological revolution now under way. The EU and Germany have just completed their own exascale in an attempt to catch up with the US and China. Billions of dollars are being invested, from Brazil to Canada and Japan to the Gulf, in similar projects. To miss out on supercomputing in the 2020s would be like deciding not to invest in railways, steam engines or telegraph communication in the 1820s. Supercomputing is the rail and telegraph network on which the new world economy is going to run.

Far bigger investments are being made by the likes of Google and Microsoft, and there is no way governments should try to compete with those. The point of having compute capability within our own borders, with public investment, is to encourage universities, researchers

UK has 1.3 per cent of the global computing capacity, a study found

and start-ups to concentrate work in Britain, and produce ideas and innovation here; while at the same time giving the country the ability to handle citizens' data securely, work on national security projects and have leverage in working with allies. A country without significant compute power in the mid 21st century will be slow-growing at best. At worst it will be helpless.

This was why a major compute review was undertaken. It reported last year, with the alarming finding that the UK had only 1.3 per cent of the global computing capacity and did not have a system in the top 25 in

the world. We have fallen behind countries such as Finland, Italy and Russia. Part of the answer proposed by the review was an exascale computer — the very thing that now looks like it has been dumped. We do have an excellent new facility at Bristol, the Isambard-AI computer, but we will need far more than that.

The Labour government has shown some promising signs on technology. It intends to ease planning rules for building data centres, another critical component of the future economy. The outstanding entrepreneur and AI expert Matt Clifford has been appointed to report by September on AI opportunities — he has in the past called for billions of additional investments in compute. The new science secretary, Peter Kyle, shows knowledge and commitment. But now it is time to display some of that knowledge in explaining what has happened to the exascale project and to set out a dramatically more ambitious strategy for supercomputing in Britain.

The government's explanation of the withdrawal of funds is that it was unfunded — the money wasn't there, and a growth strategy means controlling the budget. Yet in any credible growth strategy, a new supercomputer — at least one that works well — would be almost the very last thing a sensible person would cut. Furthermore, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology was reportedly heading for a significant underspend. The explanation does not ring true and is not good enough.

An alternative explanation is that this project has become bogged down in the type of bureaucratic mess that bedevils attempts to make bold or strategic investments in science and technology in Britain. Funding was



Peter Kyle, the science secretary, must explain this decision much more fully

being directed through UK Research and Innovation, which is geared for distributing a multitude of grants rather than pursuing a small number of high priorities. The Treasury will have hated the money being given by the outgoing administration, subjected it to multiple business case reviews, and seen a chance to kill it when new ministers came in. I suspect this explanation is closer to the truth, and it's depressing.

The hope now has to be that Clifford will produce a strong report that sets out clearly, for ministers and the public, the scale of supercomputing that will be required for the UK to compete in the world. And for those who say the money isn't there, it must be found in areas such as welfare reform, and slimming the civil service as AI progresses, because future growth will require

less consumption today and more investment for tomorrow. This is a critical area for investment — Britain will become a backwater without it.

Yet the fate of the funding for exascale shows that much more than money will be needed. The British state needs to be equipped to make big, quick decisions and stick to them. As think tanks such as Onward, Demos and the Tony Blair Institute have argued, that will only happen with major reforms. New compute capacity should be delivered by a taskforce or independent body outside traditional government structures, led by industry experts and working with allied nations, to overcome risk aversion and delays. Where the Treasury is involved, it needs new staff with serious expertise in science and technology. Data centres need not only planning permission but secure energy supplies, preferably renewable, that are not prohibitively expensive. When supercomputers are built, they need to be accessible to start-up businesses with great ideas.

The government still has the chance to put Britain in a strong position, but time is very short. Having a bold plan on compute power will be a central test of its hopes for economic growth. Changing how the system works will be crucial to spending money wisely. A good start would be a convincing explanation for cutting a major technology project, and if it has gone seriously wrong, learning from it. Come on Rachel Reeves and Peter Kyle. Explain.

RED BOX

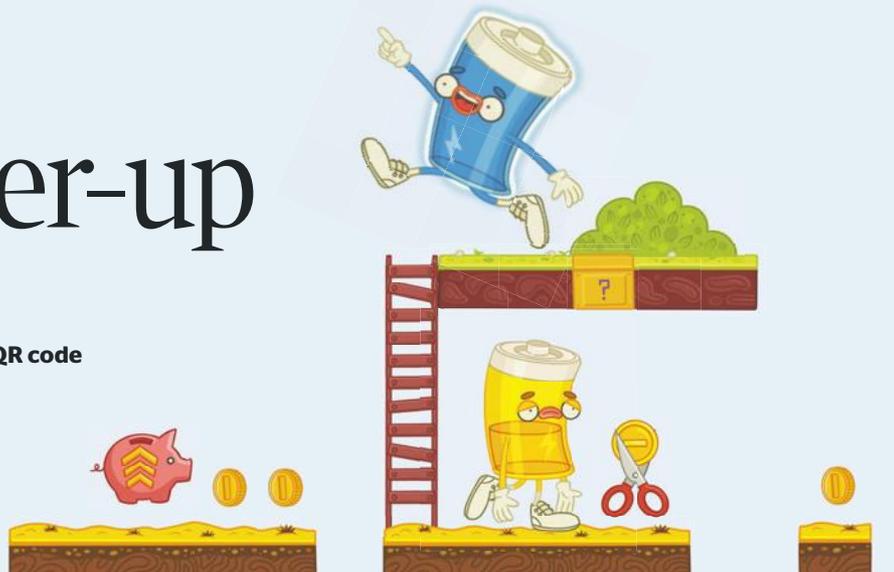
For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape [thetimes.com/redbox](https://www.thetimes.com/redbox)

THE TIMES
money mentor

Pension Power-up

Supercharge your pension savings with Times Money Mentor's free four-week newsletter course starting this September.

Sign up now at [thetimes.com/TMMnewsletter](https://www.thetimes.com/TMMnewsletter) or scan the QR code



Comment

There's a problem with erasing Huw Edwards

Sanitising our cultural past allows us to forget rather than recalling where we went wrong

Joanna Williams



@JOWILLIAMS293

Do you remember Huw Edwards? The Welsh chap. Used to be a BBC newsreader and presenter. Recently in court over sexually explicit pictures of children. Remember him? Of course you do. For now. But ever since Edwards admitted possession of indecent images, including seven ranked as “category A”, showing the abuse of a child estimated to be aged between seven and nine, efforts have been underway to expunge his contribution to Britain’s recent cultural past. What we remember today is destined to be forgotten in years to come.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the BBC has led the way. First to be removed from the channel’s iPlayer platform was a 2006 episode of *Doctor Who* in which Edwards voiced a fictional news report. This was swiftly followed by episodes of *Great British Menu* and the comedy panel show *Would I Lie To You?* Look for either and you’ll get the message: “Sorry, this episode is not currently available.” Those seeking out Edwards’s rendition of the battle scene from the *Book of Aneirin*, the earliest surviving Welsh poem, or the documentary *Wales: Who Do We Think We Are?* are told: “This programme is not currently available on iPlayer.”

Until last year, Edwards was one of the BBC’s leading presenters and it often fell to him to front major national events, most notably announcing the death of the Queen in 2022. This coverage, undoubtedly of future historical significance, is far more difficult to erase than a one-off appearance on a panel show. But deletion is clearly not impossible. A BBC spokesman has declared: “As you would expect, we are actively considering the availability of our archive.” Already, recordings of Edwards breaking key news stories from recent decades are difficult to locate on iPlayer.

But it’s not just the BBC that is removing Edwards from the public

Expunging Edwards protects BBC staff who knew the charges

record. A mural featuring the broadcaster in his home town of Llangennech has been painted over. The town’s community centre has taken down his photo. A plaque in his honour has been removed from Cardiff Castle and visitors can no longer pick up an audio guide narrated by Edwards. The National Churches Trust has dropped Edwards as vice-president and his honorary fellowship of the Royal Welsh College Of Music And Drama has been rescinded. York St John University’s awards committee has stripped Edwards of the honorary doctor of letters he was granted in 2019. And on top of all this, he has been expelled from the Gorsedd of

the Bards association, one of the highest accolades in Welsh public life, and had his membership of the national Eisteddfod cancelled.

The extent of Edwards’s fall reflects both the esteem in which he was once held and the severity of the crime he has committed. The temptation to erase all records of his existence, to “memory-hole” the awards he was granted, to erase, forget, and move on, is understandable. But both the awards and the moral depravity are true and each makes the other more shocking.

According to BBC insiders, deletion is designed to protect future audiences from viewing “upsetting reputations” of his work. There is also a desire for justice: the corporation cites one survivor of childhood sexual abuse who argues that all Edwards’s awards need to be stripped away immediately. But expunging Edwards from the public record conveniently removes the role of those who granted him these accolades and made him one of the BBC’s highest-paid presenters. Memory-holing Edwards protects the reputation of those at the BBC who knew the charges levelled against him and continued not just to pay his salary but to oversee a pay rise.

Memory-holing speaks to a broader trend to cleanse history by erasing all that is now considered distasteful. Again, the BBC leads the charge. The comedy series *Little Britain*, popular in the early Noughties, has been removed from iPlayer, Netflix and Britbox “because times have changed”. Although men impersonating women are widely lauded today, “blacking up” and

impersonating another ethnicity is most decidedly not. *Mad Men* also falls foul of this juncture: recently released on Netflix in Australia and Canada, viewers have discovered that the episode in which Roger Sterling dons blackface has been carefully omitted.

In recent years we’ve seen old music, films and novels either quietly dropped or revised. The Pogues’ *Fairytale of New York* Christmas anthem is routinely edited to delete what’s considered to be a homophobic insult, while books by Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming and Roald Dahl have been rewritten with antisemitic tropes and racial slurs removed. At the same time, statues to long-dead historical figures, often slave traders and colonialists such as Bristol’s Edward Colston, are taken down from public display, their legacy so tarnished it must be erased entirely.

The problem with this push to sanitise the past is not just that it allows us to forget; it deliberately misleads. When the historical record is erased or distorted, it becomes harder to grasp what is true and makes challenging injustice in the present more difficult. The fact is, viewers did once laugh at *Little Britain*. Racist language in popular fiction was once widespread.

Colonialists were once feted. Huw Edwards was held in high regard at the BBC. Memory-holing doesn’t make these things untrue; it wipes the slate clean and tells us to look away. Erasing Edwards’s record at the BBC allows the corporation to abdicate responsibility for its role in his success.



Show humanity and give this street cleaner a break

Libby Purves

Paul Spiers has cleaned streets in Beckenham for seven years, a familiar friendly face. Knowing he dreamt of a holiday in Portugal, locals raised £2,810 to make it a 62nd birthday present. But like most such figures in any local landscape, he isn’t hired by the council: he’s one of 220,000 employees of Veolia, a £17 billion international corporation. And Veolia says he can’t take it because its protocols ban “the acceptance by staff of monies outside their agreed regular pay structure” — as if a mass gift from neighbours was a creepy bribe.

The poor man is worried he’s in trouble, the firm demands the money goes to “charity”, and Bromley council, rather than ordering Veolia to wind in its neck, bleats that it’s a “contractual matter” between the little guy with the broom and the global monolith: nothing to do with us, guv.

They could cut a deal. Of course giant corporations need rules about corruption but this was a one-off unconditional gift, openly raised out of gratitude for cheerful service (has no Veolia exec or Bromley councillor ever accepted a free dinner?). But no, the council is too busy polishing its vision’n’values website to stand up for a mere cleaner. Armchair generals in town halls rarely bother much about the front line, forgetting that it’s the main evidence the electorate ever gets of their taxes’ value. It’s outsourced, so who cares?

Once again, here’s late capitalism shooting itself in the foot, bestowing local services on profit mills more sensitive to distant investors than to the locality they serve. Remember Dacorum borough council, and the chap whose discreet wee in a woodland lay-by had him fined for “littering”? That was imposed by a private business called District Enforcement, contracted to keep 78 per cent of every fine for itself.

It’s everywhere: housing, social care, security, waste management, asylum (new to The Sunday Times Rich List is Graham King, with a ten-year deal finding hotels for asylum seekers: his post-tax profit doubled last year). The lazy Conservative mantra — and of New Labour before — is that only profit-driven commerce is efficient, thus elected government shouldn’t employ and supervise anything practical but stay behind its desk hiring glossy multinationals.

Outsourcing has good uses, but weakens the ancient relationship between taxpayer and state. So the least we can ask is proper supervision, and tough contracts making it clear who is the real boss. Because in the end, it’s us. And if we want to give a street cleaner a holiday without him fearing for his job, we damn well will.

Giles Coren Notebook

My cricket heroes have had a brutal battering

In common with most true lovers of cricket, I grumpily accept the need for constant modernisation of the game. But as cricket dashes greedily towards a future of shorter and ever more brutish formats, I do worry that the grace and beauty it once afforded us will be forgotten. And not just forgotten, but wilfully blasted from the collective memory as if somehow shameful.

For example, I took on holiday with me last week a lovely new book by two distinguished cricket writers called *Richie Benaud’s Blue Suede Shoes*, a tale of one great 1961 Ashes match and the wider social and political revolution it encapsulated. Just the sort of nostalgic stuff I love to wallow in as an antidote to what the game is in danger of becoming.

But on page ten, as the authors described Peter May’s ascendance to the captaincy of England after the retirement of Len Hutton, I found him described as “the leading batter

of the series”. I’m sorry, the leading what? Oh no. Please. Not here. Not 63 years ago.

And it got worse. For apparently Benaud liked “to get on top of the batter”, “Brian Booth and Bill Lawry were uncapped batters”, Jim Parks was “the superior batter” of England’s two best wicket-keepers and, most horribly of all, “May, Cowdrey, Dexter [were] the three great amateur, stroke-playing batters”.

Ted Dexter, that paragon of classical sporting elegance, a batter? No. No, no, no, no, no! “Lord Ted” was not some beefy lass in green pyjamas with an advert for Pom-Bears across her chest, crossbatting 60mph dibbly-dobblys as an aperitif to an evening’s boozing at The Hundred. He was a batsman, with all the mastery of a craft that the word encompasses. The same applies to Neil Harvey, Brian Close, Don Bradman and all the other brave, helmetless heroes retrospectively besmirched by this brutal coinage, with the word “batsman”

fully expunged from the text except in contemporary quotation.

I understand and accept MCC’s 2021 decision to change “batsman” to “batter” in the laws of the game, for that is a text applicable to players of every gender (of which I believe there are now over 100) and one should not risk alienating any of them by linguistic exclusion. But the way “batsman” has since been eradicated from all public discussion of the game suggests the word is now regarded as actively offensive, like “n*****” or “y***” or “p***”, and no longer fit to be seen or heard by civilised people. And that is ridiculous.

Can we not have both? Can I not swill beer among jabbering Yahoos to the sound of dance music while scowling “batters”hoff ugly, meaningless sixes into the night sky in conditions of minimal jeopardy, and then go home to curl up with a book about the game as it was in the Golden Age, without having to look on as all those glorious summers are rewritten in the boneheaded Newspeak of 2024?

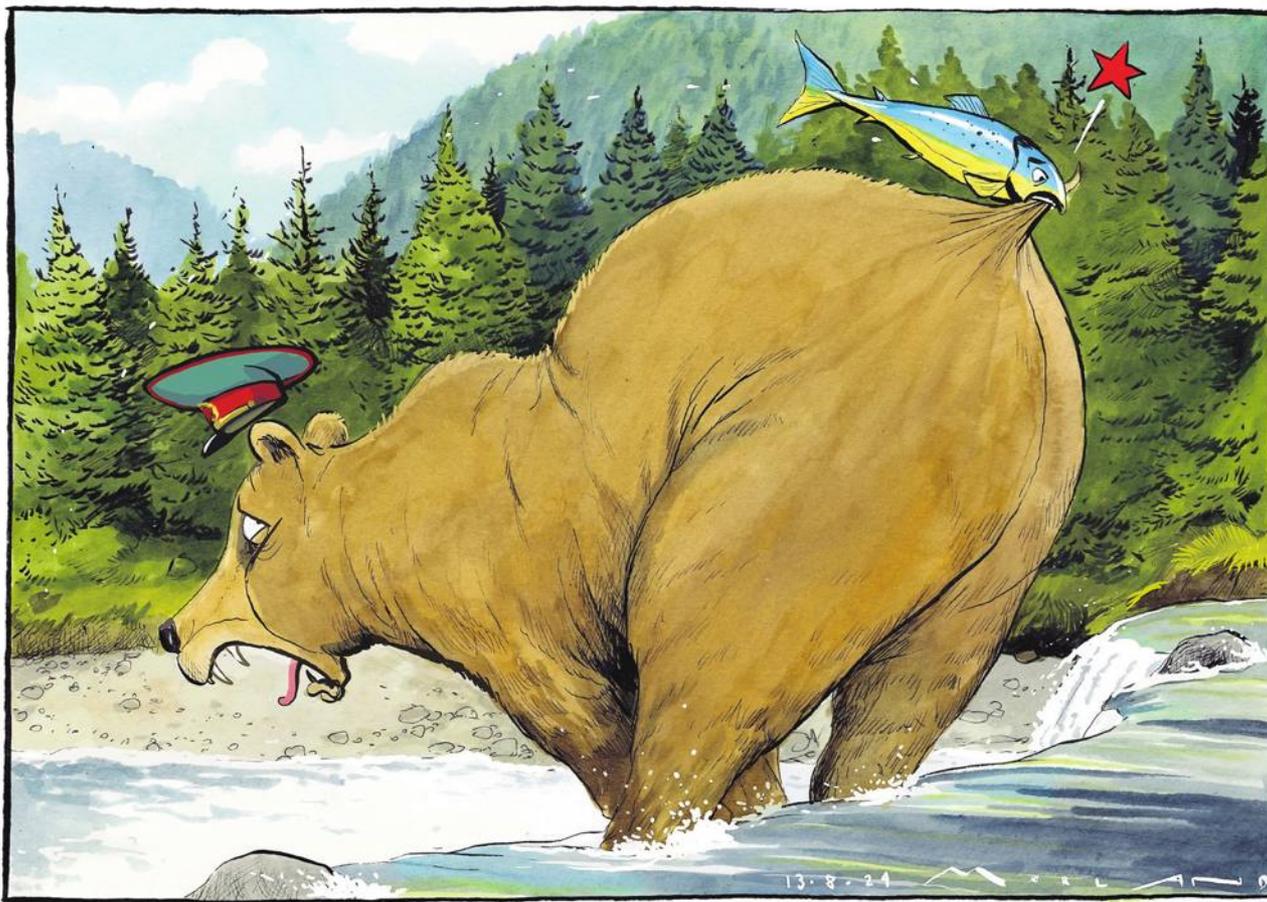


According to Jim

On the business of banished words, I have never read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to my children because for all Mark Twain’s personal liberalism, the N-word appears 219 times and I just can’t be dealing with that. It’s a problem. It has left one of the world’s great novels in danger of going unread. Until now. For Percival Everett’s *James*, a retelling of the story from the slave Jim’s perspective, is an even better book than the original, and the version I will pass onto my kids. “N*****” does appear a few times, but in the hands of a black writer it slides down a little easier. And at least you won’t find him writing “batsman”.

Unfair advantage

James has been longlisted for the Booker Prize and will win. Because, just as I warned when American writers were first allowed into the Booker in 2014, the contest is not a fair one. Every year since 1920, at least a dozen novels have been published in America that were better than the best one published the same year in Britain and the Commonwealth. Letting the Yanks in is unfair. We can’t compete. It’s like, to draw just one uncontroversial comparison, letting blokes into women’s boxing.



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.com or call 0800 912 7136

Musk is picking the wrong free-speech fight

Rather than painting government as authoritarian, X's boss should learn the difference between incitement and stupidity

Hugo Rifkind



@HUGORIFKIND

His past week, the social media boss Elon Musk has been having a huge fight with Sir Keir Starmer, after the prime minister said Musk shouldn't have said Britain was heading for civil war. The thing is, I'm not certain Starmer has noticed.

He'll have been pretty busy, after all, running the country, as well as worrying about Russia and Ukraine, and the Middle East, and the riots themselves. So he might not have had much time for, say, memes. Such as, for example, Musk's latest attack: a group sex pornography meme, by which he likened a British police officer surrounded by traditionally dressed Muslims to a white blonde girl on a sofa surrounded black men in their underwear. "Found this pic of the UK justice system," the billionaire wrote. Adding, afterwards: "This meme could get you 3 years in prison in the UK (actually)."

Actually, it could not. Which is just as well for the Reform founder and new MP for Boston & Skegness, Richard Tice, who immediately

reposted it, adding: "Musk 4, Starmer 0." Perhaps imagining that the British PM would be glancing at his iPhone, reeling.

On a case by case basis, it's never totally clear why Musk does this stuff. As a parallel, we've just been on holiday by a lake in Germany, where my little dog would reliably launch himself into a howling fury every time a tourist-ride zeppelin appeared on the horizon. I don't know why. I'll never know why. Perhaps it's a bit like that.

Altogether, though, Musk is on a mission. In Kurt Wagner's book *Battle For The Bird: Jack Dorsey, Elon Musk and The \$44 Billion Fight For Twitter's Soul*, the author traces Musk's passion for free speech to a

He has decided the next phase of his war must be fought here

passing zeppelin that was the 2022 decision by his predecessor (Dorsey) to ban from Twitter the US satirical website Babylon Bee, after it declared a female-identifying transgender US official to be its "Man Of The Year". "Can you buy Twitter and make it radically free-speech?" asked Musk's ex-wife Tallulah Riley, in a text. So he did. Dorsey's Twitter was indeed

becoming rather ban-heavy. With Dorsey being rather erratic himself — he once appeared at a conference dressed as an astronaut, and spent another one with his back to the audience, talking to God — it's not totally clear why. Probably, he was just keen not to shed advertisers. Musk, though, saw the incremental wokeness of Twitter as the vector by which the "woke mind virus" (his phrase) was infecting the world. It's not wholly inconceivable that he was right.

Musk himself, though, has become the living refutation of the idea that an unmoderated online space is any better. Insulated from consequence by his billions, he has radicalised himself with enormous speed into a host of beliefs that would normally spell career death even for a Reform councillor. One such belief appears to be that the UK currently resembles Cambodia in the early stages of the Khmer Rouge. And so, in the wake of last week's riots, as arrests and prosecutions mounted, he decided the next stage of his free speech war must be fought here. Lucky, lucky us.

Irritatingly, though, he seems to want to fight it without really paying much attention. We cannot know for sure (dog, zeppelin, aforementioned) but his "3 years" post was probably inspired by the case of Tyler Kay, of Northampton, given a sentence of

that length last Friday for posts about the riots. Yet Kay wasn't just posting racist memes. He wrote, and I quote, "mass deportation now, set fire to all the f***ing hotels full of the bastards for all I care". Then he went on to advise his followers on how to do it, suggesting wearing gloves and having a change of clothes nearby. Jail seems pretty fair, I'd say.

Musk would be on firmer ground if he were complaining about arrests for misinformation. Here, take a

Over these past days I've often thought of 12th-century pogroms

woman from Chester, widely reported to have been the source of false rumours that a Muslim asylum seeker, known to MI6, was the suspect in the Southport stabbings. She, too, has been arrested. With small caveats, that's the message eventually spread by Nigel Farage too. To the best of my knowledge, nobody has been jailed for this sort of thing yet.

This, I think, is the free speech debate worth having. Yes, online misinformation is a cancer, particularly when pumped into our discourse from abroad. It's also often indistinguishable from simply being stupid or wrong. I worry that there's

a comforting delusion in believing that posts like this are the root cause of violence — similar to Musk's own delusion that his platform is the centre of the world. Often, over these past ten days, I've found myself thinking of the pogroms that targeted English Jews in the 12th century. The mobs who did those ones didn't even have WhatsApp.

The easiest way to tackle misinformation online is with the co-operation of responsible tech companies, as Edward Lucas wrote here yesterday. Musk, through his flat and irresponsible refusal, upsets that dynamic completely. In doing so, he forces us to confront the biggest, scariest conundrum of the internet age, which liberal governments worldwide, despite tentative legislation here and there, have thus far swerved. Which is, bluntly, how does a free society cope when the unspeakable are free to speak?

Even with a more compliant Twitter/X and a less abrasive billionaire in charge, that conundrum would, and will, and did, still exist in the message apps, on the dark web, Telegram, and elsewhere. And, in the end, the real challenge is for the rest of us to not let it matter. To learn what to trust, and what not to, and how to tell the difference. Really, it's the only way. Because the dog will always bark at the zeppelin. It's just what he does.

Letters to the Editor



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



Left-behind pupils

Sir, Your leading article "Those Left Behind" (Aug 10) perfectly illustrates the "decades of neglect" of the educational attainment of white working-class children. Survey after survey has shown that white working-class boys who are eligible for free school meals (the largest disadvantaged ethnic group) perform worse educationally as a whole than any other group or ethnicity. As noted by the Commons education committee, schools must also stop using divisive terms such as "white privilege", which confer a dangerous status deficit to these young people and almost certainly has contributed to their "systemic neglect". From my experience, attempts to identify and discuss the lack of this group in higher education promotes instant nervousness among universities and the learned societies. Any such inquiries are invariably stereotyped as arising from hard-right ideology.

The education secretary should indeed grasp the issue of white working-class pupils who are consistently forgotten. This would not only help to release the huge untapped potential of these young people but also assuage the destabilisation of this country, as was clearly evident in the recent riots. I am the product of Toxteth, a deprived area of Liverpool, and was a grateful recipient of free school meals and the first in my family to attend university. **Peter P Edwards, FRS**
Emeritus professor of inorganic chemistry, Oxford University; co-founder, Oxford Carbon Capture and Utilisation

Sir, You rightly highlight the educational plight of white boys from low-income backgrounds. From the age of five they are the lowest achieving of any ethnic group except those of Traveller heritage. Yet many find it hard to talk about it. When I proposed a book about these "unseen children", my publisher's initial reaction was to wince. Fortunately it went ahead and I was able to explore the roots of the problem: early spoken language gaps, struggles with reading, and a developing sense of powerlessness that echoes through our left-behind communities. Schools can make a difference to all of these, and many do. So can politicians from working-class backgrounds, by drawing on their own experiences. I suspect, though, that their home learning environments and educational experiences were somewhat different from those of the majority. **Jean Gross**
Author, *Reaching the Unseen Children*

Corrections and clarifications

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

Capping developers' profits to boost building

Sir, The idea of bringing forward land for housing development and introducing land value taxation is nothing new ("Knockdown prices for green belt to build on", Aug 12). The most notable example was the Land Commission (1967-70), in effect set up as a quango of the Ministry of Housing and given wide powers including compulsory purchase to acquire land and impose a betterment levy of 40 per cent on development values. The reasons for failure were threefold: the legislation was difficult, with too many exceptions; antipathy from local authorities (with local politics predominating); and the betterment levy was self-defeating as it depended on action from landowners whose interests were best served by taking no action at all.

I was part of the southwest regional land acquisition team and we soon learnt that recourse to compulsory purchase was the only way to unlock land for housing development.

However, this process proved complex, extremely lengthy and generated considerable hostility from too many quarters. Against this backdrop, it might be better to provide the compulsory purchase powers instead, to mayors and combined authorities,

who should be required to identify all suitable land for development and to draw up acquisition plans in tandem with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It would not be cheap or popular with landowners and developers but might be the only way to forge a meaningful housing programme in exceptional circumstances. **David Werran**
London W4

Sir, The government's plan to prevent landowners from cashing in on sites that would previously have been ineligible for development looks eerily similar to the Community Land Act of 1975, a Labour idea that attempted to control land prices to avoid profiteering from development. It destabilised the land market and was repealed three years later as an abject failure. **Steve Dance**
Planning consultant, Nottingham

Sir, Pesky newts and other animals (bats, red squirrels, dormice and various birds) all interfere with planning applications for building. These animals are but one link in the network of animals and plants that live together and comprise functional

communities. In the newts' case, an estimated 90 per cent of lowland ponds have been lost since 1930; if the newts go, so does the rest of the ecosystem and its thousands of species. Since 1930 we have lost 97 per cent of our wildflower meadows, half our ancient woodland and 56 per cent of our heathland. Farmland birds have declined by more than 50 per cent since 1970. Among all rich developed nations, the UK ranks bottom for biodiversity, as Isabella Tree makes clear in her book *Wilding*. It follows that, when planning for houses (which we desperately need), it is the preservation not of individual species (such as crested newts) but of whole ecosystems (such as lowland ponds), that should be paramount. **Dr David AS Smith**
Hereford

Sir, One potential source of land is the "doughnut" of land surrounding motorway service stations. We could allow service stations to become destinations in their own right, install better access to the rear and start building homes, initially for those who already work there. **Mark Riley**
Sandhurst, Berks

Migration debate

Sir, Geoffrey Bellamy (letter, Aug 10) refers to our present levels of immigration as "unsustainable". In the reception area at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, where my family has spent a lot of time recently, a board proudly shows that there are staff members at the hospital from nearly 60 countries. We have seen at close quarters the competence, kindness and teamwork of the hospital staff. It seems to me that the reverse is true: Britain would in fact be unsustainable without immigration. **Judith Fage**
Hebden Bridge, W Yorks

Sir, The tide of anti-racist protest in response to recent criminality is heartwarming; our British values of tolerance have always been best expressed in Benjamin Zephaniah's wonderful poem *The British*. However, in times of high emotion and explosive rhetoric, which seem to reduce us all to either "left-wing" or "right-wing", vital nuance can be lost. The fact that immigration, enriching though it can be, should be carefully regulated is not "right-wing" or

"fascist" but common sense: of course we must stop the boats. Equally, it is not Islamophobic to respectfully challenge aspects of Islam that do not accord with British values. As in most dimensions of life, the truth is not black and white but shades of grey. **Dr Daniel Emlyn-Jones**
Oxford

Catalonian tumult

Sir, Concerning your editorial "Scrummage in Catalonia" (Aug 12), a mature and confident Spain would recognise the political and social pressures within Catalonia, grant full amnesties to the hundreds of Catalans facing prosecution, amend the constitution and allow an independence referendum within Catalonia. Undoubtedly, in the present climate, a referendum would not succeed. Failure to grant Catalonia *el dret de decidir*, and lance this long-running boil, will result in the Catalan independence issue festering for years to come, to the detriment of Catalonia and the unity of Spain as a whole. **Geoff Cowling**
HM consul general Barcelona 2002-05; Bromley, Kent

Slugs: friend or foe?

Sir, Why does Alan Titchmarsh persist in attacking slugs and snails ("Slugs are not our friend, Titchmarsh tells gardeners", Aug 12)? Has he not taken on board the re-evaluation of these creatures by the RHS, of which he is a vice-president? They form an important part of our food web, turning plant waste into compost for gardeners. Only a small proportion of the plants we grow are consumed by them, and as for throwing snails into neighbouring properties, that is both ineffective (they have a strong homing instinct) and immoral. Chemical control, which admittedly he does not cite but which is the commonest method of controlling slugs, is toxic to other animals including ourselves, so should be outlawed. The word "pest" applies to all creatures we instinctively dislike. That does not mean they should be eradicated. Indeed, as far as slugs are concerned, that would be impossible to achieve. Live and let live, I say, and glory in their success in a world in which other creatures are in decline. **Dr Peter Williams**
Fellow of the Linnean Society; Oxford

A WELSHMAN FOR WALES

FROM THE TIMES AUGUST 13, 2024

It must be an exceptional thing in the annals of electioneering to find the principal candidate, in the sense that he represents the party that has held the seat, labouring under the disadvantage of being unable to talk to the electors in their native tongue, and being roundly attacked for it by his opponents, who are both Welsh-speaking Welshmen. Such is the peculiar position of Sir Alfred Mond. It is true that for 14 years Sir Alfred Mond sat for the neighbouring Welsh constituency of Swansea, and that his ignorance of the vernacular was no hindrance to

the discharge of his legislative duties. But Swansea is an industrial constituency and Carmarthen is an agricultural one. Nationalism has in all countries the strongest influence on those nearest the soil, and the question of the native language is really an important factor in this contest. A knowledge of Welsh may not be needed at Westminster, but the fact that a man can speak it is regarded here as proof not only that he is a Welshman, but that he is dominated by Welsh traditions and ideals, and will look at politics generally from the Welsh point of view. To listen to some of the speeches and to read some of the handbills, one would think that this was an election of a professor of Welsh language and literature. If the seat is lost to Liberalism or if the Liberal majority is substantially decreased, one of the contributory causes will be the fact that the candidate is English and cannot speak

Welsh. The annual horse fair was held in the town yesterday. Hundreds of farmers gathered before the steps of the Guildhall to hear the Conservative candidate. They shed their apathy and became quite enthusiastic when Sir Alfred Stephens spoke to them in his and their native tongue.

As the electorate is bilingual, Sir Alfred Mond is not finding his inability to speak Welsh any obstacle to the propaganda side of his campaign. But there is usually a section at all his meetings, at one place Conservative and at another Labour, who call upon him, in English, to say what he has to say in Welsh. Attempts have been made to bring an engagement from him that if elected he will learn the vernacular, but Sir Alfred Mond will make no promise on that point.

THETIMES.COM/ARCHIVE

Olympic memories

Sir, One way to limit the proliferation of Olympic events (letter, Aug 12) would be to ensure that any event met the original Olympic motto's criteria of being any or all of "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (faster, higher, stronger). That would eliminate games such as volleyball and tennis, where tactics are all-important, and sports such as boxing, diving and gymnastics, which rely primarily on subjective judgments about style and technique.

Peter Mackay
Kingussie, Highland

Sir, My lasting memory of the Paris Olympics will be the dignity and mutual respect of the competitors, both in victory and defeat: a fine example to our younger generation. What a contrast to the antics of those shirt-tugging players in the "beautiful game". **Michael Wallis**
Cambridge

Sir, For me, the standout winner at the Games was the beauty of the Paris skyline, worthy of a gold medal. Legoblock London, with its sprawl of misshapen towers overpowering St Paul's, is a disgrace in comparison and would be lucky to scrape a bronze. **John Gardner**
Romsey, Hants

Sporting heartbeat

Sir, Like the rugby player Ben Youngs I used to suffer from sudden attacks of supraventricular tachycardia ("Why I have decided to play on after heart ordeal", sport, Aug 10). I was a runner. Being obliged to lie down by the roadside for 20 minutes during, say, a ten-mile race certainly wrecked your chance of a decent time that day. You also got some funny looks. **Frank Leadbetter**
Grimsby

Belt and braces

Sir, In 1964 I was working for a large insurance company in Norwich. On a particularly hot day I removed my jacket, revealing braces (letter, Aug 12). I was told by my head of department to put my jacket back on. I queried this and it was referred to the personnel department. An hour later, back came the ruling that I could continue exposing my braces as long as I could not be seen by members of the public. **Alan Dobson**
Lymm, Cheshire

Adored relics

Sir, Libby Purves's excellent article ("Craving the physical is natural in a digital world", Aug 12) explains why I am unable to discard the half-empty tin of Coleman's mustard found in my gran's kitchen cupboard when she died in 1974. Even then it must have been at least 20 years old, given that the label states: "By Appointment to HM King George VI." **Beryl Whyatt**
Welwyn Garden City

Bumper with zeal

Sir, Further to your piece "Steer clear of drivers with bumper stickers — they could be psychopaths" (Aug 12), some years ago I gave our new vicar a lift in my car. He asked if I had a "fish" sticker on the bumper. No, I said, but I had one saying "Honk if you love Jesus" (this was untrue). He demanded that I stop at once and let him out. **Michael Baker**
Townfield, Herts

Daily Universal Register

UK: Labour market statistics released by the ONS, and universal credit statistics by the Department for Work and Pensions; First round of the Carabao Cup (football).

Nature notes



The busy breeding season over, many garden birds are changing into a new outfit. Feathers suffer wear and tear, deteriorate due to

UV light, are lost or weakened due to mites, pulled out to line nests, or damaged in fights, but to fly well, evade predators and stay warm, birds need their plumage to be in good condition. Some species take on different colouring in winter, such as the snow bunting, or alter their plumage depending on their life stage, like gulls. While moulting they are more vulnerable than usual so they tend to stay quiet and out of sight: the dawn and evening choruses are over, and many species, such as blackbirds, will not sing again now until spring next year. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Feargal Sharkey, pictured, singer, the Undertones (1975-83), *A Good Heart* (1985), and environmentalist, 66; **Shoaib Akhtar**, cricketer, Pakistan (1997-2007), 49; **Martyn Brabbins**,

conductor, music director, English National Opera (2016-23), 65; **Mickey Bradley**, bassist, the Undertones, *Teenage Kicks* (1978), 65; **Domenico Dolce**, fashion designer, Dolce & Gabbana, 66; **Ken Friar**, life president, Arsenal Football Club, 90; **Divina Galica**, four-time Olympian (skiing) and Formula 1 driver, 80; **Kristalina Georgieva**, economist, managing director, International Monetary Fund, 71; **Paul Greengrass**, film director, the Jason Bourne film series, 69; **Madhur Jaffrey**, actress and cookery writer, *Curry Nation* (2012), 91; **Karine Jean-Pierre**, White House press secretary, 50; **Scott Kirby**, chief executive, United Airlines, 57; **Stuart Maconie**, writer and radio presenter, *Freak Zone*, BBC Radio 6, 63; **Christopher Nourse**, executive director, Frederick Ashton Foundation (ballet charity), 78; **Sir David Payne**, professor of photonics, director of the Optoelectronics Research Centre, University of Southampton (1995-2023), 80; **Simon Peckham**, co-founder and chief executive (2012-Mar 2024), Melrose (investment company), 62; **Philippe Petit**, high-wire artist, between the towers of the World Trade Center, New York (1974), 75; **Baroness (Minouche) Shafiq**, director, president of Columbia University, 62; **Alan Shearer**, footballer, England (1992-2000), and commentator, 54; **Tomasz Starzewski**, fashion designer, 63; **Otmar Szafnauer**, engineer, team principal, BWT Alpine F1 team (2022-23), 60; **Phil Taylor**, darts player, winner of 16 world championships, 64; **Lt-Gen Sir Philip Trousdell**, general officer commanding, Northern Ireland (2003-05), 76; **Manuel Valls**, prime minister of France (2014-16), 62; **Janet Yellen**, economist, US secretary of the Treasury, chairwoman, US Federal Reserve (2014-18), 78.

On this day

In 1876 Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* was first performed in its entirety in Bayreuth, beginning on this day.

The last word

"Righteousness is weak unless it is backed by power, but power devoid of righteousness is evil." Liu Xiaobo, Chinese activist and poet, *No Enemies, No Hatred: Selected Essays* (2012)



Poor Judgment

Beijing is squeezing the last breath out of Hong Kong's democracy movement. British and other foreign judges sitting in the territory should not be a party to this outrage

China's cruel persecution of the Hong Kong media magnate Jimmy Lai and other pro-democracy activists continues apace with the nodding approval of British, Canadian and Australian judges. Hong Kong's highest court yesterday threw out the appeal of the activists against convictions for taking part in a large peaceful pro-democracy rally in 2019, thereby flouting an unjustified police ban.

The overall Chinese treatment of 76-year-old Mr Lai, the founder of the now-banned Hong Kong tabloid *Apple Daily*, is a disgrace. He has already served four years in jail, most of it in solitary confinement, and is being assaulted by the full force of the weaponised Chinese legal system. He was arrested in December 2020, his trial date was set for 2022, then delayed for a further year. Apart from the supposed breach of demonstration laws, he is being held under draconian national security legislation for allegedly "colluding with foreign forces" and publishing supposedly seditious material. If found guilty Mr Lai — his family fear — could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Mr Lai, Hong Kong's oldest political prisoner, is a British citizen. And, shockingly, one of the judges who participated in the rejection of his appeal against conviction is British too. This scarcely-believable situation must end.

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury is a retired president of Britain's Supreme Court, and a recognised authority on media freedoms. As such he carries weight within Hong Kong's court of final appeal. His argument for continuing in that court, in his own words, is that "so long as I can do good by being there, and so long as I think that I might cause harm by leaving, I want to stay and support my judicial colleagues in Hong Kong and support the rule of the law".

There comes a time, however, when the continuing involvement of foreign judges, including Lord Neuberger, in Hong Kong's legal system becomes counterproductive, contributing not to better judgments and the protection of individual freedoms but rather glossing over the callousness of the communist system as it tightens its grip on the former British territory. Lord Sumption, another former Supreme Court judge, resigned from Hong Kong's top court in June, arguing that "many judges have lost sight of their traditional role as defenders of the liberty of the subject". In reality, Chinese laws enjoy little legitimacy, springing from a communist party that prizes internal security above all else. Overseas judges, however well-meaning, merely provide a veneer of legitimacy for its arbitrary score settling.

The examples of collusion with "foreign forces" levelled against Mr Lai refer among other things to his seeking quotes or articles from critical voices such as Lord Patten of Barnes, the last British governor of Hong Kong. How long can Lord Neuberger pretend to fight the good fight from within a legal system that is decaying day by day into a tool of state repression?

There is a public discussion to be had as to how best to mobilise British and global support for Mr Lai and other doughty advocates of democracy in the territory. But one thing is beyond debate: those campaigners can expect only rough justice from local courts now dancing to the tune of Beijing.

The British government has made clear that it will not pressure Lord Neuberger to step down, maintaining that retired British judges serving in Hong Kong courts do so in a private capacity. In the absence of official pressure it is up to Lord Neuberger and other foreign judges to act according to the dictates of conscience. It is now beyond reasonable doubt that, by their continuing participation, overseas judges are doing more harm than good. They should act accordingly and resign. The government, too, should act, not dodging the issue but speaking up at every turn for the beleaguered defenders of liberty in Hong Kong.

Death Yes, Taxes Maybe

HMRC's acceptance that billions in taxes are unlikely to be recovered is scandalous

Even in an age when government spending has long since bust the trillion-pounds-a-year barrier the sum of £19 billion is not to be sniffed at. It is only just below the amount raised annually by levies on alcohol and tobacco and is more than the yearly policing budget for England and Wales. No chancellor, not least the embattled Rachel Reeves, can afford to ignore such a sum. But that is what His Majesty's Revenue and Customs is effectively doing in suggesting in its annual report that £19 billion of old unpaid taxes are unlikely to be recovered. And while it is consigning this huge sum to the debit column in its accounts, the tax-collecting agency is at the same time making life a misery for many honest and diligent citizens trying to keep their tax affairs in order.

Altogether, the country was owed £43 billion in unpaid taxes in the year to March 31 — about three times more than the pre-pandemic level. But the build-up of older debts in the total, which are generally less likely to be settled, means that the portion of the national tax debt likely to be written off in future has jumped to 45 per cent — that £19 billion. This represents abject failure by HMRC.

In the previous year, that so-called "impairment" stood at the 32 per cent of the late taxes bill, which was almost identical in size. Unsurprisingly, this capitulation to tax dodging was buried deep in the report, being dismissed with little more than a fatalistic shrug. Some of that £19 billion may yet be recovered but HMRC is not expecting it to be. Over time, the debts involved are likely to be shunted into the column marked "written off". The amount written off in 2023-24 was £5 billion, an increase of £1.8 billion in a year.

Of course, some of the shortfall is due to company and individual insolvency, but much of it will be the result of avoidance or evasion. In labelling more of the tax debt as "impaired" HMRC may see itself as being more candid about the chances of recovery. However, the chances of recovery are governed not only by external factors such as bankruptcy but by HMRC's effectiveness as an investigator, chaser and collector. In their eagerness to reconcile tax and spend proposals during the election, both main parties promised "crack-downs" on avoidance and evasion. Yet the body relied upon to do this is simply giving up on billions.

HMRC's excuse for this scandal is that it is the victim of "prevailing economic conditions". But its effective abandonment of £19 billion is partly due to an update of its "impairment methodology". Apparently, if you don't get the tax owed in early your chances of ever getting hold of it decrease. This statement of the obvious should be a spur to improved performance but tax debt repayment is falling. HMRC's baleful performance is nothing new: it allowed £4.1 billion to be wasted in error and fraud on schemes designed to encourage business innovation during the pandemic.

This situation is galling enough for taxpayers who struggle to meet their tax obligations while others dodge theirs. But more salt is added to the wound by HMRC's equally abject record on service: the number of taxpayers cut off from its inquiry line after waiting more than an hour has risen sevenfold. This is an insult to the public.

HMRC has received an extra £303 million since the autumn to improve its dismal performance. For the time being, however, the old saw that the only certainties in life are death and taxes needs to be qualified in the case of less scrupulous Britons.

Having a Wine

Younger workers can benefit from the occasional post-work drink

Happy Hour, still the best-known tune by the Hull band The Housemartins, was a blast of righteous indignation against the boorish, blokey culture of office drinking — and "another night out with the boss". No prospect was more dreadful for a right-on twentysomething in the 1980s. "What a good place to be," they sang, ironically. "They speak a different language... it's never been happy for me." Four decades on, employers appear to have taken the hint: the post-work pint is passing into history.

The Work Foundation, a think tank based at Lancaster University, is calling time — gentlemen, women and non-binary millennials, please — on

the age-old ritual of sloping off to the local for a quick one, or perhaps three, with colleagues. Remote working struck the first blow. Coming together to toast a good week's work is far from straightforward with half the team working from home. Gen Z's abstemiousness may be the coup de grâce: a fifth of 18 to 27-year-olds do not drink.

So it is no surprise that the well-meaning academics of the Work Foundation instead urge employers to shift socialising from evenings at the pub to office hours — or online. With respect, they miss the point: young workers are missing out, too.

There are now four generations toiling together

in offices: boomers born in the Sixties, surly Gen X-ers, ageing millennials and babies of the Blair years. Proscribing the pub starves the young of work's lifeblood: the chance to connect and learn from colleagues away from the suffocating strictures of the corporate world.

Of course, old soaks should accommodate those who eschew booze for personal or religious reasons. Repairing to the pub need not mean drinking to excess, or behaving inappropriately. The humble hostelry remains the best place to let off steam, imbibe the wisdom of elders and turn workmates into lifelong friends.

World

Russians ask Putin: Why must we flee our homes?

Russia

Marc Bennetts

As the Ukrainian army swept into western Russia in the biggest incursion by enemy forces into the country since the Second World War, locals recorded a frantic video appeal to President Putin.

"We have lost our land and we have lost our homes. We fled under fire, through ruins," said dozens of residents of the Sudzhansky district in the Kursk region. "We and our children have been left without a roof over our heads."

Some took cover in basements as Ukrainian missiles exploded nearby. Others jumped into vehicles and evacuated the area. "Some left in just their underpants or nightshirts. The kids were terrified," one said. Others were forced to swim across a river to escape the Ukrainian assault, one man said.

The Ukrainian troops, said by analysts to number up to 10,000, are thought to have advanced 20 miles into Russia since they began their incursion last week. More than 120,000 people have been evacuated from border areas amid scenes of chaos and destruction reminiscent of the terror Putin's army has brought to Ukraine in the past two and a half years.

Near the town of Sudzha, 75 miles from Kursk, the regional capital, Ukrainian soldiers posted videos of themselves tearing down Russian flags above government buildings. Other videos showed the bodies of Russian soldiers in fields.

"We know nothing about the fate of about 2,000 people who are located in 28 settlements that are under enemy control," Alexei Smirnov, acting governor of the Kursk region, said yesterday. At least a dozen civilians have died and more than 120 have been injured, he added. The claim could not be verified.

With communications down across much of the area, missing persons announcements have flooded VK, Russia's equivalent of Facebook. "Please help me find my grandfather, I haven't heard from him since August 6," read one message.

Media outlets loyal to the Kremlin are thought to have been ordered to play down the scale of the incursion to prevent panic. However, Kommersant,



GAVRIL GRIGOROV/REUTERS

President Putin, like his generals caught off guard by the Ukrainian incursion, sent out an order yesterday to "dislodge" the invaders

a usually compliant daily newspaper in Moscow, reported on civilians fleeing and growing anger at officials.

"Where is our government? Where is the local administration?" one woman told the newspaper. Another said: "We don't understand why they don't tell us the truth. The enemy entered our territory, and on TV they keep saying: 'This is an emergency'. What kind of emergency is it when there are foreign tanks on our land!" She described Russian defence officials as "corrupt" and "crazy".

Putin ordered his military to "dislodge" Ukrainian forces yesterday. "One of the obvious goals of the enemy is to sow discord, strife, intimidate people, destroy the unity and cohesion of Russian society," he said at a televised meeting with officials.

The unprecedented incursion by Ukraine in a war that Russia expected to win within a few days has dealt a massive blow to Putin's reputation, according to Sergei Markov, a political analyst at Moscow State University who formerly advised the Kremlin on Ukraine. "It's humiliation for Vladimir Putin and people, of course, are not happy," he told Times Radio. "There are tens of thousands of refugees from these regions. It's clear that the Russian army cannot handle the situation."

Putin's initial reaction to the attack was oddly muted. Speaking at a national security council meeting last week, he described it as a "provocation" and ordered officials to resolve the situ-

ation. He also found time, however, to sign off on a swathe of new laws, including one banning the sale of energy drinks to children.

President Zelensky has said the operation is aimed at bringing the war to Russia and making its people "feel" the consequences of Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. An unnamed Ukrainian official told the AFP news agency that the incursion was an attempt to "destabilise the situation" in Russia.

The Russian military appears to have been taken by surprise by the speed of the offensive and analysts say it could trigger the dismissal of senior defence officials, including General Valery Gerasimov, head of the general staff. "This is a slap in the face for the president. We

have been unable to push the enemy back," an unnamed government official told the Politika.Kozlov website.

Videos on Russian social media showed abandoned cars strewn along the side of a road leading into Kursk. It was unclear what had happened to the passengers. "People are in denial. They really believe all that propaganda about our army not targeting civilians in Ukraine and they can't understand why this is happening," one local said, on condition of anonymity.

Dozens of young Russian conscripts may have been captured in the fighting, despite the Kremlin's promises that only mobilised men or professional soldiers would be deployed to the front.

Putin has sought to convince his people that the war in Ukraine is aimed at toppling a "Nazi regime" in Kyiv that was carrying out the genocide of ethnic Russians. There is no truth to that claim. However, there are far-right fighters on both sides of the conflict.

One of the units involved in the incursion has been identified by Ukrainian media as the Nachtigall (Nightingale) Battalion, which takes its name from a battalion of Ukrainian nationalists that fought alongside Nazi forces in the Second World War in an effort to achieve independence from the Soviet Union. A Ukrainian military source confirmed the battalion's existence to The Times.

DeepState, Ukraine's leading military analytical website, has also apparently sought to rub salt into the memory of the Nazi invasion of Russia. In a post last week on Telegram, it said a drone unit that it described as the "Luftwaffe" had dropped cluster munitions on "Russian Communist" troops.

Ilya Yashin, one of the Russian opposition leaders who was freed in this month's East-West prisoner exchange, said that responsibility for the incursion lay entirely with Putin.

"What is happening now was inevitable and was caused by Putin's decision to order the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. When Putin's propaganda was shouting that we would take Kyiv in three days, I told people that the war would definitely come to Russia. And that not only Ukrainians would suffer, but that they would, as well."



Invaders can't believe their luck as Kremlin caught napping

Analysis

Using his friend as a stepladder, the Ukrainian soldier from the 225th Separate Assault Battalion reached up and removed the Russian flag with a quick tug (George Grylls writes).

The video, geolocated to the village of Darino, is evidence that Kyiv's generals are increasingly confident that their audacious incursion onto Russian soil is paying off.

But more than a week after the operation was launched, it is unclear what Ukraine's ambitions are. Consolidate the gains and defend the parcel of Russian land seized? Retreat and attack elsewhere? What does President Zelensky hope to achieve with the attack?

Blackouts have become common in Ukraine's cities and the destruction of the country's largest power plant in April means a cold winter lies ahead. In Donbas, Ukrainian soldiers are conceding ground to

overwhelming Russian firepower and Kharkiv is suffering regular glide bomb attacks.

But after months of setbacks, the mini invasion has given Ukrainians something to celebrate; a much-needed morale boost.

Donald Trump has vowed to do a deal to end the fighting within 24 hours of taking office should he win the US elections in November. Zelensky has made it clear he wants to expel Russia from all of Ukraine — and occupying

140 sq km of Russian territory strengthens his negotiating hand.

There is evidence that experienced Ukrainian troops previously fighting in Donbas are leading the incursion. Putin may need to call upon his own battle-hardened troops from Donbas to drive them out.

Ukraine fought off lumbering columns of heavy armour during the first year of the invasion. But since then, the war has become bogged down, favouring the bigger Russian army, which

has absorbed more than half a million casualties and still manages to advance.

The incursion could provide a template for a new style of warfare, one that better favours Ukraine.

"It's about initiative," said Mykola Bielieskov, a research fellow at Ukraine's National Institute for Strategic Studies. "The Russians made a huge mistake thinking nothing would happen. You read the unpleasant surprise on Putin's face. He's infuriated."



'Superhuman' firefighters do battle with Athens inferno

Thousands of Greeks had to leave their homes as a wildfire fuelled by scorching temperatures and strong winds tore through towns north of Athens, razing houses, cars and olive

Former top UK judge backs Xi crackdown
Page 28

Norway's troublesome royal stepson
Page 30



Hamas says it has killed hostage and shot women

Israel

Lianne Kolirin

An Israeli hostage held in Gaza has been killed by a Palestinian militant and two others are seriously injured, Hamas's armed wing claimed last night.

The casualties are said to have taken place "in two separate incidents" in Gaza, according to a statement posted by Abu Obeida, spokesman for the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades.

He said: "In two separate incidents, two [Hamas] soldiers assigned to guard enemy prisoners fired at a Zionist prisoner, killing him immediately, and also injured two female prisoners critically."

The spokesman blamed the incident on what he described as Israeli "massacres" against Palestinians.

The hostages' identities were not disclosed and no further details were given. Abu Obeida said Hamas was investigating the shootings.

It is the first time that Al-Qassam has said its guards killed hostages. The group has attributed previous hostage deaths to Israeli bombardment.

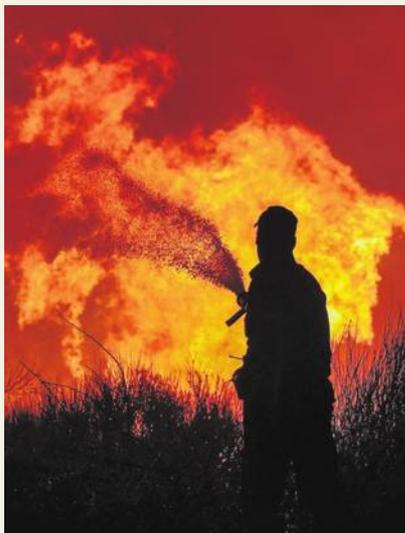
An Israel Defence Forces spokesman, Avichay Adraee, said in Arabic on Twitter/X last night: "In the last few minutes, the terrorist Hamas published a written report claiming that in two separate incidents Hamas activists killed an Israeli captive and wounded two women captives. At this stage there is no intelligence document to confirm or refute Hamas's allegations. We continue to investigate and will provide information where we have it."

The incident comes amid conflicting reports about expectations regarding the outcomes of talks planned for Thursday to end the Gaza war, with Hamas earlier casting doubt on its participation.

Palestinian militants seized 251 hostages during their October 7 attack on Israel that provoked the war, with 111 of them still held in Gaza, including 39 that the IDF believes have since died.

The US has sent a guided missile submarine to the Middle East and ordered USS Abraham Lincoln, an aircraft carrier, to the region as it warned that a strike by Iran against Israel could come as early as this week. Iran has vowed revenge for Israel's assassination of the Hamas leader in Tehran in July.

Hezbollah, Iran's ally in Lebanon, vowed to attack Israel after the assassination of its military commander in an airstrike.



Ash and smoke from the fire 25 miles north of Athens turned the sky above the city yellow yesterday. Despite helicopters and hundreds of firefighters being deployed to fight the blaze, it was approaching Penteli in Athens's northern suburbs, right, yesterday



groves (Anthee Carassava writes). The blaze, which started on Sunday afternoon near the village of Varnavas, sent smoke billowing over the capital 25 miles away.

More than 685 firefighters and 190 fire engines are tackling the flames. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, cut short his holiday to oversee the emergency.

Spyros Gorilas, a resident of Dioni, hosed down his house with water to save it from the flames. He said: "The smoke was suffocating. You couldn't see. Your eyes teared up. You couldn't breathe. You couldn't see the house ... Even the

helicopter that dropped water, you couldn't see it. You could only hear it. Nothing else."

The mayor of Marathon said the town was facing a "biblical catastrophe". Stergios Tsirkas told the Skai television channel: "Our whole town is engulfed in flames and going through difficult times." Its 7,000 residents were told to head for the coastal town of Nea Makri.

Eight people have been admitted to hospital with respiratory problems and the Olympic stadium in northern Athens was opened to accommodate those fleeing.

"Civil protection forces battled

hard throughout the night, but despite superhuman efforts the fire evolved rapidly," Colonel Vassileios Vathrakogiannis, the fire department spokesman, said yesterday.

At least ten towns and villages have been evacuated and a further four suburbs in the affluent region north of Athens are on standby for residents to leave. Evacuees were moved to hotels and a converted sports hall.

Although forest fires are common in Greece, climate change has increased the risk and severity in recent years. Last year officials ordered the biggest evacuation of

tourists on the island of Rhodes that anyone can remember.

After its hottest winter on record, Greece has been gripped by record high temperatures this summer. Hundreds of wildfires have broken out across the country since May.

More than half the country remains on high alert and strong winds show no sign of easing.

"During the night the wind remained strong, creating dangerous situations," Vathrakogiannis said. "Unfortunately their intensity is expected to increase in the coming hours."



USS Abraham Lincoln is hastening to the Middle East in case of war

World

Pilot of stolen helicopter dies after crashing into hotel in Australia

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

A stolen helicopter smashed into the roof of a luxury hotel in Queensland killing the pilot and forcing the evacuation of about 400 guests.

Police said that the Robinson R44 four-seat helicopter was on an “unauthorised” flight when it hit the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton on the

waterfront of the tropical city of Cairns, 1,000 miles north of Brisbane.

The pilot, who has yet to be identified, was declared dead at the scene; no one else was on board. The helicopter hit the roof at 1.50am, triggering a fire. Two hotel guests, a man in his eighties and a woman in her seventies, were taken to hospital but later discharged.

Witnesses said the noise of the crash sounded like a bomb. Parts of the heli-

copter were found in the pool and in parkland opposite the hotel.

The helicopter was owned by Nautilus Aviation, which conducts tourist flights from Cairns over the Great Barrier Reef. It said none of its pilots was on board. Aaron Finn, its chief executive, told The Australian that the helicopter was stolen from Cairns airport shortly before the crash.

Veronica Knight was on the

waterfront esplanade when the helicopter flew past her twice before crashing. “It flew past very fast, faster than you would normally see a helicopter fly,” she told the Cairns Post.

“It flew from the area of the pier before it went up past the mangroves at the other end of the esplanade. Then it flew back and I saw the explosion. I don’t think anyone could have survived that. I was lucky I wasn’t walking closer

— I could have been hit by something,” Annie Zhao, a tourist from China, was staying on the top floor of the hotel. “We were woken up by a massive bomb, a huge bang,” she said. “Then the alarms went off, we all went out and you could see the fire on the roof.”

Steven Miles, the Queensland premier, said the crash was “terrifying” but that there was no further risk to the public.



JURE MAKOVEC/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Leap of faith A competitor plunges from a 16th-century bridge above the Soca river in Kanal, Slovenia, during the annual diving competition held in the medieval town

Hands off ‘sad’ park orcas, say protesters

France

David Chazan Paris

Hundreds of people have protested outside Europe’s largest marine park against the sending of its last orcas to Japan amid welfare concerns.

Wikie and Keijo are currently at Marineland in Antibes, southeastern France. More than 200 animal welfare groups want better conditions and care for the killer whales after two others died at the park during the past year.

Quentin Lemmen, of the animal rights group One Voice, said: “We realise that we won’t be able to free these animals, but we don’t want them to end their days in a pool.”

The park planned to sell them to a Japanese buyer, but One Voice obtained a court order banning the move until their health is checked. “Japan still practises whaling, so it’s obviously not the right country,” Lemmen said.

Marineland offers killer whale and dolphin shows, which are to be banned in France from 2026. The park has been asked to comment.

The death of Wikie’s male sibling Inouk in March, prompted outcry. Five months earlier, Moana, another male, was found dead in his pool. Reports that Inouk suffered dental problems after wearing its teeth down by gnawing on its concrete tank raised concern about welfare in the park. Many activists want Wikie and Keijo to be sent to Nova Scotia, Canada, where welfare groups are planning to create a marine sanctuary.

British judge upholds Xi crackdown

Hong Kong

Richard Spencer China Correspondent

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, the British law lord who sits on Hong Kong’s highest court, has been criticised by rights groups after he upheld verdicts and prison sentences against some of the city’s leading pro-democracy activists.

The court ruled against an appeal by Jimmy Lai, the newspaper tycoon who supported anti-Beijing protests in 2019; Martin Lee Chu-ming, the former head of the Hong Kong Democratic Party; and five other activists against convictions handed down in 2021.

They had been accused of taking part in a pro-democracy rally in 2019 in defiance of a police ban. Their lawyers argued that under common law principles inherited from Hong Kong’s colonial past, convictions should be “proportionate” in matters concerning free speech if violence was not involved.

The court disagreed, saying it would be unconstitutional to use the principle

to acquit the defendants. Neuberger, a retired president of the UK’s Supreme Court who has rejected calls to stand down in Hong Kong, called the attempt to use the principle of proportionality “misconceived”.

Mark Sabah, director of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation, which is based in London, said: “It’s disgraceful that Lord Neuberger is even part of this. His credibility is shot.”

Lai, 76, founded Apple Daily, a Hong Kong newspaper that was shut down after protests against interference by Beijing in the former colony’s government. He is a British citizen. He was sentenced to 14 months in prison over the 2019 protest, one of a string of convictions with foreign forces” under Hong Kong’s Beijing-imposed national security law.

Lee, 86, was the most prominent pro-democracy politician in Hong Kong at the time of the handover from Britain in 1997, and warned about its future under mainland Chinese rule. He said he expected to be detained as China

moved in, but this was the first time the authorities had dared to arrest him.

He was given a suspended sentence for the conviction he was appealing against. The other defendants included Albert Ho, 72, and Lee Cheuk-yan, 67,



Lord Neuberger ruled against Jimmy Lai, below

former legislative councillors, and “Long Hair” Leung Kwok-hung, a veteran activist.

Lawyers argued that their arrests several months after the protest were politically motivated. The police had taken no action at the time.

The Basic Law,

the constitution agreed for Hong Kong in negotiations between China and Britain, maintained aspects of British common law under the “one country, two systems” principle supposed to underlie post-handover governance.

Hong Kong’s highest court continued to recruit judges from around the world, particularly common law jurisdictions such as the UK, Canada and Australia. Seven foreign judges remain, but others have resigned since the crackdown on democracy activists and the imposition of security laws penalising a range of opinions relating to the government, mainland China and the Communist Party.

In June Lord Sumption, another former Supreme Court judge, resigned, saying that Hong Kong was becoming a “totalitarian state”. He wrote in the Financial Times: “Many judges have lost sight of their traditional role as

defenders of the liberty of the subject, even when the law allows it.”

Neuberger, however, defended remaining on the court, telling an interviewer: “My feeling is that so long as I can do good by being there and so long as I think that I might cause harm by leaving, I want to stay and support my judicial colleagues in Hong Kong and support the rule of law as long as I can.”

Campaigners have questioned how Neuberger can maintain his position as chairman of the international media watchdog the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, which was co-founded by the UK and Canada and is backed by the International Bar Association. He is also on the board of the Prisoners Abroad, another campaign group.

Sabah said Neuberger should at the very least have recused himself from the hearing, adding: “It reeks that he has the gall to still hold these positions.” **British judges should not be party to this outrage, leading article, page 25**





A rider clears the wall in the puissance event, one of several categories in the inaugural US hobby horse championships. Competitors came from across the country, among them, left, Marin McLoughlin, 11, of Columbus, Ohio, and, below, Tessa D'Amico, 13, of Windham, New Hampshire



Hobby-horse riders take the sport to new heights

United States

Will Pavia Almont, Michigan

When Julia Brooks first became interested in horses, her mother, Abby, told her: "I just want to make it clear, I'm never buying a horse."

Julia, 11, was undeterred. "What's the horse's name?" a steward asked as she arrived at a grassy racecourse beside a school in Michigan. "Popcorn," Julia replied. "But his show name is Popping Kernels."

Popcorn is a hobby horse, made by a British company in Hampshire, and Julia got him for Christmas. At the start line a man waved a blue flag and she sprang forward and cantered into the first turn astride Popcorn. "Go on, Julia!" a crowd of spectators shouted. "Go on, Popcorn!" shouted the steward.

This was the inaugural US Hobby Horse Championships. Julia learnt of

hobby horses when she read an article in *Young Rider* by Mica Zandstra, a teenager from Chicago.

Zandstra lived in a flat, and was the proud owner of four hobby horses. "A hobby horse is a more sophisticated version of the stick horse toy for children," she wrote. "When I ride any of my horses and take care of them, I feel as if I own a horse."

Zandstra, 18, discovered hobby-horse riding at 13. Riding them is a sport in Finland. It can look to the uninitiated like an equestrian version of the air guitar contest, another Finnish innovation.

An entire community has sprung up online, dominated by the Finns, devoted to crafting hobby horses.

Zandstra opened an on-

line store called Fly High Hobby Horse. She persuaded her parents to take her to Finland and returned determined that the US should have a hobby-horse championships.

On Saturday she stood before more than a hundred riders who had mustered in the gymnasium of a middle school in Almont, Michigan. They had come from all over the country, among them Lauren Zulinke, 13, proprietor of Lunar Hobby Horses, from Everett, in the Pacific northwest. Ben Batchelor, 43, was

there with his daughter, Baylor, 9, after a 15-hour drive from Georgia.

The jumping events, held inside, were briefly interrupted when workers from the local electricity company arrived to perform a routine test and shut off the power. Grace Musk, 13, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, rode on in the gloom aboard Ace of Spades, completing the hunter-jumper course, an event that awards points for style.

Everyone fell silent and the whole championships seemed to halt, mid-stride, as Rosie Mulari, from Helsinki, stepped into the dressage area. Mulari, 18, has won more than 300 events in Finland. "I'm known as the bad-ass," she has said online. "I clap back to all the haters. Everyone loves me for that."

When she finished, she hugged her hobby horse and slapped its neck, so forcefully that it seemed fortunate that it was not a real one. Half a dozen beam-

ing girls cheered and patted their own hobby horses.

The final event was the puissance, akin to the high jump, and there were thunderous cheers as one small girl after another cleared the rising bar. "This is actually really exciting," one father said, surprise in his voice.

At the first-aid table two nurses who had not seen much action waited like coiled springs. "Someone is bound to bite it," said Angela Smith, 43.

Then the winner of the dressage was announced: Mulari. "Thank you so much!" she shouted, as she accepted her rosette and turned to her fellow riders. "Let's do a victory lap!"

Someone put on the title music from *Star Wars* and Mulari began to gallop round the gym, waving the Finnish flag, a procession of smaller girls cantering after her. "First American champion in dressage!" she shouted. "Oh my god!"

Macron faces end of 'Olympic truce'

France

Charles Bremner Paris

After a joyous Olympic fortnight, President Macron has summoned France's rekindled unity to end deadlock that has left the country without a working government for over a month.

Thanking hundreds of Olympic workers in the Elysée Palace garden, Macron admitted regret for the end of an enchanted break from the rancour raging after parliamentary elections last month forced the resignation of his centrist government with no successor.

The Games have shown the world the true face of France when it comes together, Macron said: "For two weeks, we have had the feeling of living in a country where the air is lighter. We don't want life to go back to normal."

Though addressing police officers,



President Macron with Gabriel Attal, France's outgoing prime minister

firefighters and other personnel who ensured the smooth running of the "dazzling" Games, he pitched his message to politicians who have refused appeals for compromise to enable him to appoint a new executive. "The spirit of these games shows us something very simple. When we pull together, we are unbeatable," he said.

"The French people have sent a very clear message with these games: work together."

Macron declared a truce before the Games, promising to appoint a new government in mid-August while Gabriel Attal, the outgoing prime minister, has run a caretaker administration.

The elections stripped Macron's centrist Renaissance party of its relative majority, leaving France with three big blocs of left, centre and right. Macron refused a demand by the left-wing Popular Front alliance, which won the highest number of seats, to ask it to form a government under its choice for prime minister, Lucie Castets, a hard-line Socialist and senior civil servant.

He called on moderates to help him keep power from the hard-left Unbowed France and hard-right National Rally. So far he has been ignored.

Gold without the gridlock: LA vows to host car-free Games

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

Not having a car in Los Angeles is like not having shoes in New York, the film producer Robert Evans once said.

Yet a city renowned for its love of the car and a relative paucity of public transport has unveiled ambitious plans for a car-free Olympics in 2028.

Karen Bass, the mayor, said the metropolis was aiming to bolster its network of buses and trains to ensure millions of visitors to California do not find themselves stuck in long queues on the infamously busy freeways.

"We're already working to create jobs by expanding our public transportation system in order for us to have a no-car games," Bass said over the weekend. "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."

Bass and officials organising the Los Angeles games spent weeks in Paris to see what lessons could be learnt from the 2024 Olympics.

The LA28 organising committee said it is planning a "public transit-first" games. To help, Bass said Los Angeles will hire a fleet of 3,000 buses.

The mayor also hopes employers will help ease traffic by allowing staff to work from home during the games.

James Scott, a project manager in the city, said: "It would be great if they could finish all the transportation projects they have lined up but I'll believe it when I see it. The city is in dire need of proper public transport options."

World

Portofino loses its cool over aircon eyesore

Portofino, nestled in the Italian Riviera, has long been a playground for the world's rich and famous (James Imam writes).

Its VIP guests are finding, however, that money cannot buy you everything, as a crackdown on air-conditioning is threatening to disrupt their comfort amid temperature peaks of 40C.

In an effort to maintain its aesthetic standards, Matteo Viacava, the mayor, is looking to root out the bulky units that adorn many of the town's multicoloured coastal cottages, employing drones, foot patrols and

local informants to identify transgressors, who face fines of €50,000. More than 30 homeowners have been ordered to remove their AC units since the start of the year.

"Portofino is a gem of incredible beauty," Viacava told The Times. "These units are hardly pretty, and there were simply too many."

However, Stefano Fera, president of the Genoa section of the Italia Nostra heritage association, accused Viacava of doing the "absolute minimum". He said wealthy homeowners were destroying quaint cottages by adding terraces or creating external stairwells.

"Now Portofino is full of people who expect the same living conditions they'd have on Fifth Avenue in New York," he added.

Viacava said he would target satellite dishes next.



Portofino's old-world charm is blighted by bulky AC units and satellite dishes, according to the town's mayor

TIMES Travel Offers

SIX NIGHTS FROM
£749*
per person

Prefer not to fly?
Ask for prices on travel by Eurostar instead



French Riviera by rail,

including day trip to Monaco

Departures | September 2024 to June 2025

Explore the beauty of the French Riviera, staying in both Nice & Cannes, along with a day trip to marvellous Monaco by rail.

In Nice, immerse yourself in its vibrant Old Town, stroll along the Promenade des Anglais, and explore the captivating art scene.

Take a day trip to Monaco by train, where the scenic journey along the French Riviera offers breathtaking views.

Explore the opulent Casino Square, stroll through the charming old town of Monaco-Ville, and visit the majestic Prince's Palace.

Finish your trip with a stay in Cannes, where glamour meets relaxation on the iconic Croisette and sandy beaches.

- Price Includes**
- Return flights from Gatwick, Manchester, Bristol or Edinburgh
- Private Airport Transfers
- Three-nights four-star stay in Nice. Three-night four-star stay in Cannes
- Breakfast included daily
- Day trip to Monaco by Rail
- Hold Luggage per person
- ATOL Protected

* Price based on September 15, 2024. Prices correct at time of print. Lead price based on two adults travelling from Gatwick on September 15, 2024 and sharing throughout. Flights include hold luggage per person. All holidays are subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Tripse. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Tripse, PTS 5573, ATOL 12299, a company wholly independent of News UK. Discount applies to selected holidays. New bookings only. Visit website for full terms & conditions.

Our trusted partner



CALL TODAY ON
0808 159 7681
thetimes.com/tr-frenchriviera
QUOTE TIMES

Black sheep of royal family arrested over abuse claims

Norway

Nick Alipour

When Mette-Marit Tjessem Hoiby met her prince at a rock festival, she was a single mother with a colourful past, including drug use.

Her romance with the crown prince of Norway fuelled debate about whether a commoner could marry into the royal house. Yet over the 25 years that have followed, the nation has learnt to love Mette-Marit, who married Haakon in 2001 and dedicated herself to humanitarian causes and the arts.

The public's relationship with her son, however, is turbulent. Despite stepping down from royal duties aged 20, Marius Borg Hoiby, 27, has made headlines over his lifestyle, amid claims that one girlfriend once posed for Playboy, and another posted nudes on social media and was allegedly a drug user.

Now matters have become more serious even as Haakon, 51, prepares to take the throne amid concerns over his father's health; in April officials said King Harald, 87, would make a "permanent reduction" to his public engagements.

Borg Hoiby, a motorbike mechanic, spent 30 hours in police custody amid claims that he threatened a woman with an arson attack and assaulted her. The incident prompted

Mette-Marit to delay a trip to the Paris Olympics alongside her husband. Haakon called the matter "serious", but declined further comment.

According to reports, Borg Hoiby was taken into custody a little over a week ago after a woman claimed to have been "psychologically and physically" attacked in a flat in Oslo. Police officers found it "partially destroyed".

The police confirmed that the alleged victim was in a relationship with her attacker. Last month Borg Hoiby announced that his new girlfriend was Rebecca Helberg Arntsen.

The scandal has deepened with media claims that Borg Hoiby called his alleged victim from Skaugum Castle, home of the crown prince's family, after the attack. Two sources told the Norwegian magazine Se og Hor that the police had a recording of the crown prince's stepson telling the victim he would burn her possessions if she did not obey him.

His arrest is said

Borg Hoiby with his mother, Princess Mette-Marit. He denies violence



to have taken place at the castle, outside the gates, the magazine reported. Borg Hoiby has for now been charged with assault, and could face a year in prison. He denies the allegations.

Although the royal house still enjoys high approval ratings, support has waned somewhat, with 73 per cent of Norwegians backing the monarchy, down from 81 per cent in 2017.

The scandal is not the only thing that threatens the royals before a generational shift. Six years ago the princess had pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic, incurable disease, diagnosed. The symptoms — chronic coughing, shortness of breath and severe oxygen deficiency as well as reduced performance — have repeatedly forced her to cancel public appearances.

Later this month Haakon's sister, Märtha Louise, 52, is due to marry Durek Verrett, 49, a self-professed shaman.

The relationship prompted the princess to step down from her royal duties in 2022. Verrett, an American, has previously claimed that cancer was caused by negative thoughts.

Hard right ready to ride populist wave

Germany

Nick Alipour

The AfD and populist left look set to triumph in upcoming state elections in east Germany.

Support for centrist parties is on track to fall in Thuringia, Saxony and Brandenburg next month. Polling suggests that the AfD and the left-populist Alliance Sobra Wagenknecht

(BSW) will make huge inroads in all three states.

Half of voters said they would opt for either the AfD or the BSW in Thuringia, with the AfD's 30 per cent putting them comfortably in first. The state party is led by Björn Höcke, one of the AfD's most radical representatives who has been convicted twice this year for using Nazi slogans.

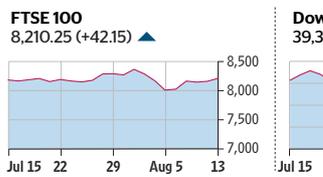
The BSW has made headlines with

its vocal opposition to weapon deliveries for Ukraine, a position it shares with the AfD.

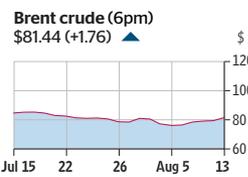
The parties of the governing coalition could be marginalised, with Olaf Scholz's SPD and the Greens polling at a collective 10 per cent. Polls elsewhere look no better for the coalition, with the AfD set to come first and second in Brandenburg and Saxony, and the BSW fourth and third.

Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)



COMMODITIES



CURRENCIES



Bank of England warned against cutting interest rates too quickly

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England should be wary of lowering interest rates too quickly because wage growth and price pressures could stay elevated, one of its rate-setters said yesterday.

Appearing on the Financial Times's *The Economics Show* podcast, Catherine Mann, an external member of the Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC), said there may have been a structural shift in the UK economy to-

wards higher inflation, which would require tighter policy to treat.

"There is an upwards ratchet to both the wage-setting process and the price process," Mann, a former chief economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, said, adding that "it may well be structural, having been created during this period of very high inflation over the last couple of years".

She warned that it could take a long time for this dynamic to unwind.

Inflation has eased from a four-decade high of 11.1 per cent to 2 per cent, in line with the Bank's target, thanks to an easing in energy and food prices. Despite that reduction, there is concern within the MPC about high pay growth and strong services inflation, both of which remain elevated at 5.7 per cent.

Figures tomorrow are expected to show that the headline rate of price growth in the UK inched up to 2.3 per cent in July but that services inflation cooled. Wages are tipped to have accel-

erated by 5.4 per cent in the three months to June.

Mann's comments reinforce her long-held preference to keep monetary policy restrictive to prevent inflation from staying above the Bank's 2 per cent target over the long run.

She has consistently voted to either raise rates or leave them unchanged, cementing herself as the most hawkish member of the nine-strong group. However, she did concede that her view had been watered down by steady

progress on curtailing inflation. Ranking her level of hawkishness now out of ten, she said: "I would say I'm a seven. But in the past, I have been a ten."

Mann, alongside Huw Pill, the chief economist at the Bank, and her fellow external MPC members Jonathan Haskel and Megan Greene, voted to leave the base rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent this month. They narrowly lost out 5-4, with Andrew Bailey, the Bank governor, among those voting to cut borrowing costs by a quarter point to 5 per cent.

New investor tells BT boss to be bolder

Chief hails 'vote of confidence' from Bharti

Alex Ralph, Martin Strydom

An Indian tycoon has urged BT management to be "bolder" after agreeing to buy almost a quarter of Britain's biggest telecoms group from Patrick Drahi, the debt-laden media investor.

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, a conglomerate spanning telecoms to space communications, will acquire an interest in 24.5 per cent of BT shares from Drahi's Altice UK, making it the largest shareholder in the FTSE 100 company.

The Indian company said it had no intention of making an offer to acquire BT under the City takeover code, but shares in BT rallied by 11p, or 8.4 per cent, to 141½p on the London Stock Exchange. City analysts said the deal helped reduce an overhang on BT's shares, with Drahi, 60, seeking to cut debt in his telecoms empire.

Drahi, who is also the owner of Sotheby's, the auction house, first bought into BT in 2021 and twice went on to raise the stake owned by Altice, prompting speculation over his intentions for BT.

However, Altice, which holds global telecoms assets, is facing growing pressure over its debts, reported to be in the region of \$60 billion, and is in talks with bondholders over restructuring plans. It has sold off several assets to raise cash. Altice declined to comment on the BT sale.

Bharti Enterprises owns a number of companies in telecoms, digital infrastructure and space communications, including Bharti Airtel, which has customers in 17 countries across south Asia

and Africa. The division for the latter, Airtel Africa, is a FTSE 100 company.

Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti Enterprises, said he backed BT's strategy and management and he had not asked for a board seat, adding that there were "no conditions attached". But he called on the company to be "bolder".

BT, led by Allison Kirkby, is investing £15 billion to deliver full-fibre broadband to 25 million UK premises by the end of 2026 via its Openreach business.

Mittal, 66, said: "We'll be happy to give our ideas to the management for them to take in the mix ... but in the end we will be completely falling behind the management."

He said that BT had a "much brighter future ahead and they need to be following their strategy, if I may say, even more boldly".

Mittal added: "We are not in this for making a buck or looking at stock market ups or downs. We are long-term telecom investors."

Kirkby, 57, welcomed the "scale of investment" as a "great vote of confidence in the future of BT Group and our strategy". Analysts at Deutsche Bank said there were "prospects for co-operation between BT and Bharti and we expect a similar playbook as that seen at Vodafone and e& [the UAE state-owned telecoms group] where board representation was secured and a strategic partnership agreement struck".

Barclays was the financial adviser and Linklaters the legal adviser to Bharti on the deal.

BT had Asia in its sights — now it is the prize, pages 32-33



Steven Bartlett, an entrepreneur and podcaster, appeared in adverts for Zoe and Huel, firms with which he had connections

Ads banned for conflicts of interest

James Hurley

"Misleading" advertisements for Zoe and Huel featuring Steven Bartlett have been banned by the advertising regulator because the companies failed to disclose their commercial relationship with the celebrity entrepreneur.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) is due to issue rulings that conclude Facebook adverts in which Bartlett endorsed the two nutrition businesses had "omitted material information" about their links to the 31-year-old, who is an investor in Zoe and a director at Huel.

Two adverts for Huel were "likely to mislead", the regulator found, and a Zoe advert "was misleading", according to rulings seen by The Times.

The adverts breached rules that govern non-broadcast advertisements, sales promotions and direct marketing communications and "must not appear again in the complained about form", the regulator will say in rulings that are expected to be published this week.

Zoe is a health testing and membership service that advises users on their diets. Huel is a food business that sells products including vitamin-enriched powders, drinks and snack bars.

Bartlett is a star of the BBC's *Dragons' Den* business show as well as a podcaster, author and social media personality. The Zoe advert, seen by two complainants in February, featured Bartlett, with a quote from him saying: "If you haven't tried Zoe yet, give it a shot. It might just change your life."

The regulator said this was "reminiscent of how a customer might review a product, and how an independent testimonial might be presented". His position as a backer of Zoe "was material to consumers' understanding of the ad and relevant in making an informed decision," the regulator said.

A spokeswoman for Zoe said: "The ASA acknowledged that the ad was indeed 'obviously identifiable' as a marketing communication."

She said that nothing in the rules or the ASA's guidance suggested "it is necessary to go into granular detail about the precise nature of an ambassador's commercial relationship with a brand".

In one Huel advert, seen by complainants in February, Bartlett was said

Continued on page 32

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

Business

Need to know

1 Social media's role in encouraging riots will be reviewed by ministers, with a veiled threat of further regulation if firms do not tackle incitement to violence. Sir Keir Starmer wants to "look more broadly at social media" in response to the wave of violence across the UK. **Page 16**

2 Sunil Bharti Mittal, the tycoon has urged BT management to be "bolder" after agreeing to buy almost a quarter of the telecoms group from Patrick Drahi, the media investor. Bharti Global will acquire an interest in 24.5 per cent of BT making it the largest shareholder. **Page 31**

3 The Bank of England should be wary of lowering interest rates too quickly as wage growth and price pressures could stay elevated, one of its rate-setters said. Catherine Mann, an external member of the monetary policy committee, said there may have been a shift in the economy towards higher inflation. **Page 31**

4 "Misleading" advertisements for Zoe and Huel featuring Steven Bartlett have been banned by the Advertising Standards Authority because the companies failed to disclose their commercial relationship with the celebrity entrepreneur. **Page 31**

5 Boris Johnson has been approached about taking an executive role at The Telegraph as part of a bid attempt by Nadhim Zahawi. The former chancellor has been sounding out investors for a £600 million bid.

6 Olympic sponsors have been criticised for maintaining business in Russia despite the anti-war stance of the Paris 2024 Games. The Kyiv School of Economics criticised corporations for supporting the Games despite having operations in Russia.

7 Offices in the UK are selling for less than their owners were hoping, at the biggest discount since the global financial crisis 15 years ago. Buyers of offices this year have on average paid 18 per cent less than the asking price, data from CoStar, the property analytics group, shows. **Page 34**

8 Investors pulled a record amount of cash out of China in the second quarter of this year amid concerns about the health of the economy, official data showed. Outflows of capital reached \$15 billion, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. **Page 35**

9 A project to turn a disused opencast mine in Scotland into a pumped storage hydro power station could help to manage the variations between supply and demand of energy. The redevelopment of Glenmuckloch is being led by Foresight Group. **Page 36**

10 Heathrow claims it has lost 90,000 passengers over the past nine months travelling to and from the Gulf states because of the way that an electronic transfer authorisation scheme is being implemented. Heathrow has urged the new government to take a second look at the scheme brought in last November. **Page 37**

BT had Asia in its sights —

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

In 1997 BT Group acquired a large minority stake in the Indian telecoms company of Sunil Bharti Mittal as part of the former British state monopoly's first big investment in the country's sector.

Coinciding with a visit to India from John Major, then the prime minister, an internationally expansive BT was targeting Asia as the "jewel in the crown, the ultimate corporate prize".

Just over a quarter of a century later, however, Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, led by the Indian telecoms tycoon, has agreed to acquire an interest in 24.5 per cent of the shares in BT, worth about £3.2 billion. This makes it the FTSE 100 company's largest shareholder, in an investment Mittal said built on his "longstanding familiarity with BT's business".

Mittal, 66, who founded the company in 1976 as a bicycle component manufacturer before entering the telecoms industry in 1983, went on to build a conglomerate spanning telecoms, technology and space communications and amassed a personal fortune estimated at \$11.1 billion by Forbes.

BT, meanwhile, which held a 21 per cent stake and two board seats at Bharti Airtel until 2001, has retrenched internationally and more recently been investing billions of pounds domestically to build a faster full-fibre broadband infrastructure network across the UK.

Explaining the decision to acquire the 24.5 per cent stake from Altice, the debt-laden media group controlled by Patrick Drahi, another industry tycoon, Mittal said he had been watching BT "from a distance" for many years — a company with a "glorious past" and "tremendous amount of physical infrastructure" in the UK — and concluded the company was "poorly valued".

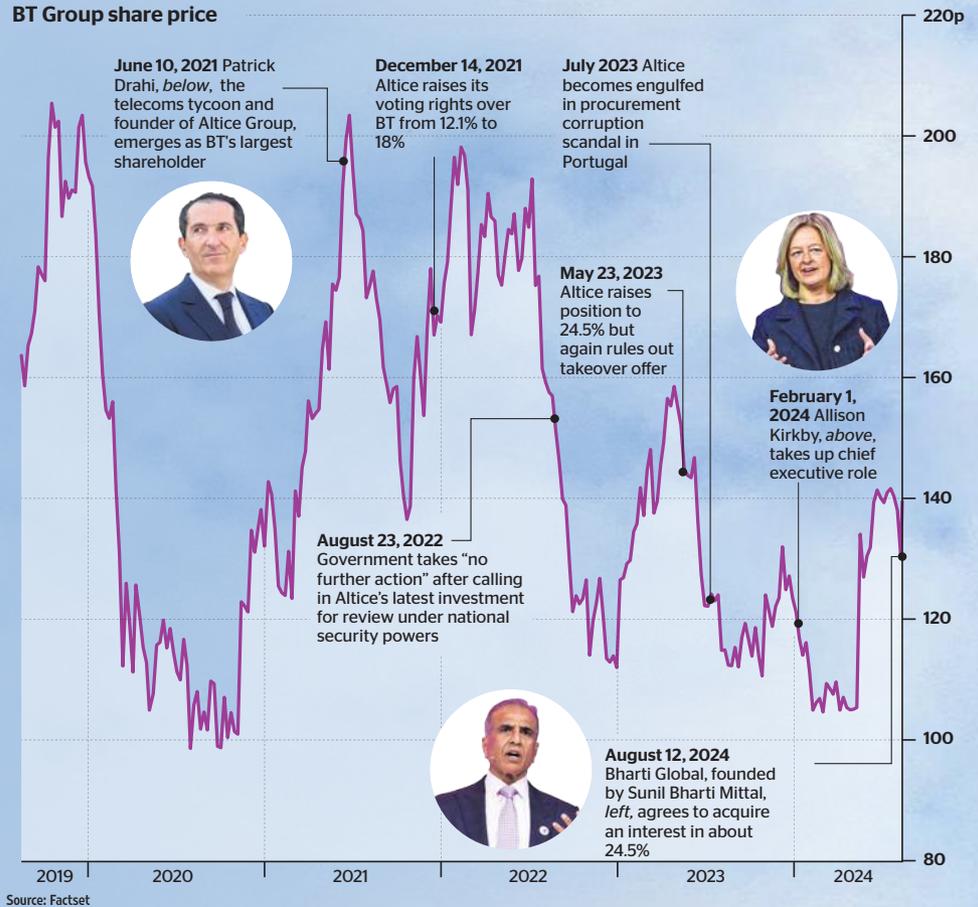
Heaping warm words on both BT and the Labour government, Mittal said that BT's strategy, led by Allison Kirkby, was "nothing but outstanding" and other investors would eventually also come to recognise the "wonderful job" connecting "every nook and corner" of the UK with high-speed broadband.

Kirkby, who took over as chief executive in February, having been a BT non-executive since 2019, has been "sharpening the focus" of BT's central strategy to hit a headline target of delivering full-fibre broadband to 25 million UK premises by the end of 2026, and welcomed Bharti's "shared vision" for BT.

The £15 billion full-fibre investment

Poles apart

BT Group share price



from BT's Openreach infrastructure division is in line with the agenda of previous Conservative governments to "level up" the economy and modernise the nation's infrastructure. In a strategy update at BT's full-year results in May, Kirkby, 57, said BT had reached an "inflection" point in the long-term strategy, and passed its peak capital expenditure for the full-fibre build.

It was the initial "slow rollout" of full-fibre that meant BT "may have fallen behind", Mittal said, but was now in a position where challenger providers, so

called alt-nets, "will find it very hard to compete". The investment, the Indian company said, was also a "vote of confidence in the UK as an attractive global destination for investment, with a stable business and policy environment attractive for long-term investors".

Bharti has ruled out, at least for now, making a takeover offer for BT, under the City takeover code, but the stake building will be subject to regulatory approval. It has applied voluntarily for clearance from the government under the UK National Security and Invest-

ment Act and the share purchase has therefore been structured in two stages, with Bharti agreeing to "imminently" acquire about 9.99 per cent in BT, before buying the remaining 14.51 per cent after the green light from Westminster. Analysts said the "regulatory hurdle looks low".

Bharti has previously made strategic investments in sensitive UK infrastructure. The tycoon rescued OneWeb, the British satellite company, alongside the British government, before they agreed last year to merge OneWeb with Eutel-

Johnson sounded out over Telegraph role

Helen Cahill, Steven Swinford

Boris Johnson has been approached about taking an executive role at The Telegraph as part of a bid attempt from Nadhim Zahawi, the former chancellor.

The former prime minister was asked by Zahawi whether he would like to become global editor-in-chief of the title after it is sold by a joint venture backed by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, vice-president of the United Arab Emirates.

Zahawi has been approaching possible investors, including the billionaire Reuben brothers, the property tycoons, to drum up interest in a possible £600 million bid for the Telegraph.

The Abu Dhabi-backed RedBird IMI consortium bought debt secured against the newspaper, its sister title The Spectator and other commercial interests of the Barclay family after striking a deal to repay £1.2 billion owed

to Lloyds Banking Group by the Barclays, the previous owners. The vehicle had hoped to convert the debt into equity, but its transaction was blocked by new legislation banning foreign powers from owning newspapers and news magazines.

Bankers at Robey Warshaw and Raine have been appointed to run an auction of The Telegraph and The Spectator to recoup the funding provided by RedBird IMI. It is understood the joint venture is seeking to recoup its £600 million investment.

It is also understood that Johnson has not confirmed an interest in the role sug-

An editor-in-chief proposal was put to Boris Johnson

gested by Zahawi. Sky News first reported Zahawi's approach to Johnson.

Bidders for some, or all, of the titles include private equity firms and news organisations such as Mediahuis of Belgium. Alternatively, RedBird Capital could decide to forge ahead with an offer, buying out RedBird IMI, which is a joint venture between the US private equity firm and Mansour's International Media Investments.

Sir Paul Marshall, the hedge fund boss who owns a stake in GB News, is in advanced discussions over a deal to buy The Spectator. Daily Mail owner DMGT withdrew from the auction in July, fearing that a deal would get tied up in a long competition inquiry.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31
Watchdog bans Facebook ads

to have described the company's "daily greens" as its "best product". The other showed an individual trying Huel on the basis that "I keep seeing this guy [Bartlett] all over the internet talking about Huel".

The regulator acknowledged that the adverts were "obviously identifiable" as marketing but that many consumers would "interpret the ads as featuring a testimonial from Bartlett about one of Huel's products".

The ASA said: "Many consumers were unlikely to understand from the ads that Steven Bartlett had a financial interest in Huel's performance. We considered that Bartlett's directorship was material to consumers' understanding of the ads, and so relevant for them."

Bartlett's Flight Fund investment vehicle has invested in Zoe, and his Flight Story business is a shareholder in Huel. He has been a director of Huel since 2021. Huel and Bartlett were approached for comment.

now it is the prize



Disposal not a shock to City

Behind the story

Just over three years after Patrick Drahi emerged with a large, surprise investment in BT, the tycoon has hung up on his position in Britain's largest telecoms company.

The disposal of the 24.5 per cent holding by Drahi's Altice to the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises has come as less of a shock to the City.

Altice became BT's largest investor in June 2021, prompting speculation over the intentions of the Swiss-based billionaire, a renowned dealmaker and cost-cutter, before he twice raised his position, in December that year and then again in May last year.

But soon afterwards, Altice, an international telecoms group built through a series of debt-fuelled deals, became engulfed in a procurement corruption scandal in Portugal, which unnerved bondholders and, coupled with rising interest rates, pressured Drahi to pursue the sale of assets. Altice, which is grappling with a reported \$60 billion debt pile, has said it is a victim and was shocked by the allegations. It declined to comment on the BT stake sale.

The uncertainty facing Altice raised speculation that Drahi could look to offload his investment in BT and created an "overhang" on its share price on the London stock market. The rally in BT stock yesterday, the biggest riser on the FTSE 100, reflected what City analysts called the "elimination" of that overhang.

It is unclear whether Drahi made much of a return on his investment in BT and the financials of the sale to Bharti were not disclosed.

Bernstein analysts told clients that assuming the "shares were bought at the average price one month prior to each of the notifications then the Altice UK average buy-in price would have been around 167p per share, quite a bit above Friday's closing price of 130½p. However, we estimate Altice UK would have also taken the equivalent of 23p per share in dividends during the holding period."

sat of France. Other investments in the UK include The Hoxton hotel chain and the Scottish resort Gleneagles.

The investment in BT coincides with continued, protracted talks between India and the UK for a free trade agreement and follows a visit last month by David Lammy, the foreign secretary, to the country.

The City also welcomed Bharti's investment. Shares in BT rallied by 11p, or 8.4 per cent, to close at 141½p on the London Stock Exchange.

Raising the question as to whether

Bharti would be a "more predictable" shareholder, analysts at Bernstein said "we view its exit from BT's shareholder list as a positive". But they added that "with 40 per cent of BT shares still held by three large entities the risk of overhang remains if BT shares rise".

The top of BT's share register will remain tightly held, with its German competitor Deutsche Telekom holding about 12 per cent, making it the second-largest investor, and the Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim recently emerged with a 3.2 per cent stake in BT.

BT is better off than 'derivative' Drahi



BUSINESS COMMENTARY **Alistair Osborne**

Buy into BT at one price, sell out at close to a one-third loss. If Patrick Drahi's auction house, Sotheby's, routinely delivered that sort of caper, it wouldn't have any customers.

Still, that's what looks to have happened with the debt-laden French tycoon's dabble in BT. His entire 24.5 per cent stake is being knocked down to India's Bharti Enterprises, chaired by a fellow a fair bit richer than him: Sunil Bharti Mittal, who on Forbes's maths has a net worth of \$11.1 billion. Given that Drahi bought in when BT shares were nearly 200p, and agreed to sell with them standing at 130½p, New Street Research analyst James Ratzer looks about right with his view that Drahi "has lost circa £900 million overall".

Yes, Drahi's liking for derivatives makes calculations tricky. Via his Altice telecoms group, he pulled off quite a coup when he arrived on BT's register in June 2021 with a 12.1 per cent stake, blindsiding both the board and its advisers.

How he did it was instructive: he had built an undisclosed sub-3 per cent stake via an Altice vehicle and then got his advisers, Morgan Stanley and BNP Paribas, to buy the rest on their own account via myriad derivatives deals. Only then did they shift their stakes to Altice, with him revealing his hand.

He topped up twice: to 18 per cent in December 2021 at about 170p, and to 24.5 per cent in May last year when the shares were 150p-ish. But the real ownership of his £3.2 billion stake has long been an issue. Drahi's business empire is thought to be struggling under \$60 billion of debt. The upshot? He is said to have sold BT shares while retaining the voting rights via borrowed derivatives.

That's one reason, maybe, for the two-stage sale to Bharti: an initial 9.99 per cent, with the rest to follow. True, Bharti requires UK National Security and Investment Act clearance to own almost a quarter of BT. Yet market talk is that it also needs time to unwind derivatives contracts covering, on some estimates, half of Drahi's stake. He has made no comment.

Once done, though, BT should be far better placed, as implied by the 8.4 per cent bounce in the shares to 141½p. As JP Morgan analysts noted, "this transaction removes a material overhang from BT's shares" — with Drahi being replaced by a long-term owner, without his debt problems. Indeed, the register will look a lot more stable with 40 per cent of the shares in the hands of 12 per cent owner Deutsche Telekom, Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, with 3.2 per cent, and Bharti, a business steeped in the sector via its ownership of Bharti Airtel, connecting more than 550 million customers in 17 countries. Showing how fortunes have changed, between 1997 and 2001, it was BT that owned 21 per cent of Airtel.

Bharti has ruled out a bid or a board seat, at least for now. And its timing looks better than Drahi's. It is buying in at what BT's newish boss, Allison Kirkby, has hailed as an "inflection point": a group through peak capex of £5 billion a year and

on track to bring broadband fibre to 25 million homes by 2026. After that, a leaner BT says it will dial up free cashflow of £2 billion a year by March 2027 and £3 billion by 2030.

Yes, the group has long failed to deliver on its promises. But, unlike Drahi, Bharti should not be losing telephone numbers on BT.

Lost in transit

Shocking stuff from Heathrow. The airport says it has "lost 90,000 transfer passengers" (report, page 37). How the hell has it done that? Did they take a wrong turn in transit, vanishing without trace down the baggage retrieval system? Or did they blag their way into an airline lounge and eat so much free food they exploded? Astonishingly, PC Plod's not even on the case.

The real reason? None of these passengers exists. They're just a self-serving forecast of the extra travellers the airport thinks it would have had, if it wasn't for the "ETA" — not estimated time of arrival, or late as it's known at Heathrow, but "electronic travel authorisation".

What that? A new rule, based on America's Esta laws, introduced by the Tories last November. It forces travellers without legal residence or a visa to pay £10 to visit Blighty — an extra security check and/or money-spinner, depending on your view.

So far it only applies to seven countries in the Gulf, including Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Heathrow's gripe? That transfer travellers only catching connecting flights — a quarter of the airport's 80 million or so a year — shouldn't have to pay. And that, thanks to the new charge, they're changing planes at rival airports in the EU, home soon to a similar scheme, Heathrow says, but one exempting transit folk.

The airport finds it "devastating" for our hub competitiveness, saying transfer passengers are the swing factor in making some airline routes viable — vital when it handles 26 per cent of UK exports by value. Yet they also cause an extra 25 per cent of air and noise pollution at the airport, despite spending no money in Britain. Given the environmental and airport congestion costs, a tenner doesn't look excessive.

Veolia swept aside

Victory for Veolia's jobsworths. One of the French waste outfit's street cleaners, Paul Spiers, 63, was so appreciated by the residents of Beckenham, south London, that they raised £2,800 for him to go on holiday to Portugal. Veolia's response? To ban him from taking it, saying it breached "strict" rules in its contract with Bromley council over staff accepting "any monies or other incentives outside of agreed pay structures". Luckily, Times readers spotted a possible way out. Spiers planned to take his brother on holiday. So, why not give the money to him, so he can book for the pair of them? How, legally, could Veolia's killjoys object to that?

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

Olympic sponsors criticised over Russia

Helen Cahill

Olympic sponsors have been criticised for maintaining business in Russia despite the anti-war stance of the Paris 2024 Games.

The Kyiv School of Economics has released a report criticising multinational corporations for becoming financial supporters of the Games despite having operations in Russia, allegedly helping to fund its war on Ukraine by contributing tax revenues.

It criticised ten companies, including Alibaba, Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Accor Hotels and Sanofi, as well as Groupe BPCE and Saint-Gobain.

Dr Tymoff Mylovanov, president of the school, said it was hard for companies to get out of the country: "It is very easy to stop making investments, but Russia has made it very difficult for companies to divest and stop operations. If you have moral clarity, you are

able to move quickly, but Russia has now consolidated its ability to threaten companies and corrupt specific officials. I know of... companies where regional directors are told they must force their people to work or face prison. They should be documenting the abuse of property rights in Russia and then later they can take them to court."

A spokesman for Sanofi, the French pharmaceutical company, said it would be wrong to deprive patients of insulin or cancer treatments when they had no alternative. He said the group had stopped all new spending in Russia and Belarus that was not related to essential medicines and vaccines.

Coca-Cola said it had "suspended its business" in Russia in March 2022 but its products remained available there as its role had been filled by its bottler in the region, in which it holds a stake.

A spokesman for Groupe BPCE, the French banking group, said it had

"ceased all new financing activities in Russia" and had fewer than 20 people employed there for "managing residual credit portfolios".

Accor has axed partnerships with Russian companies and suspended hotel openings. A spokesman said: "We do support our teams and protect Accor employees in Russia while minimising exposure to this market as much as we are able to. There is no contradiction between our position and the International Olympic Committee."

Saint-Gobain, the French construction group, said its Russian division was operating "in full autonomy without any connection to the rest of the group". A spokesman said the company was preserving operations to maintain employment for its staff and to "mitigate the consequences of this war for them and their families".

Alibaba and Procter & Gamble did not respond to a request for comment.

Business

Offices being sold at crash-era discounts

Tom Howard

Offices in the UK are selling for almost a fifth less than what their owners were hoping they would fetch, the biggest discount since the global financial crisis 15 years ago.

In a sign of how tepid demand is, especially for older and less eco-friendly blocks, buyers of offices this year have on average paid 18 per cent less than the asking price, data from CoStar, the property analytics group, shows.

Not since 2009, when the global property market was in meltdown, has the shortfall been so high.

There was a time, when the office

market was in its pomp about ten years ago, that buyers would pay over the asking price. As recently as 2019, landlords were more often than not at least getting the price they asked for.

140 Leadenhall Street, a nine-storey office in the shadow of the Cheese-grater building in the City, was put up for sale for about £30 million, but is thought to have sold in June for nearer £20 million. Oxfam House in Oxford, the charity's British headquarters, sold for £37.1 million in the spring, having come to market with a reported asking price of £60 million. In Leeds, 6-7 Park Row was on the market for two years before selling for just over £8 million

last month, having had an initial asking price of about £20 million.

The office market has been slow for a couple of years, as rapid interest rates rises have both pushed up the cost of financing and dragged valuations lower. There also remains uncertainty over the future of the office in the post-pandemic world of hybrid working.

Although demand from businesses for "best-in-class" offices — modern green buildings with state-of-the-art amenities and ample leisure space — is getting stronger, finding tenants for so-called secondary offices is harder.

CoStar estimates that 8.3 per cent of all office space in the UK is empty —

the most for 11 years — with the majority of that in older buildings on the outskirts of towns and cities.

Agents think some landlords are prepared to let their buildings go on the cheap because they cannot afford the refurbishment needed to bring those offices up to the standard that tenants are increasingly demanding.

Similarly, opportunistic buyers looking to improve, or "flip", secondary offices need to drive a hard bargain to make the numbers stack up for their refurbishment projects, especially if they are outside London.

The cost of financing has fallen back and valuations are stabilising, but it re-

mains a slow market and even "grade A" offices are proving tough to sell.

Derwent, the London office owner, marketed a building on Whitfield Street, near Euston, for £120 million this year, but that sale has since been pulled. Paul Williams, chief executive at Derwent, said the offers made were "reasonable" but not as high as he had been looking for.

"[The market] has been subdued — obviously, the cost of debt has been quite high," he said. "It was good to see the first cut [to interest rates], and it looks like more cuts are coming. We're seeing a few more assets put on to the market."

PETER M. FISHER/GETTY IMAGES

Calls for tax sweetener to overcome skills deficit

The government should introduce a "skills tax credit" to reform the apprenticeship levy and incentivise employers to tackle skills shortages, a business-led think tank has said (Jessica Sharkey writes).

The Office for National Statistics estimated the UK's human capital stock — the value of workers' skills and knowledge — at £25.5 trillion in 2022. However, the Inclusive Growth Commission, made up of leading UK groups including the manufacturers' body Make UK and the Association of British Insurers, found that if human capital had grown at the pre-2008 financial crisis rate, it would be £1.8 trillion higher.

This shortfall could cost every UK worker an estimated £55,000 over their working life since the 2008 financial crash,



The Inclusive Growth Commission wants a skills tax credit to boost investment in training

the commission warned. Tom Lees, chairman of the commission, said: "The scale of earnings lost through poor skills and low productivity is startling."

The apprenticeship levy, introduced in 2017, requires all employers with an annual pay bill of over £3 million to contribute 0.5 per cent of their total pay bill to fund apprenticeships.

The skills tax credit recommended by the commission would allow companies to deduct more than they paid towards the costs of training through the tax system, and offer a credit if the company is loss-making.

The average investment in training per employee, accounting for inflation, has fallen from £2,200 in 2011 to £1,800 in 2022.

Last month the government launched a body to reform the country's skills system — Skills England — which will manage levy-eligible training.

Reeves: watchdogs must push for growth

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

The government is putting pressure on financial services regulators to make sure they promote the growth of the City of London, the chancellor has said.

Rachel Reeves said she supported the Conservatives' decision to introduce a secondary objective for the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. This states that they must "facilitate the international competitiveness of the UK economy ... and its medium to long-term growth".

Amid concerns that the City bodies are not doing enough to promote these goals, Reeves said she and Tulip Siddiq, the economic secretary to the Treasury, "are constantly asking regulators, 'What are you doing in practice to meet that secondary objective?'"

The Financial Conduct Authority regulates nearly 50,000 UK businesses to ensure competition for consumers and the proper functioning of the market for financial services. The Prudential Regulation Authority is part of

the Bank of England and supervises 1,500 financial firms.

Reeves said the government would follow through on its manifesto pledge to carry out a "financial services review to go through the rulebook and tear up rules that are unnecessary or duplicative". She said: "I believe that our financial services sector is the jewel in the crown of the UK economy, but we need to stay competitive in a very competitive landscape. We do risk losing business, whether that's the listing of companies to New York or the migration of US banks to other European capitals."

"We are pushing the regulators to demonstrate that they are taking seriously the competitiveness of our financial services sector. I'm determined to keep those good jobs

Rachel Reeves says Britain risks losing business to Europe



paying decent wages, not just in London but in Leeds as well, where I'm an MP, and other financial hubs around the UK."

Jeremy Hunt, Reeves's predecessor, introduced the secondary objective for the UK's post-Brexit financial regulation last year, alongside a requirement for the watchdogs to publish a report on how they are meeting the targets for growth and competitiveness.

Reeves was speaking on a tour of North America, where she met the giant Canadian pension funds on which the government wants the UK's local authorities to model themselves to boost investment in riskier sectors of the economy. She has put higher growth at the centre of her plans, and said she supported the growth push by the Tories in the Financial Services and Markets Act.

Motor lender pleads for 'more realistic' regulation

Ben Martin Banking Editor

A motor finance lender that is being scrutinised by the Financial Conduct Authority has criticised Britain's "restrictive and constantly changing regulatory regime".

Advantage Finance, which is owned by S&U, had restrictions placed on its operations by the watchdog this year, clamping down on the way it treats customers who are in financial difficulties.

These have forced the business to introduce extra forbearance measures for borrowers who have run into trouble and have blocked it from taking "proactive repossession action" against customers without the regulator's permission, the authority's register shows.

These restrictions have hit Advantage, although S&U said it was in "constructive but vigorous negotiations" to have the controls lifted. It also called on the government to introduce "a more

pragmatic and realistic approach to regulation" and claimed that without a change "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".

The motor finance industry has come under pressure this year after the FCA revealed it was embarking on an inquiry into whether consumers were overcharged for vehicle loans as far back as April 2007. S&U has previously said that Advantage has not been affected by this review. However, it has been caught up in a separate inquiry focused on forbearance and affordability. This resulted in the FCA commissioning a "skilled person" assessment of Advantage last year. The FCA then imposed restrictions on the business while the firm implemented its recommendations.

The FCA did not comment on the restrictions it had imposed on Advantage.

Mehreen Khan

Here's what we have learnt from the meltdown in global markets



“ A week can be a very long time in financial markets, particularly in August. After last Monday's rout in global stocks, a semblance of calm has returned to trading desks.

The S&P 500 index, the United States benchmark that suffered its worst trading day in two years on August 5, has regained most of its losses, as has the FTSE 100 and the value of US government bonds.

The wild round trip in asset prices can't be dismissed as just the exaggerated gyrations of light trading in the summer weeks. There are important lessons we can learn about the market meltdown for trading psychology, central bankers' behaviours and the economy itself. Here are three of them.

The first is that not all "cast-iron" indicators of a recession work all of the time. This derives from one of the initial triggers for last week's selling, which was the July jobs report for the US. This showed an unexpected rise in unemployment and lower-than-expected jobs growth of 114,000.

The soft labour market figures were not wildly out of consensus but set off sudden fears about the world's largest economy having fallen into a recession. That's because the Sahn Rule — a traditionally sure-fire way to measure a downturn in the US — had been triggered. The rule states that the economy is already in a recession when there is an increase in the average three-month measure of unemployment of at least 0.5 percentage points compared with the low recorded over the past year. The US unemployment rate jumped from 4.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent in July, marking a 0.49 percentage point climb on Sahn's measure.

The rule, named after Claudia Sahn, a former Federal Reserve economist, has been met in the past 11 US recessions dating back to the 1950s — leading to understandable concern about the true health of the labour market. Looking at jobs is a good way to measure the impact of monetary policy and, ironically, the strength of the labour market had been one of the main drivers behind the "soft landing" theory of the US economy over the past year.

But traders jumped from a longstanding benign view of the US



A single data point on unemployment had traders hitting the panic button

economy to hitting the panic button based on one data point. The jobless figure is important, but in this case, the Sahn Rule didn't meet the smell test and Sahn herself has said that her measure probably doesn't apply in this case. There are a number of reasons why, including the surge in immigration over the past year that has driven up labour supply and the unemployment rate, and the fact that Americans are not suffering from mass layoffs — the most important variable in every past recession.

The Sahn Rule is also invalidated by developments in other parts of the economy, which suggest a slowdown in growth rather than a calamitous downturn. A measure of economic growth from the Atlanta Fed is running at 2.6 per cent in the third quarter. On Monday, Goldman Sachs said it expected output to rise by

2.5 per cent in the second quarter. These figures are not consistent with a recession. There are also scant signs of significant asset price bubbles or corporate balance sheet woes.

The second lesson of the past week is that it is the "safest" trades that have the potential to blow up and send tremors through the financial system. In this case, it was the mass unwinding of hundreds of billions of dollars of the "carry trade" made by hedge funds, who over the past two years have been borrowing cheaply in the Japanese yen to invest in higher-yielding assets, pocketing the difference.

The carry trade is as simple as it sounds and rests on interest rate differentials in different currency blocs. Since 2022, Japan has been a global outlier in the rush to monetary tightening by keeping its interest rates

negative, while other central banks scrambled to slay inflation. But on July 31, the Bank of Japan lifted its interest rate for only the second time in 17 years to around 0.25 per cent and said it would begin dialling back its quantitative easing. The yen jumped to a seven-month high, forcing funds to unwind their positions rapidly, reversing about 75 per cent of all carry trades, according to JP Morgan. The pullback affected all kinds of assets that had been the beneficiary of the yen carry trade, including US government debt or high-performing stocks such as Nvidia.

The success of this easy money bet has echoes of last year's Silicon Valley Bank collapse, which was the result of the "safe" trade in US government bonds. In that case, SVB was the victim of an interest rate environment that created a maturity mismatch between its long-dated assets (bonds, with a falling value) compared with its very short-run liabilities (deposits, that were being withdrawn at record pace).

The final, and perhaps perennial, lesson of the past week is that central banks are expected to ride to the rescue of embattled traders. This was egregiously displayed by the Bank of Japan last week, which was forced by the markets to relent by saying that it would continue with its monetary easing policy "for the time being". The yen began falling in an act of market "bullying" according to Mohamed El-Erian, former chief executive of Pimco.

This pernicious dance between financial markets and central banks, whose primary mandate is to deal with inflation rather than bail out traders, is nothing new. It was on show when the Bank of England had to stem a rout in long-dated bonds caused by Liz Truss's mini-budget by buying more bonds — a policy in direct contradiction to its monetary policy goals.

There are also countless recent examples of market "tantrums" that have forced the Fed to retreat at the first sign of trouble. There are many strange elements about the global economic cycle, but falling back on central bankers' largesse is not one of them.

Mehreen Khan is Economics Editor of The Times

Investors pull record \$15bn out of China

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

Investors pulled a record amount of cash out of China in the second quarter of this year amid concerns about the health of the world's second-largest economy, official data showed.

In the three months to June, outflows of investor capital from China reached \$15 billion, according to balance of payments figures published by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange last Friday. The numbers were first reported by Bloomberg.

Balance of payment data can be used to measure flows of capital into and out of an economy's financial markets and company profits. China's direct investment liabilities, a proxy for the amount of capital that traders have invested in a country, decreased for only the second time on record over the past three months. In the first six months of this year, liabilities fell by \$5 billion.

Chinese companies are also stepping up outbound investment at a record pace, spending \$71 billion overseas in the second quarter, an increase of more than 80 per cent from \$39 billion in the same period last year. The rise in outbound investment could be a reflection of Chinese firms seeking less risky investments elsewhere as the domestic economy remains sluggish.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange data underscored the challenges facing Chinese policymakers in trying to revive sentiment towards the economy. A deep-seated property crisis and a slower-than-expected recovery from the pandemic have prompted investors to turn elsewhere. The prospect of escalating trade tensions between the United States and China has also encouraged investors to dispose of Chinese assets to avoid complications in accessing their capital.

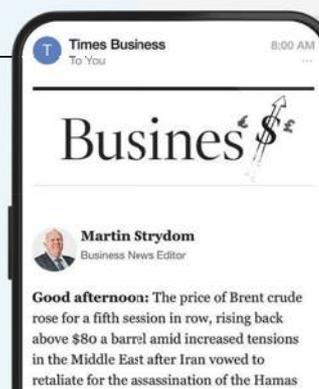
Higher interest rates on offer in western economies are likely to have driven traders to divest from China and use the proceeds to buy assets elsewhere. The US Federal Reserve has increased the federal funds rate to a 23-year high of 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent and this month the Chinese central bank elected to cut several key rates.

Yields on Chinese government bonds have been on a steady descent, raising concerns in Beijing that cheap borrowing costs could create bubbles in asset markets. Politicians have tried to stem the rally in bond prices, which move inversely to yields, while several bond brokers said that they had curbed trading in the asset class.

Expert business analysis straight to your inbox

For the latest financial and economic news from our business editors, subscribers can sign up to the business newsletter by going to 'My newsletters'.

To try a digital subscription, visit [thetimes.com/subscribe](https://www.thetimes.com/subscribe) or scan the QR code



DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Abandoned coalmine is ready

Glenmuckloch is the focus of a project to turn the former opencast site into a pumped storage hydro power station, writes **Emma Powell**

Located near the village of Kirkconnel in southwest Scotland, Glenmuckloch was one of the last coalmines in Britain to stop producing. That was in 2017. At its peak, it produced about 500,000 tonnes of coal a year. But although it may be gone, it is far from forgotten.

Glenmuckloch is less than 40 miles from the worst bottleneck on Britain's

electricity grid. As renewable energy on the system has rapidly increased, the infrastructure that transports the wind power generated in Scotland to England and Wales has not kept pace.

Crucially, it has created a pinch point along the Scottish-English border and the disused mine, which last month hosted the opening race of the Euro-

pean leg of the Extreme E motor racing season, could hold the answer. A project to turn the old opencast site into a pumped storage hydro power station will, it is hoped, help to manage the variations between supply and demand that come with having more clean energy on the grid.

The planned redevelopment of Glenmuckloch is being led by Foresight Group, a FTSE 250 asset manager with about £12.1 billion of assets under administration. The involvement of Foresight, a specialist in sustainable infrastructure investments, began in 2022

when it agreed a lease with the Duke of Buccleuch, the largest private landowner by acreage in Britain.

Addressing the ups and downs of variable supply demands an up-and-down solution. The Glenmuckloch pumped storage power station would work by pumping water from a lower reservoir when electricity is cheaper and in plentiful supply via a 700m pipe to an upper reservoir. Then the pumps can be shut and the gates opened to allow the water to flow down, driving turbines at the bottom to generate electricity when supply is short. The process can take five minutes. According to its developers, the power station would be capable of powering about 210,000 homes for eight hours with one full discharge of the upper reservoir and could start dispatching electricity by 2029, the earliest of any of the pumped storage projects being planned.

Unlike some pumped storage power stations, Glenmuckloch will be a closed-loop system. It will take roughly 12 months to fill the lower reservoir via a pumping station with water from the nearby River Nith, and it will not need to be replenished once it starts operating.

Old opencast coalmines can be suited to pumped storage projects because the structure for the lower reservoir is already in place, reducing costs and further disruption to the ground. In the case of Glenmuckloch, only an upper reservoir spanning just over 64 acres would need to be built, capable of holding the 3.5 million cubic metres of water pumped from below. The lower reservoir would be fitted with a membrane to prevent water seeping through the ground and the blackened rock-face will be covered with grass.

The green slopes around Glenmuckloch are scattered with wind turbines, as are the hills on the way to the English border. Yet insufficient capacity on the grid to carry all this clean power south, combined with the intermittency of renewable power, means wind turbines are being paid to switch off.

"There is lots of wind generation in the area and so, as well as having wider system benefits, it also helps to alleviate those grid constraints between Scotland and England," Richard Thompson,



T ANNUAL GUIDES

Piece together the path to university

Navigate university clearing and get the most out of student life with our exclusive guide. Explore how student loans work, how to make the most of Freshers Week and boost your employability whilst you study.

Available in the paper and online this Thursday



THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lebara telecoms takes call from Dutch private equity

Jessica Sharkey

Lebara has been acquired by Waterland Private Equity after Covid and the cost-of-living crisis boosted customer numbers at the low-cost mobile operator.

The telecoms group announced it was considering a possible sale or initial public offering last year. The group, which has been sold by Alchemy and Triton, two investment groups, provides more than four million customers with its affordable SIM-only deals.

Lebara was founded in 2001 and launched international telephone calling cards as its initial product. It operates in the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. It uses the "mobile virtual network operator" business model, whereby it does not own any infrastructure but instead has wholesale agreements with operators who do, such as O2 and Vodafone.

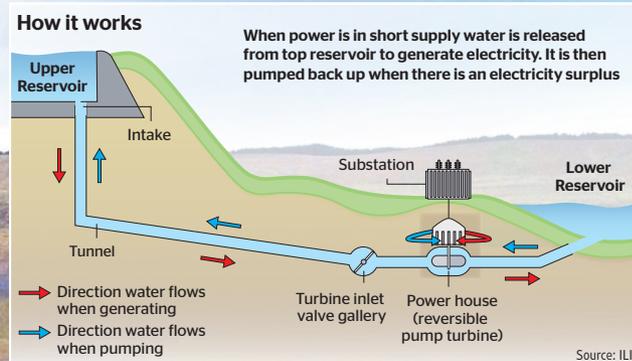
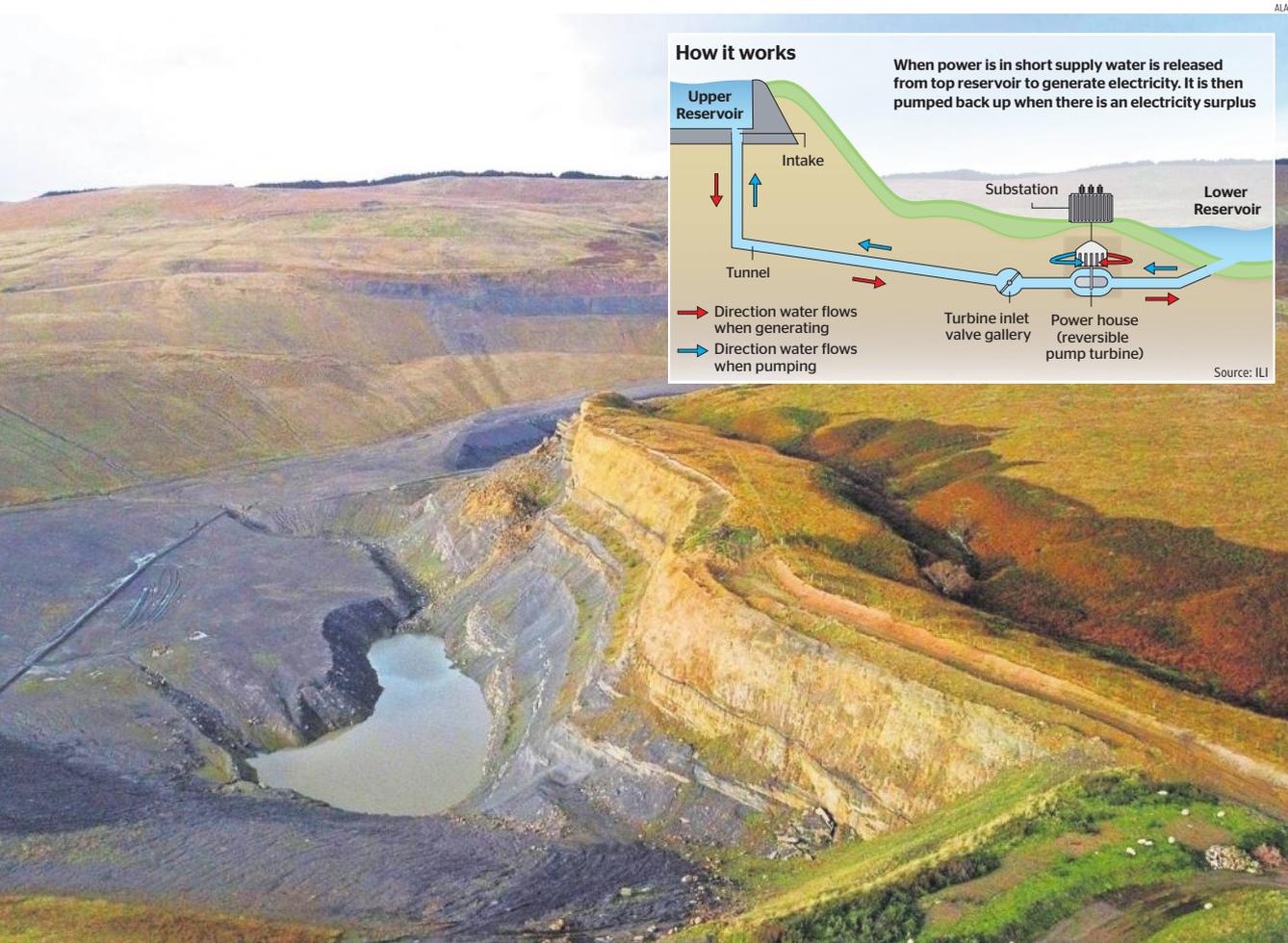
Waterland, a Dutch group, said it had

been in talks with Lebara since January and that Lebara's position as a "value-focused" brand presents significant growth opportunities across Europe as consumers increasingly seek competitive prices. It added that Lebara had built a strong brand and a loyal customer base.

Stephen Shurrock, chief executive of Lebara, said: "This partnership will provide us with the resources and strategic support needed to accelerate our growth and enhance our service offerings, ultimately benefiting our customers across all our markets."

Alchemy and Triton took control of Lebara in 2019 after numerous financial reporting errors and breaches of debt terms. Since then, the London-based company has added more than 1.6 million customers and it expects to generate earnings before interest, taxes and amortisation of £70 million this year, according to the Financial Times.

to enter the green power era



Glenmuckloch last month hosted an Extreme E motor race, left. The power project will, it is hoped, help to manage fluctuations between energy supply and demand

a managing partner at Foresight, said. "It's also quite symbolic, in a way, that you've got something that's contributed to global warming, through the coal that's been taken from the site in the past, now being used to help decarbonise the power system here."

Research by LCP Delta has estimated that by 2035 Britain's renewable and nuclear plants will generate excess

power in 64 per cent of hours across the year, up from 14 per cent last year. However, about half of these events will last less than 24 hours, which means that long-duration storage could be essential to help to balance the system.

There are only four pumped storage stations in Britain today and the last was built in 1984, before the privatisation of the nation's electricity genera-

tion from 1990. Pumped hydro accounts for about 45 per cent of the UK's total installed storage capacity, compared with 90 per cent globally.

Pumped storage projects might have the ability to dispatch superior levels of power compared with grid-scale batteries, but they also have high upfront costs. The Glenmuckloch project is estimated at £350 million. Develop-

ers like Foresight are therefore calling for long-term contracted revenue.

"The thing that's preventing us from taking a final investment decision at the moment is not having the regulatory support in place," Thompson said. "It's the only type of asset that really doesn't benefit from some form of regulation or policy support in the UK."

The previous government started a

consultation on a "cap and floor" mechanism, which would guarantee revenues if prices drop below a certain floor but would prevent providers from charging above a ceiling when merchant power prices are high.

Some form of regulation is crucial to attract private capital, according to Thompson. "If you were just to take market revenues, there's no certainty of making your money back and so, from an investment standpoint, that doesn't make sense."

If the price of selling the energy on the wholesale market is higher than the cap, then the money is paid back to consumers via their bills. If market prices are lower than the floor set, then the difference will be added to bills.

"You have to look at that as the asset itself allowing more renewables to be on the grid," Thompson said. "Renewables are the cheapest form of generation for 80 per cent of the world's population."

Maintaining the link between wholesale prices and the allowed returns that a provider can make would encourage dispatch decisions that benefit the grid the most, Thompson argued, more so than paying plants to be available on standby.

Foresight has secured a grid connection and planning consent for its project. It hopes to start construction in 2026, but ultimately is waiting on policy support. "Clearly, it's not credible to keep gas on the system over the long term if we're to hit our decarbonisation targets," Thompson said. "It's certainly needed in the interim to help us to get there to help us balance the grid."

Labour has been quiet on pumped hydro electricity. "They've stated clearly more ambitious targets to decarbonise the grid. That can only happen if you put assets like Glenmuckloch into the grid," Thompson insisted.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said: "We are taking immediate action implementing our long-term plan to make Britain a clean energy superpower, boosting our home-grown supply by radically increasing the deployment of onshore wind, solar and offshore wind. Alongside this, we will ensure we have the long-term energy storage the UK needs to make the most of clean, home-grown power. We are embracing the future of energy production and storage and will lay out further plans on this in due course."

Heathrow anger at 90,000 lost travellers

Robert Lea

Heathrow claims it has lost 90,000 passengers over the past nine months travelling to and from the Gulf states because of the way that an electronic transfer authorisation scheme is being implemented.

Heathrow has urged the new government to take a second look at the scheme brought in last November and initially affecting travellers to and from Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The airport, Europe's busiest international aviation hub, said: "The latest data following the introduction of the ETA [electronic transfer authorisation] shows Heathrow has lost 90,000 transfer passengers on routes operating to and from the seven countries included in the scheme.

"This is devastating for our hub competitiveness. We urge government to review the inclusion of airside transit passengers. Every little bit of extra com-

petitiveness government can deliver for aviation will help deliver vital growth for the whole of the UK economy."

Heathrow's argument is not with the scheme per se, which charges travellers without automatic right of entry or visas £10, but the fact that it includes those passengers whose intention is not

£10

Cost per passenger of the electronic transfer scheme

Source: Times research

to enter the UK but to transfer to another plane to another destination.

Since the scheme's implementation, Heathrow has calculated the loss of the number of passengers to other international hubs who might typically fly between the United States and the Gulf using the London airport as the bouncing point of a two-legged journey.

The ETA was brought in by Robert

Jenrick, the Conservative Party leadership hopeful, when he was immigration minister, to harden, he said, the UK's border security.

After the initial pilot scheme targeting Gulf travellers, it is to be launched for all international passengers, and as it stands the rules are to affect transfer passengers too. If that is the case, the loss of passengers to Heathrow could be multiplied significantly.

According to industry sources it is not the £10 fee that is the issue but the hassle of online form filling. The EU does not charge such transfer passengers and when it fully implements an ETA-style system it has no plan to do so.

That would exacerbate the situation for Heathrow, which reckons the 90,000 passengers it claims to have lost are using other western European hubs such as Madrid, Paris and Frankfurt.

Although Heathrow is pointing out the inequities of the ETA system hitting transfer traffic, it is not doing too badly: last month it handled 7.98 million passengers, a 4.2 per cent rise on July 2023.

Investors give under-par Marshalls benefit of doubt

Robert Lea

Hopes that things can only get better are helping Marshalls, the construction sector bellwether, brave a torrid first half of falling sales and profits.

The company, which specialises in pavements and kerbstones in the public sector, and paving for driveways and back patios for the home, said it was "cautiously optimistic" about an upturn in its fortunes as investors were relieved that its interim results did not bring anything worse than expected.

For the first six months of the year, Marshalls, based in Yorkshire and worth about £850 million, reported a 13 per cent fall in revenues to £307 million, against the same period in 2023. It said comparable operating profits declined 19 per cent to £34 million. At the bottom line, its pre-tax profits were down 20 per cent to £26.6 million.

That investors have been willing to

give Marshalls the benefit of the doubt — and that its woes can be blamed on a lack of spending, with better times expected after the debilitating effects of inflation and high interest rates — can be seen in the company's share price.

The stock hit a nine-year low of 210p last autumn but there has been a sustained rally since. The shares closed down 7p, or 2 per cent, at 333p.

Announcing that Marshalls would be holding the interim dividend at 2.6p, Matt Pullen, chief executive, said: "We are optimistic for the future. The combination of an uptick in construction activity over the short term, and the expectation of a sustained recovery, provides the group with the opportunity to drive profitable growth."

Analysts believe Marshalls should match last year's depressed pre-tax profit of £53 million for the full year — though that is down considerably on the £90 million booked in 2022.

Business Markets

Lauren Almeida Tempus
Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Data investors know they can trust

RELX
Market cap £65.8bn | Forward p/e ratio 29

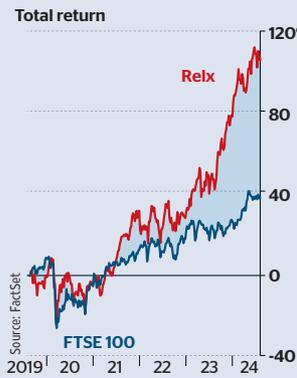
Relx is one of the unsung heroes of the FTSE 100. The data and analytics business has a bigger market capitalisation than the likes of GSK, BAE Systems and Lloyds Bank, and it has rewarded its shareholders handsomely. The stock has delivered a total return of more than 104 per cent in the past five years, compared with 37 per cent by the FTSE 100 index.

The company makes relatively few headlines, and Erik Engstrom, the Swede who has led the business for the past 14 years, has never given a media interview as his chief executive. But it is this quiet, disciplined approach that has built Relx's reputation as one of the most impressive technology names in the UK.

Although Relx calls itself a data and analytics business, this barely scratches the surface of how the multibillion-pound company makes money. Known as Reed Elsevier from 1992 until 2015, it was once a producer of books and magazines but has made a gradual transition away from physical media, selling one of its last print magazines in 2019. Now, 84 per cent of revenues are digital, with only 4 per cent in print, and 12 per cent comes from face-to-face events.

Relx now has four divisions:

Profitable analysis



ADVICE Buy
WHY Strong quality and record of creating shareholder value

scientific, technical and medical (otherwise known as "STM"); risk; legal; and exhibitions. STM includes its academic publishing business, Elsevier, with a portfolio of more than 2,200 journals. The risk division covers the company's analytics and decision tools for areas such as digital fraud and identity checks. The third unit provides legal, regulatory and business information and

Adjusted operating profit by division



analytics. These three businesses are the foundation of Relx's huge archive of content and data. The fourth and smallest division is exhibitions, a face-to-face events operation.

One big appeal of Relx is that most of its customers pay a recurring fee for access to its products — whether for a log-in to the academic publishing portal, or to get into the database of legal documents. About 54 per cent of its revenues are subscription based, which has translated into a gross margin that has averaged 61 per cent over the past five years.

The company's recent half-year results showed overall steady growth, with revenues rising by 7 per cent on

an underlying basis. But the focus for investors was organic growth in its legal division coming in at 7 per cent, compared with 6 per cent in the same period last year and ahead of expectations. Management credited this in part to Lexis+, its legal research platform, as well as the launch of its Lexis+AI platform, which incorporates generative artificial intelligence.

Investors are also hoping that growth in the STM business will accelerate. For the first time, Relx published the number of article submissions to Elsevier, which rose by 20 per cent in the first half, after a 12 per cent increase in 2023 and 7 per cent in 2022.

Relx trades at 29 times forward earnings, compared with an average multiple of 12 in the FTSE 100. This reflects an impressive track record of creating value for shareholders. Capital expenditure typically sits at 5 per cent of sales, which has supported an average growth rate in operating profit of 14 per cent in the past three years. Operating margins have ticked up from 30.5 per cent to 33.1 per cent in the same period.

It is worth noting, too, that Relx has returned plenty of cash to its investors. It is expected to yield a modest 1.9 per cent over the next 12 months, but dividends in cash terms reached £1.1 billion in 2023, with the interim dividend this year up by 7 per cent at 18.2p a share. For this level of quality and dependability, Relx still looks worth the price.

ADVICE Hold
WHY Discount reflects high uncertainty

RECKITT BENCKISER

Market cap £29.1bn | Forward p/e ratio 13

Shares in Reckitt Benckiser are trading at lows not seen in more than a decade, as the consumer goods group has been tangled up in litigation at its baby formula division.

As the £29 billion group sets a restructuring programme in action, and explores selling its problematic baby formula business, the question for stockpickers is whether its investment case as home of some of the biggest British consumer brands can be salvaged.

This year a jury in the United States decided that one of the company's infant formulas had caused the death of a premature infant, ordering it to pay \$60 million damages to the mother. This opens it up to possible liability claims that analysts believe could range from £400 million to £8 billion.

Reckitt has put the baby formula division, as well as products such as Cillit Bang and Airwick Air Fresheners, in effect up for sale. The hope is that Reckitt will be able to thrive on a slimmer, more focused portfolio of "power brands" — big brand names that already have a strong foothold in the West but that can pursue growth in emerging

markets. These include Nurofen, an ibuprofen product, and Dettol cleaning products.

The company also has problems elsewhere to grapple with, including recent tornado damage to a warehouse for its infant nutrition business in Indiana.

Meanwhile, operational performance has been mixed. Health and nutrition revenues fell by 4 per cent and 11 per cent respectively in the first half of the year, while hygiene sales were mostly flat. The gross margin improved by 1.2 percentage points to 60.6 per cent, and a 5 per cent drop in adjusted operating profit was better than expected.

Reckitt shares trade at 13 times forward earnings, a discount to its consumer goods peer Unilever, which trades at 19, and its own ten-year historical average of 20. This may lure in value investors, but management needs to find the right buyers for its less impressive brands, as well as to refresh the performance of those that it has decided to keep. Even at this price, Reckitt shares look too risky to dive for.

PRICES

Major indices

New York		Zurich	
Dow Jones	39,357.01 (-140.53)	SMI Index	11873.71 (+7.78)
Nasdaq Composite	16,780.61 (+35.31)	DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4671.88 (-3.40)
S&P 500	5,344.39 (+0.23)		
Tokyo		London	
Nikkei 225	35025.00 n/a	FTSE 100	8210.25 (+42.15)
		FTSE 250	20677.19 (+52.01)
		FTSE 350	4529.78 (+21.61)
Hong Kong		FTSE Eurotop 100	3938.12 (-5.86)
Hang Seng	17111.65 (+21.42)	FTSE All-Shares	4486.47 (+21.43)
		FTSE Non Financials	5372.77 n/a
Amsterdam		techMARK 100	6864.96 (+42.65)
AEX Index	885.65 (+2.28)	Bargains	n/a
		US\$	1.2769 (+0.0021)
Sydney		Euro	1.1681 (+0.0002)
AO	8028.50 (+37.80)	-SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
		Exchange Index	82.94 (+0.21)
Frankfurt		Bank of England official close (4pm)	
DAX	17726.47 (+3.59)	CPI	134.07 Jun (2015 = 100)
		RPI	387.30 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Singapore		RPIX	381.90 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Straits	3235.38 (-26.45)	Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
		Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)
Brussels			
BEL20	4040.47 (-19.28)		
Paris			
CAC-40	7250.67 (-19.04)		

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 24	99.430	99.910	99.390	99.720	171987	786226
	Dec 24	98.790	99.200	98.790	99.050	1067	2092
3-Mth Sterling	SEP 24						
	Dec 24						
3-Mth Euribor	SEP 24	96.570	96.580	96.565	96.575	82845	487094
	Dec 24	97.000	97.025	96.990	97.010	104156	546065
3-Mth Euroswiss	SEP 24	97.260	97.395	97.345	97.370	97780	446671
	Dec 24	97.585	97.615	97.565	97.590	75659	420444
FTSE100	SEP 24	8208.5	8239.0	8189.5	8214.5	54564	454754
	Dec 24	8266.5	8280.0	8266.5	8265.5	4	456
FTSEurofirst 80	SEP 24						
	Dec 24				6251.0		6299.5

© 2021 Tradeweb Markets LLC. All rights reserved. The Tradeweb FTSE Gilt Closing Prices information contained herein is proprietary to Tradeweb; may not be copied or re-distributed; is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and does not constitute investment advice. Tradeweb is not responsible for any loss or damage that might result from the use of this information.

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 6,00pm)		Brent (6,00pm)	
Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)		Oct	81.15-81.14
Brent Physical	83.81 +2.11	Jan	79.18-79.16
BFOE(Oct)	81.52 +1.79	Feb	78.76-78.73
BFOE(Nov)	80.66 +1.66	Volume:	1997227
WTI(Oct)	77.6 +1.96		
WTI(Nov)	76.58 +1.78		
Products (\$/MT)		LIFFE	
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)		Cocoa	
Premium Unld	844.00 847.00 +16.00	Sep	6538-6504
Gasoil FCC	721.50 722.50 +10.25	Dec	4214-4112
3.5 Fuel Oil	449.00 451.00 +16.00	Mar	5408-5393
Naphtha	652.00 666.00 +17.00	May	4774-4758
		Jul	4584-4549
		Oct	4431-4405
		Volume:	75780
		Sep	4313-4286
		RobustaCoffee	
		Sep	4541-4535
		Nov	4368-4364
		Jan	4713-4706
		Mar	4072-4064
		Volume:	25576
		White Sugar (FOB)	
		Reuters	
		Aug	506.00-505.60
		Aug	501.50-501.20
		Oct	519.40-519.10
		Oct	497.70-496.50
		Dec	514.00-513.70
		Dec	538.00-490.00
		Volume:	71163



A bridge too far for Harland

Harland & Wolff, the troubled shipbuilder, said it would not be able to finalise its accounts for 2023 on a going-concern basis (Emma Taggart writes). In the latest challenge for the Belfast-based business, it announced that work to complete its unpublished accounts had been suspended and its resources were instead focused on "the Rothschild process". The merchant bank has

been called in to advise on "strategic options" for the business. Shares in Harland & Wolff were suspended last month after it failed to file audited accounts on time. Russell Downs, the interim chairman, said: "We remain focused on working with interested parties ... to ensure we can navigate through this uncertainty preserving the underlying value in the yards and the FSS contract for its employees and other stakeholders." The FSS project consists of a £1.6 billion Ministry of Defence commission to build three military vessels.

In a further blow for Harland & Wolff, a group of shareholders has voiced concerns that it is being lined up for a "pre-pack" administration — where it would enter administration, with its trading assets sold to a pre-determined buyer and the value of existing shareholders' investments wiped out. The "shareholders collective", which is reported to own about 30 per cent of Harland & Wolff, is calling for an extraordinary meeting in an effort to ensure that shareholder representation is a part of any decision on the company's future.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
BT Bharti Global to buy 24.5 per cent stake	8.4%
Entain Ubeat note from Shore Capital	4.0%
Bellway Well placed to benefit from improving macro backdrop, argues broker	2.5%
Antofagasta Higher copper prices	1.8%
BP Oil prices rise	1.4%
Hikma Pharmaceuticals Investors lock-in profits	-1.8%
Watches of Switzerland HSBC flags headwinds facing US business	-3.0%
Goodwin Follow-through selling	-3.7%
JD Sports Fashion Deutsche Numis downgrades to "sell"	-4.1%
Auction Technology Group Peel Hunt cuts annual sales forecasts	-7.0%

'King of trainers' JD Sports is looking down at heel

Jessica Newman Market report

It's been a torrid year for investors in JD Sports Fashion, whose shares are down about a quarter, having never recovered from January's shock profit warning. The mood among dealers remained pretty low yesterday after a downbeat assessment from Deutsche Numis, which urged clients to sell their shares in the self-proclaimed "king of trainers". The sportswear group's shares are trading at an "unwarranted" premium to its peers, analysts argued, suggesting that the company had underestimated the cost of growth, evidenced by "deteriorating cash conversion". Alison Lygo and her team at Deutsche Numis now forecast that organic revenue growth for JD's present financial year will be

Wall Street report

Stocks struggled for direction as investors grew nervous ahead of new economic data out this week. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 140.53 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 39,357.01. The S&P 500 added just 0.23 points to close at 5,344.39.

at the lower end of its guidance alongside flat like-for-like sales. "While we see potential for positive surprise in gross margin as promotional intensity eases, subdued overhaul category tempers our enthusiasm," Lygo said. Heading the bank's advice, investors dumped their shares in JD, which closed down by 5p, or 4.1 per cent, to 120¼p making the stock the largest faller in the FTSE 100. However, it was a better start to the week for the FTSE 100, which ended the session 42.15 points, or 0.5 per cent, higher at 8,210.25, while the more UK-focused FTSE 250 rose by 52.01 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 20,677.19. It was a quiet day on the corporate front but there was one company at the centre of investors' attention. That was BT. News that Bharti Global was buying nearly 25 per cent of the British telecoms company from the French billionaire Patrick Drahi's Altice sent shares in BT up sharply by

Biotech firm opts to go private

A biotechnology company has joined the march of defectors from London's junior market, unveiling plans to go private. Bivictrix Therapeutics, a Cheshire-based drug discovery and development firm, argues that its market valuation is a "barrier to future growth". It has asked shareholders to approve its proposal to cancel the company's Aim quotation, reasoning that its market capitalisation "neither reflects the positive achievements nor the underlying prospects of the business".



Bivictrix needs funds to get its leukaemia drug BVX001 to trial

The board believes that in order to make progress with its leading asset, BVX001, which targets acute myeloid leukaemia, it will need "significant funds to be able to proceed towards a phase I clinical trial". Bosses believe the current equity market

conditions do not support sufficient fundraising to do so and that it is more likely to be achieved successfully as a private company. "The directors believe that, as a private company, Bivictrix is likely to have access to a larger quantum of future funding to enable the business to meet key value inflection points," Tiffany Thorn, its chief executive, said. Bivictrix will need the support of 75 per cent of shareholders at a vote scheduled for August 29. Shares closed down 36.5 per cent, or 4¼p, to 8¼p.

11p, or 8.4 per cent, to 141¼p — its best day since the end of May. More than two thirds of FTSE 100 constituents moved higher, with commodity-focused stocks making some of the largest gains. These included BP, which flowed 5¼p, or 1.4 per cent, higher to 439¼p as oil prices firmed up amid tensions in the Middle East. In the mid-caps, Harbour Energy added 7¼p, or 2.5 per cent, to 293p. Stronger gold and copper prices gave a lift to Endeavour Mining, the goldminer focused on west Africa, which picked up 29p, or 1.9 per cent, to £15.67, and Antofagasta, the Chilean copper miner, up by 33p, or 1.8 per cent, to £18.79¼, while the Swiss commodities powerhouse Glencore advanced 5¼p, or 1.3 per cent, to 410¼p. Closer to home, Cornish Metals won applause after the junior miner, which owns the South Crofty tin project in Cornwall, named Don Turvey as its chief executive. Its share

price jumped half a penny, or 9 per cent, to 6p. Bellway received a leg up from Peel Hunt, which believes the FTSE 250 firm is "well placed to benefit from the improving macro backdrop". As analysts lifted their recommendation on the stock from "hold" to "add", Bellway's shares perked up 68p, or 2.5 per cent, to £28.16. By contrast, the broker cut its annual revenue expectations for Auction Technology Group by 2 per cent to \$173 million, sending shares in the company, which enables auction houses to hold their sales online, lower by 31¼p, or 7 per cent, to 422p. Watches of Switzerland was also under pressure as analysts at HSBC flagged the challenges facing the retailer's core American business in the first half and expectations of a "flattish underlying performance" for its British business. Shares in the firm, which has clocked up a 45 per cent loss in value since the start of the year, dropped 11¼p, or 3.1 per cent, to 365¼p.

London Grain Futures				
Liffe Wheat (close €/t)				
Nov	190.00	Jan	unc	Mar
May	202.75	Jul	unc	Volume: 720
London Metal Exchange (Official)				
Cash	3mth	Dec 22		
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)	8850.5-8851.0	8970.0-8975.0	9210.0-9220.0	
Lead (\$/tonne)		2063.0-2063.5	2158.0-2163.0	
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne)	2713.0-2714.0	2756.0-2759.0	2787.0-2792.0	
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)	2267.0-2268.0	2320.0-2321.0	2465.0-2470.0	
Nickel (\$/tonne)	15925.0-15930.0	16150.0-16160.0	17030.0-17080.0	
Tin (\$/tonne)	31990.0-32010.0	31875.0-31900.0	31470.0-31520.0	

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open \$2427.83

Close \$2463.86-2464.12 High \$2465.78

Low \$2423.79

AM \$2423.45 PM \$2427.35

Platinum \$ (€)

Silver \$27.92 (€21.87)

Palladium \$ (€)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.30	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates (Clearing Banks 5.00 ECB Refi 4.25 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50)

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.7081-8.7339	8.7189-8.7203	135ds	397ds
Euro	1.1705-1.1673	1.1685-1.1684	10pr	30pr
Montreal	1.7500-1.7568	1.7550-1.7551	11ds	35ds
New York	1.2747-1.2793	1.2769-1.2770	5pr	9pr
Oslo	13.726-13.796	13.786-13.789	64ds	152ds
Stockholm	13.403-13.463	13.443-13.448	241ds	642ds
Tokyo	187.16-189.31	188.13-188.15	87ds	234ds
Zurich	1.1020-1.1124	1.1069-1.1061	40ds	113ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5179-1.5180
Canada	1.3744-1.3745
Denmark	6.8282-6.8287
Euro	0.9150-0.9151
Hong Kong	7.7937-7.7915
Japan	147.33-147.34
Malaysia	4.2635-4.2685
Norway	10.798-10.803
Singapore	1.3244-1.3245
Bahrain dinar	0.4776-0.4846
Brazil real	7.0288-7.0326
Euro	1.1681-1.1687
Hong Kong dollar	9.9482-9.9498
India rupee	107.19-107.21
Indonesia rupiah	20363-20376
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3898-0.3922
Malaysia ringgit	5.6452-5.6516
New Zealand dollar	2.2126-2.2122
Singapore dollar	1.4913-1.4914
S Africa rand	23.291-23.205
U A E dirham	4.6873-4.6875

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia \$	1.937	
Canada \$	1.756	
Denmark Kr	8.730	+0.01
Euro	1.170	
Hong Kong \$	9.962	+0.01
Hungary	460.803	+0.02
Indonesia	20400.987	+76.82
Israel Shk	4.826	+0.07
Japan Yen	189.101	+2.02
New Zealand \$	2.122	
Norway Kr	13.772	-0.01
Poland	5.031	-0.02
Russia	116.102	+3.08
S Africa Rd	23.291	-0.08
Sweden Kr	13.447	+0.04
Switzerland Fr	1.110	+0.01
Turkey Lira	42.878	+0.10
USA \$	1.279	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

An insider guide to royal life

Get to know the monarchy like never before with our podcast *The Royals with Roya and Kate*. Hosts Roya Nikkhah and Kate Mansey, two royal editors who know the Palace best, offer the inside scoop with unmatched insight and lashings of wit.

Listen for free via the QR code, on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts



LISTEN
NOW



THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Times unit trust information service

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ALLIANCE GLOBAL INVESTORS				
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573				
Gilt Yield A Acc	206.01	...	-0.27	...
Strategic Bond Fund	136.47	...	+0.04	2.54
UK Corp Bond C	104.79	...	-0.78	...
UK Equity C	631.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Equity Inc A	333.99	...	+0.99	3.08
UK Growth A	846.05	...	+2.29	3.08
UK Index A Inc	1473.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A	465.61	...	-11.35	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD				
0800 092 2051				
Authorised Inv Funds				
Global Income R Acc	198.13	...	+0.92	3.04
Global Income R Inc	112.54	...	+0.55	3.02
Global Select R Acc	168.22	...	-0.11	...
High Income R Acc	68.82	...	-0.11	5.81
Income R Acc	494.67	...	+2.14	3.38
Income R Inc	245.54	...	+0.88	3.48
Monthly Dist R Inc	69.97	...	+0.18	4.52
SmartGAP European Equity R Acc	1489.79	...	+0.12	2.01
SmartGAP Global Equity R Acc	893.11	...	-1.04	...
SmartGAP UK Equity R Acc	694.85	...	+1.69	2.57
Strategic Assets R Acc	89.54	...	+0.11	0.27
Strategic Bond R M Acc	1010.42	...	+0.17	4.07
Strategic Bond R M Inc	570.17	...	+0.09	4.18
Strategic Bond R Q Acc	1035.24	...	+0.17	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc	93.88	...	+0.80	4.16
UK Select R Acc	886.91	...	+4.27	1.55
UK Smaller Cos R Acc	8220.45	...	+5.24	1.46
UK Special Sits R Acc	808.85	...	+3.10	1.41

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Dfing: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511				
Equity Inc	572.40	...	-2.70	...
Gilt Acc	201.30	211.80	...	...
Gilt Inc	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc	386.50	...	+8.00	...
Japan Sm Co Acc	63.56	66.09	-0.19	2.00
Managed Inc	138.30	...	...	...
Monthly Inc	215.40	...	+0.50	4.28
UK Growth Inc	219.80	...	+0.20	0.99
UK Select Opps Inc	1940.00	...	+4.00	1.42
UK Sm Co Inc	294.40	...	-0.20	0.35

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Admin & Eq 0117 999 0808				
AXA Trusts				
Gen Acc	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc	1879.00	...	-2.00	2.70

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK/Global Investment Companies				
Euro Acc A	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc B	86.74	...	+0.24	...
Global Growth Acc R	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc	164.20	...	+0.80	4.16
Pac Growth Acc A	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
08457 46 46 46				
European Growth	226.60	...	-0.20	1.71
European Growth	859.70	...	-2.70	1.68
UK Growth	678.80	...	+2.60	2.03
UK Income	220.10	...	+0.60	4.55

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0870 606 6402				
Beacon Inv	84.88	...	+0.35	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dealing: 020 7426 6232				
Winchester	4002.50	...	-123.10	1.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
ENCS: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Share Class 1 - Retail				
Corporate Bd	49.99	...	-0.31	...
Emerging Mkts	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Growth & Inc	137.50	...	+3.00	0.25
Extra Bond	1.23	...	1.23	...
FTSE All-Share Track	146.50	...	+1.40	1.49
Global Growth S1	363.00	...	+0.30	...
High Inc Trst	11.57	12.14	...	...
Max Inc Bond	44.28	...	...	3.40
Multi Man Dist	70.41	...	...	4.37
Multi Man Dist	60.44	...	...	4.30
North Amer	107.90	...	+2.00	...
Pacific Growth	477.40	...	+0.24	0.04
Strategic Bd	206.20	...	+0.10	1.67
UK Equity	948.00	...	+2.00	...
UK Growth & Inc A	698.50	...	...	...
UK Growth & Inc Dist	236.70	...	...	1.43
UK Smaller Cos	1122.00	...	...	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
DEENTRE INV MGMT LTD				
0800 358 3100				
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond	187.63	...	-0.04	3.37
Resp & Sust Euro Eq	349.30	...	-0.50	2.42
Resp & Sust Gld Eq	360.80	...	+0.20	1.19
Resp & Sust Mgd Income	112.40	...	+0.20	4.46
Resp & Sust UK Eq	221.80	...	+0.50	1.95
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps	1298.60	...	+0.40	1.53

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL				
Private Cnts 0800 414161 Broker Digs 0800 414181				
Amer Spec Sits	2569.00	...	+13.00	...
American	6424.00	...	+93.00	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc	321.60	...	+5.80	...
European	3870.00	...	+35.00	...
Extra Income	22.80	...	...	6.09
Global Spec S1	6334.00	...	+89.00	...
Global Focus	3184.00	...	+52.00	...
High Income	339.01	...	+1.62	1.98
Japan	612.80	...	-1.70	0.45
MoneyMdr Bal	43.61	...	+0.29	4.40
MoneyMdr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
MoneyMdr Growth	76.17	...	-0.95	...
MoneyMdr Inc	29.41	...	-0.02	5.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD				
01296 386 386				
Authorised Inv Funds				
Share Class C				
Corporate Bond	35.07	...	-0.01	3.47
Ethical	134.90	...	-0.40	0.19
European	126.50	...	-1.00	1.83
Far Eastern	125.30	...	+0.90	1.97
Fund of Inv Trst	151.70	...	-0.10	...
Intl Growth	190.40	...	-0.40	0.68
Japanese	80.20	...	-0.08	1.11
North Amer	188.90	...	+0.50	0.07
Smaller Cos	116.40	...	-0.40	1.80
Special Sits	50.34	...	-0.17	1.03
UK Equity Inc	103.20	...	+0.20	3.79
UK FTSE 100 Trst	79.00	...	-0.27	2.29
UK FTSE ALL-SH Trst	88.83	...	+0.27	2.29
UK Growth	94.53	...	+0.28	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD				
ENCS: 0845 745 6123 Dfing: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6				
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Amer Ind Acc	1176.69	...	+3.92	1.05
Amer Ind Inc	926.77	...	-3.08	1.06
Euro Ind Acc	1240.06	...	-0.92	...
Euro Ind Inc	816.62	...	-0.56	...
FTSE 100 Ind Acc	313.91	...	+1.07	3.05
FTSE 100 Ind Inc	136.71	...	+0.46	3.13
FTSE 250 Ind Acc	323.46	...	-0.28	2.79
FTSE 250 Ind Inc	181.15	...	+0.17	2.88
FTSE ALL-SH Acc	799.40	...	+2.43	3.09
FTSE ALL-SH Inc	384.15	...	+1.17	3.17
Japan Ind Acc	159.85	...	+1.60	1.56
Japan Ind Inc	102.78	...	+0.21	1.58
Pac Ind Acc	326.24	...	+2.25	2.79
Pac Ind Inc	375.51	...	+1.81	2.86

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class				
Balanced Acc	272.34	...	-1.00	1.29
Balanced Inc	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc	291.78	...	+0.15	3.96
Corp Bd Inc	106.56	...	+0.05	4.06
Gilt & Fd Inc Acc	492.78	...	-1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Inc Inc	74.17	...	...	...
Income Acc	808.41	...	+0.50	3.91
Income Inc	310.64	...	+1.73	4.03
Monthly Inc Acc	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc	135.24	...	+0.55	...
UK Gwth & Inc Ret B Acc	1014.55	...	+0.24	3.61
UK Gwth & Inc Ret B Inc	1466.30	...	+0.34	3.72
UK Gwth & Inc Acc	164.55	...	+0.24	3.61
UK Gwth & Inc Inc	68.30	...	+0.34	3.72

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)				
American Global	1017.65	...	+3.92	1.05
American Global Ret	892.71	...	+3.08	1.06
Asian Gwth Inc	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gwth Inc	139.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gwth Acc	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gwth Inc	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
IGNIS ASSET MGMT				
Dfing: 0122 8282				
American Gth Inc	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond	99.69	...	-0.29	4.47
European Growth	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Global Growth	333.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield	83.98	88.64	-0.29	...
Higher Yield Acc	275.04	290.28	-0.92	...
Japan	49.06	51.78	-0.03	0.94
Managed	130.89	138.15	-0.06	...
Managed Trust	71.96	76.96	-0.17	2.78
Mind Pflatio Inc	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Gwth	496.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp	756.24	798.14	-1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos	628.94	663.79	-1.36	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD				
ENCS: 0207 169 0000				
Instl Invest Multi-Manager Funds				
Well Blfr Bal Acc	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Blfr Gwth Acc	93.79	...	-0.36	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
INVESTCO FUND MGRS LTD				
Dfing: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677				
Blkr Supp: 0800 028 2121				
INVESTCO Funds				
UK Str Inc W/Trst	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
INVESTCO PERPETUAL FUNDS				
Chilvencs Acc	537.54	...	+0.82	

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the last day's closing share price.

12-month high and low High/Low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
356½	132½	Aston Martin Lag	136½	- 2½	-3.7

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
2837	2177	Admiral	2698	+ 23	2.7 24.3
26899½	21693½	Aon Corp	25725	- 39½	- 25.4

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
194½	136½	Abdn	152½	+ 3½	9.7
2837	2177	Admiral	2698	+ 23	2.7 24.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3180	1858½	3I Group	3018	+ 7	2.8 40.6
1690	1126	Aberforth Smr	1574	- 10	3.2 32.8

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
67½	39½	EEG-Hermes Hldg	67½	+ 4½	7.7
1153	690½	Hargreaves Lansdown	1153	+ 38	2.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
1374	837	Geopital	1038	+ 38	2.3
1120	1055	Gresham House	1100	+ 20	30.5

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
67½	39½	EEG-Hermes Hldg	67½	+ 4½	7.7
1153	690½	Hargreaves Lansdown	1153	+ 38	2.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
67½	39½	EEG-Hermes Hldg	67½	+ 4½	7.7
1153	690½	Hargreaves Lansdown	1153	+ 38	2.3

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
9938	8038	Lonk Stk Ex Grp	9938	+ 110	1.1 71.9
238½	183½	M&G	203½	+ 2½	9.7 16.4

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
592	290	Billington Hldgs	510	+ 23	4.1 6.4
235	170	Boat (Henry)	224	+ 6	3.3 11.6

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
38	22½	SIG	22½	- 1½	-5.9
73	45	SigmaRoc	66½	- ¼	35.1

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
38	22½	SIG	22½	- 1½	-5.9
73	45	SigmaRoc	66½	- ¼	35.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
38	22½	SIG	22½	- 1½	-5.9
73	45	SigmaRoc	66½	- ¼	35.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
38	22½	SIG	22½	- 1½	-5.9
73	45	SigmaRoc	66½	- ¼	35.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
38	22½	SIG	22½	- 1½	-5.9
73	45	SigmaRoc	66½	- ¼	35.1

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3	1½	Chamberlin	1½	...	...
30½	18½	Checkr	26	...	-6.1

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3	1½	Chamberlin	1½	...	...
30½	18½	Checkr	26	...	-6.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3	1½	Chamberlin	1½	...	...
30½	18½	Checkr	26	...	-6.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3	1½	Chamberlin	1½	...	...
30½	18½	Checkr	26	...	-6.1

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	Yld%	Div/PM
3	1½	Chamberlin	1½	...	...
30½	18½	Checkr	26	...	-6.1

TIMES RADIO

Listen for free

DAB RADIO | ONLINE | SMART SPEAKER | APP

Construction & property

4263	3549	Sun Life Can	3764½	+ 5½	4.7 12.1
61½	2½	Tavistock Inv	2½	...	2.4

Construction & property

238½	142½	Alumac	238½	- 6½	4.2 10.8
9	6½	Assura Props	6½	...	8.0

Construction & property

238½	142½	Alumac	238½	- 6½	4.2 10.8
9	6½	Assura Props	6½	...	8.0

Construction & property

4263	3549	Sun Life Can	3764½	+ 5½	4.7 12.1
61½	2½	Tavistock Inv	2½	...	2.4

Construction & property

238½	142½	Alumac	238½	- 6½	4.2 10.8
9	6½	Assura Props	6½	...	8.0

Construction & property

238½	142½	Alumac	238½	- 6½	4.2 10.8
9	6½	Assura Props	6½	...	8.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Consumer goods

1½	¾	Agriterra	¾	...	-0.2
34½	22	Aira	26	...	2.1 13.0

Health

...	...	Abcam	1226	+ 123	...
258	127½	AdvancedMedical	245	+ 11½	1.0 33.7

Health

...	...	Abcam	1226	+ 123	...
258	127½	AdvancedMedical	245	+ 11½	1.0 33.7

Health

...	...	Abcam	1226	+ 123	...
258	127½	AdvancedMedical	245	+ 11½	1.0 33.7

Health

...	...	Abcam	1226	+ 123	...
258	127½	AdvancedMedical	245	+ 11½	1.0 33.7

Engineering

...	...	Ass Br Eng	15	...	-6.2
1378	593	Avon Rubber	1276	+ 20	1.4

Engineering

...	...	Ass Br Eng	15	...	-6.2
1378	593	Avon Rubber	1276	+ 20	1.4

WIDELY RECOGNISED AS THE WORLD'S BEST ULTRA-LUXURY CRUISE LINE
AND NOW PART OF THE ABERCROMBIE & KENT TRAVEL GROUP,
CRYSTAL OFFERS A WORLD OF SOPHISTICATED AND ELEGANCE ABOARD,
AND MAGICAL EXPLORATION ASHORE.

CRYSTAL
EXCEPTIONAL AT SEA

WONDERS OF THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

ABOARD THE 740 GUEST CRYSTAL SERENITY
23rd May 2025

ROME, CAGLIARI, TUNIS, PALMA DE MALLORCA, VALENICA, BARCELONA

MUNDY CRUISING EXCLUSIVE

FREE flights and a FREE pre-cruise luxury
hotel and transfer package

7 NIGHTS FROM
£3,795 pp

WHAT'S INCLUDED WITH CRYSTAL

- 6 nights in an Aquamarine Veranda Suite with butler service
- All dining with speciality restaurants including Umi Uma by Nobu Matsuhisa legendary Master Chef Nobuyuki (Nobu) Matsuhisa
- Fine wines, Champagne, cocktails and spirits
- All soft drinks, coffees and speciality teas
- Onboard entertainment, enrichment, fitness classes and wellness facilities
- Complimentary WiFi
- Gratuities



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MUNDY CRUISING,
CRYSTAL'S NO.1 UK PARTNER SINCE 1991.

CALL 0808 134 3207

FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS VISIT WWW.MUNDYCRUISINGUK.CO.UK





Artist, architect and father of the Blur frontman
Keith Albarn
Page 46

Register

Obituaries

Martin Indyk

US diplomat who played a key role behind the scenes as America attempted to broker peace between Israel and the PLO in the 1990s

One of Martin Indyk's first acts as US ambassador to Israel in November 1995 was to attend Yitzhak Rabin's funeral after his assassination by an Israeli right-wing extremist. Sitting next to him was Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud party leader who would defeat Rabin's successor Shimon Peres in elections held in May 1996. As the funeral cortege passed he recalled Netanyahu telling him: "Look, look at this. He's a hero now, but if he had not been assassinated, I would have beaten him in the elections, and then he would have gone into history as a failed politician."

Two years before, as President Clinton's special adviser on the Middle East, Indyk was elated at the signing of the first Oslo peace accord, sealed with a historic handshake between Rabin and the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasser Arafat. "At that moment it looked like peace was really possible," Indyk recalled. "Rabin and Arafat had reached an understanding about how to deal with each other."

For someone who 20 years earlier had decided to devote his life to the notion that the US could help Israel to achieve peace, it was a moment when the planets aligned. "Rabin had been elected prime minister, the Soviet Union had collapsed, Saddam Hussein had been thrown out of Kuwait, the US was the dominant actor in the whole region and all of the Arab states and Palestinians were sitting in direct negotiation with Israel." On top of all of that Clinton was popular with the Israeli public.

Indyk did not discount the huge opposition to the peace deal from the Israeli right but he believed that had Rabin not been assassinated in 1995 a lasting peace could have been achieved. "Rabin had Arafat's number," he said. "He understood him. He knew that he was manipulative but he knew how to deal with him," said Indyk, a straight talker who had come to Clinton's attention after founding a Washington think tank on Middle Eastern affairs. "They had grown to trust each other. He found a way to help Arafat with his political needs and Arafat had reciprocated. And I think that basis of trust would have been really important in making the final deal. Taking out Rabin was a devastating blow from which the peace process really hasn't recovered."

Martin Sean Indyk was born in London in 1951 to Mary and John, a surgeon. The family had Polish-Jewish heritage. They emigrated to Australia and Indyk grew up in Castlecrag, Sydney, graduating in international relations at Sydney University in 1972.

Indyk was studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem when an Arab coalition launched a surprise attack on Israel on the holiest day of the year in Judaism — Yom Kippur — on October 6, 1973. He described it as a "defining moment" in his life. Bursting with patriotic Zionism, he volunteered on a kibbutz in southern Israel. He came to realise how vulnerable Israel was from all sides and how dependent it was on US military aid, and he dropped thoughts of becoming an Israeli citizen. "I just decided that I would help Israel to achieve peace with its neighbours, and the Palestinians in particular, and that the only effective way of doing that was via the US, so I decided to go to



As ambassador and then assistant secretary of state in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Martin Indyk worked closely with Palestinian leaders including Yasser Arafat, and Israelis such as Ezer Weizman and Shimon Peres, below centre and right

Washington to help Israel and the Arabs make peace."

After finishing his PhD in international relations in Australia, he spent some time at Columbia University in New York and moved on to Washington as a researcher for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a powerful pro-Israel lobby group. Deciding that a different path was required, in 1985 he founded a think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

'I really believe Israelis do not want a future of never-ending war'

An observant Reform Jew who studied the Torah, Indyk came into the ambit of the Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, who took a liking to the Australian. After winning the presidency in 1992 Clinton appointed him as an adviser on the Middle East with a place on the US security council. "I like having you around Martin because you and I both have funny accents," Clinton told him. In the same year Indyk became a US citizen and was appointed US ambassador to Israel in 1995, the first Jewish person to hold the post.

Clinton recalled him to Washington in 1997 to become assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. During this time he built on the relationships he had made as ambassador to help negotiate the 1998 Wye River Memorandum between Netanyahu and Arafat, under which Israel would pledge to return 13 per cent of the West Bank to

the Palestinians eventually in return for actions to suppress terrorism.

Indyk was sent back to Israel for a second stint as ambassador in 2000, charged with smoothing the way towards the Camp David peace talks at which Clinton hoped to secure a deal before his presidency ended. It was an unhappier stint; he was investigated after it emerged that he was working through sensitive material on an unclassified computer during a flight to prepare for meetings with foreign delegates. Meanwhile, the talks between Arafat and the left-wing Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, who had defeated Netanyahu in elections in 1999, ended in 2001 without an agreement.

Indyk returned to Washington, where he became executive vice-president of the Brookings Institute think tank. He had dealt with detractors from both the left and the right of Israeli politics, but was praised as a fine diplomat who combined scholarship, williness, decency, honesty and candour. The latter was demonstrated in 2009 when he published

Innocent Abroad: An Intimate Account of American Peace Diplomacy in the Middle East, which provided often humorous insights into Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, but also explained how difficult it was for westerners to understand the motives and intentions of Middle Eastern leaders and how to recognise those rare moments when they were willing to act

in ways that could produce breakthroughs.

Indyk passionately advocated a two-state solution as the best way to ensure the long-term survival of Israel. In 2013 he still believed it was possible when President Obama appointed him US special envoy for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

He later admitted that Obama had made the job harder by "putting some daylight between the US and Israel and currying favour with the Arabs and the Muslims" in the belief that it would "enable him to actually help Israel ... but it didn't work because the Israelis turned against him".

At the same time he became increasingly convinced that Netanyahu, who had returned as prime minister in 2009, wanted to annex the West Bank despite making a speech in 2009 supporting a two-state solution. Indyk accused Netanyahu of approving settlements during the negotiations. He resigned after the last direct Israel-Palestinian talks broke down. "At the end of that nine-

month encounter, the two sides were further apart on all the core issues than when we started," he said.

Thereafter he was a vocal critic of the policy of allowing Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* in 2020 he said: "Hard as it is for me to admit it, a two-state solution to the Palestinian problem is not a vital American interest. It is a vital Israeli interest if the country wants to survive as a Jewish and democratic state ... [The US] should encourage it to hold open that possibility by avoiding West Bank settlement construction or annexation that would make territorial compromise with the Palestinians impossible."

Indyk is survived by his second wife, Gahl Hodges Burt, a former aide to Henry Kissinger who worked at the White House during the Reagan administration. He is also survived by a daughter, Sarah, and son, Jacob, from his marriage to Jill Collier, which ended in divorce.

He continued to comment vociferously, latterly as a fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations. In recent years he praised President Biden for encouraging Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to co-operate in the revitalisation of the more moderate Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority.

Ailing with cancer, he reflected on the October 7 attacks by Hamas and Israel's retribution in Gaza, accusing Netanyahu of dragging out the war and hostage negotiations for political purposes. "The US is pressuring Israel in ways it hasn't done before and demonstrators are coming out on to the streets against the government," he said. "Tens of thousands are calling for Netanyahu's overthrow and that has the potential to become widespread civil disobedience."

In a post on Twitter/X on May 22, after a ceasefire deal was rejected, he urged Israelis to "wake up", because the country's government "is leading you into greater isolation and ruin".

Faced with the possibility of Donald Trump returning as president with an administration that would be more supportive of Israel's current policy, Indyk urged Biden to make a televised address: "The president should speak from the Oval Office to Israelis, Palestinians and Americans to explain his vision and lay it out in a way that is non-threatening and provides hope for all sides that there is a way forward to a two-state solution and try to tackle the issues that Israelis most fear to a Palestinian state: demilitarisation, security arrangements, testing periods that the UN and the international community can be involved with. The timing would be right for that if we can get a ceasefire."

He never gave up on peace: "I really believe in the end that Israelis do not want a future of never-ending war and occupation for their children and grandchildren."

Martin Indyk, diplomat, was born on July 1, 1951. He died of oesophageal cancer on July 25, 2024, aged 73



Keith Albarn

Artist, architect and father of the Blur frontman Damon who created sensory space-age playgrounds in urban areas

A sleepy seaside town on the Ayrshire coast was not the most obvious location for a psychedelic “fun palace”. And indeed, since it was built in 1970, several small children who passed through The Fifth Dimension in Girvan grew up to wonder whether they had dreamt the entire thing. Writing for the Scottish newspaper The National in 2021, Pat Kane dimly recalled trying to compute “why an entire space station seemed to have been erected in Girvan”.

Among its modular, multicoloured delights was a solid floor that suddenly turned to sponge, a forest of Perspex strips, giant foam columns between which visitors had to squeeze themselves, sci-fi noises and flashing lights. Within its 17 domed chambers was also an alien creature closely resembling a Dalek, which so alarmed another impressionable young visitor that he left terrified that it would follow him back to Newton Stewart, 29 miles away.

By the time The Fifth Dimension had opened, its creator, Keith Albarn, had already spent the best part of the preceding decade exploring suitable outlets for his beliefs concerning human beings and the spaces they inhabit. Although he would eventually come to describe himself as an “environmental artist”, he trained as an architect, believing initially that this was the best outlet for his increasingly iconoclastic ideas. Speaking to The Sunday Times in 1967, he complained that “architectural design in Britain is just too rational. It’s concerned with making every square inch function.”

Both Albarn’s architectural bent and his nonconformist tendencies appeared to be something of a family trait. His parents, Edward and Lucy, had respectively studied architecture and art at Leicester College of Arts and Technology. As a conscientious objector, Edward refused to serve in the Second World War, opting instead to join a farming community of like-minded objectors in rural Lincolnshire, which also included Roy Broadbent, the father of the Oscar-winning actor Jim Broadbent.

In common with his father, he would marry an artist, Hazel (née Dring),



Albarn in 1965 and, above, with his son Damon, daughter Jessica and wife Hazel. His fascination with patterns rubbed off on his children

whom he met while studying at Nottingham School of Art. The newlyweds moved to London and Albarn went on to study sculpture at Hammersmith School of Art. There he found a peer group of creatives who would play a significant part in shaping the artistic direction of the decade: the architects Cedric Price, Richard Rogers and the Archigram founder Peter Cook.

Together with Hazel and Ian Knight, an “events designer”, Albarn establishing Keith Albarn and Partners Ltd on Kingly Street, adjacent to Carnaby Street. Visitors described a place that was less like an office and more like a “happenings factory”. In 1967 a reporter from the North-Western Evening Mail alluded to the “heavy aroma of incense which hangs everywhere” and wrote that the “darkness is broken by vivid beams of coloured light” and “electronic sounds burr”.

By then Albarn was thoroughly embedded in the London art scene. In 1966 he helped to organise Yoko Ono’s first exhibition at the Indica Gallery, *Unfinished Paintings and Objects*, where Ono would meet John Lennon for the first time. In 1967 he hosted the first exhibition of work by the young Malcolm McLaren. Albarn’s Fun Palace project was developed from an initial idea by the theatre director Joan Littlewood and Cedric Price that derelict urban sites could and ought to be transformed

into state-of-the-art “play” spaces to which people would come to experience sensory stimulation.

It was for these that Albarn invented Ekistikit, a system of modular fibreglass units that allowed him to realise his Fun Palaces. With the Canterbury psych-rockers Soft Machine, whom he briefly managed, he took a lorry full of Ekistikit units to the Côte d’Azur, where the band was due to play a residency of shows on the beach. Keen to ensure his charges made as much of an impression as possible, Albarn went out on to the beach the night before and doused the bay in petrol so that when the band came on stage, he lit it and the expanse behind them was ablaze.

Albarn’s ethos at this time was perhaps best summed up by a short 1968 Pathé feature about his Fun Palace at the Dreamland Funfair in Margate, in which the narrator says: “Albarn hopes

LUCY YOUNG/REX FEATURES; R. MCPHEDRAN/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



that the people who wander through his palace will be encouraged to master their environment, instead of being mastered by it.” But although Albarn’s contributions to the BBC’s *Tomorrow’s World* and *Late Night Line-Up* shows conferred a measure of fame upon him, the new decade heralded a partial retreat from Soho. It was perhaps a measure of Ekistikit’s success that what was once the basis of a series of mind-expanding installations came to be used to create children’s playgrounds. Indeed, some of the earliest memories of Albarn’s children — Damon, the Blur and Gorillaz frontman, and Jessica, an artist — involve playing in the front garden of their Leytonstone home with decommissioned pieces of Ekistikit, among them an 18ft-long bright blue pill referred to by their neighbours as “the spaceship”.

As principal lecturer in fine art at

what was then North East London Polytechnic Albarn taught Ian Dury and Adam Ant. And by relocating his family to Colchester, where he was appointed head of Colchester Institute School of Art, Design and Media, Albarn inadvertently expedited the childhood friendship between his son and Graham Coxon that would eventually lead them to form Blur.

While admissions to the institute quadrupled under his tutelage, he became increasingly disillusioned with the change he perceived in the ambitions of students throughout the 1980s. By the time Albarn handed in his notice in 1997, enabling him and Hazel to move to Devon, his reputation as a teacher preceded him. He spent a year in Mauritius, where he was asked to set up a school of design.

For Thames and Hudson, he co-wrote several books including *The Language of Pattern* (1974) and *Diagram — the Instrument of Thought* (1977). To many people this might have seemed like deeply abstract thematic terrain, but increasingly Albarn made it his mission to create work that illustrated the centrality of pattern to the world around us. “The whole of Nature,” he wrote, “appears to be ‘in-formed’ by pattern, the survival of most fauna and flora depends on pattern recognition. Our thought is built of pattern and our artefacts are adorned with pattern.”

Albarn’s “obsession” with pattern would define his art in the latter decades of his life, yielding an array of works that celebrated the iridescent, interdependent commonality between mathematics and the natural world. In time, it was a fascination that percolated into the work of his children, particularly Jessica’s art.

Asked by the European Space Agency to create a piece of music to put on the Beagle 2 spacecraft’s 2003 mission to Mars, Damon created an instrumental inspired by number sequences in one of his father’s artworks.

Keith Albarn, artist, architect and teacher, was born on January 28, 1939. He died of cancer on July 23, 2024, aged 85

Professor Edward Derbyshire

Leading international geoscientist, expert on the changing landscape of China and table tennis enthusiast nicknamed All Balls

Edward Derbyshire was among a delegation of scientists visiting Beijing in 1991 to discuss geohazards such as landslides and flooding. To his surprise, he was summoned to a limousine and whisked away to meet Deng Xiaoping, who had stepped down as the country’s leader in 1989 but still exerted significant influence. “They drove us through emptied streets to the Great Hall of the People,” a former colleague recalled. “There we were received by the former Chinese leader and had informal chats with him.”

Derbyshire had first visited China in 1977, a year after Chairman Mao’s death, as part of a Royal Society delegation looking at the country’s changing landscape. A year later he welcomed four Chinese geological scientists to Keele University, the first such group to visit this country since the 1949 revolution. It marked the beginning of a period of co-operation that opened up our understanding of China’s “loess landscapes”, the deposits of sediment that cover large areas of the country’s northwest.

Derbyshire’s work in soil mechanics took him from Kielder Water in Northumberland and the gas platforms of the North Sea to the Yellow River of China and the precipitous valleys of the Karakoram mountains, part of the complex

that includes the Himalayas. It had a twofold purpose: international collaboration with scientists from across a broad range of disciplines; and finding solutions for those whose health was at risk from atmospheric dust.

This research, which appeared in more than 200 scientific papers, took him into the field of quaternary studies, looking at the geologic period from 2.58 million years ago to the present day. His work on the Tibetan Plateau, an area often referred to as the Third Pole, provided an important contribution to geoscience in understanding the extent of palaeo-glacial ice cover over Tibet.

Derbyshire saw research opportunities everywhere. University vacations, he said, were “generally too long for my taste” and his family told how summer camping holidays in Europe were transformed into on-site seminars on the glacial periods of the Alps. A holiday property he acquired on the southern coast of Gran Canaria was not for poolside relaxation but a base for scientific co-operation with researchers from Las Palmas.

Edward Derbyshire was born in Liverpool in 1932, the younger of two children of Katie (née Wall), a domestic worker, and her husband, Edward, a dock labourer. He was educated at the



Derbyshire on a field trip in China, 1980

local Catholic primary school and at age six spent several months in hospital during a diphtheria outbreak. During the war Edward, his sister Margaret and their mother were evacuated to north Wales. Afterwards they moved to Stone in Staffordshire, while his father emi-

grated to the US to find work as an engineer. The intention was for the rest of the family to follow, though the marriage did not survive their separation.

He was educated at Alleyne’s Grammar School and read geography at the newly opened University College of North Staffordshire (UCNS, now Keele University), where he founded the men’s and women’s table tennis teams, earning himself the nickname All Balls.

For his National Service he was posted to the Educational Corps at Beaconsfield, teaching English and geography to his fellow soldiers. Promoted to sergeant, he spent 18 months at what became Nato headquarters at Fontainebleau, “handily placed for Paris”. On demobilisation in 1956 he married Maryon Lloyd, who had also studied geography at UCNS. She survives him with their sons Edmund, Edward and Dominic.

Derbyshire began his postgraduate studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, while Maryon worked at the Arctic Institute of North America. He then trained as a weather forecaster and the couple spent a year at a meteorological station near Knob Lake “in deepest Labrador”, where they recorded temperatures as low as minus 44C.

He returned to UCNS but by the early 1960s he had become the first full-time

geography lecturer in Monash University, Melbourne, where he completed his PhD. Back at what was now Keele University, he later became professor of geomorphology, but left in 1985 to become professor of geography and head of department at the University of Leicester. After taking early retirement in 1990 he became visiting professor at Royal Holloway, University of London, a position that gave him “the freedom to run my own life; to teach if I wished or take on full-time research”.

In his second retirement, Derbyshire continued to work on medical geology, with an emphasis on airborne natural mineral particles. He and Maryon had long since moved to a colourful, four-storey townhouse in Brighton, which they filled with a lifetime’s memorabilia. They later lived in Hove and Bogor Regis before spending the past 12 years in Cheltenham.

Derbyshire’s 80th birthday in 2012 was marked by Ed@80, an international conference in the Serbian city of Novi Sad. The event included field trips to the loess deposits of northern Serbia.

Professor Edward Derbyshire, geoscientist, was born on August 18, 1932. He died of complications from Alzheimer’s disease on July 9, 2024, aged 91

Lives remembered

Lord Fellowes



Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles writes: As private secretary to the Foreign Office's permanent under-secretary, I had quite a bit to do

with Robert Fellowes (obituary, July 31). My best memory of him involved an incident during the Queen's epic visit to the United States in 1991.

Things got off to an awkward start when, during the welcoming ceremony on the White House lawn, President George HW Bush (who was tall) forgot to pull out a "riser" hidden under the lectern for the Queen to stand on as she replied to the president. So what the world saw, and the media joyfully reported, was "the Talking Hat!"

The next day the Queen had to address a joint session of Congress. In the car to Capitol Hill, she was uncharacteristically anxious, fretting about how her speech would be received. Robert tentatively ventured "Ma'am, why don't you start with a joke, to break the ice". As she rose to speak, she began, in a slow deadpan fashion, but in cut-glass tones: "I do hope you can all see me today." The chamber erupted, in a prolonged standing ovation.

Stephen Green writes: Lord Fellowes was my chairman for part of the time that I was curator of the MCC's library, museum and archives at Lord's.

In my younger days I used to take part in a sponsored walk from Trafalgar Square to Canterbury Cathedral in aid of the work undertaken by St Martin-in-the-Fields for the homeless. Robert Fellowes was one of my most generous sponsors. I used to enjoy filling in the sponsor-

ship form and giving his address as Buckingham Palace, SW1.

As was evidenced in his support for prison reforms he had great sympathy for the underdog.

John Anderson



Humphrey Walters writes: In 1987 I approached David English, editor of the Daily Mail to give me some free publicity

for a charity event I was running for the Royal Marsden hospital. In his charming way he agreed provided I did something for him. The "something" was to run the London Marathon in 1989 to raise money to build a swimming pool for a boys' club in Rotherhithe, near the newspaper's print works.

I had four months to get fit enough to complete 26 miles. Everyone I spoke to said it couldn't be done, would damage my knees, hips and ankles and I was mad. All except John Anderson (obituary, July 29), who immediately told me he would give me a regime to get me through and I would be able to complete the event. I was three stone over weight and he explained that burst athletes — 100m runners — have fast-twitch muscle. Long-distance runners have slow-twitch muscle, but he said: "Unfortunately you have no twitch muscle, so we will work on your muscle make-up and your weight will fall off you."

I completed the marathon in 4 hours 15 minutes. Since then I have run 48 marathons and 150 half-marathons and am 82 years old. I attribute my good health and motivation to this wonderful man.

Frederick Crews



Robert Rhodes KC writes: Perhaps the most brilliant essay in Professor Frederick Crews's (obituary, August 7) *The*

Pooh Perplex was his spoof Marxist essay on Winnie-the-Pooh in which he said that England had "a bourgeois aristocracy, a bourgeois bourgeoisie, and a bourgeois proletariat".

Some might think that observation is as true today as when it was written 60 years ago.

Edna O'Brien



Mary Kenny writes: You allude in your obituary to Edna O'Brien (July 29) to copies of her first novel, *The Country Girls*,

being "ceremoniously burnt" because it offended Irish morals. No evidence of the event has been forthcoming.

In November 2015 the late Father Tom Stack, a priest I knew, who was a man of literature, wrote to The Irish Times, seeking any witness who had information about this alleged book-burning. Father Stack travelled to Co Clare and investigated every possible source, but no evidence was produced, and no witness (even under cover of anonymity) came forward.

O'Brien, whom I knew, was hurt by the rebuffs she initially received from her community, but she admitted later, at interview, that "maybe it was just a

very small fire". Surely if a book-burning was "ceremonious", someone would have seen it?

Dennis Trevelyan



Michael Oatley CMG, OBE writes: In 1972 when Northern Ireland descended into chaos and the British government responded by imposing direct rule, Dennis Trevelyan (obituary, August 12), at that time an under-secretary in the Home Office, was one of the senior officials who accompanied Willie Whitelaw, the secretary of state, to Belfast to set up shop in Stormont and rule the province. For most of them Northern Ireland was as foreign, and its politics as little understood, as a holiday destination might have been, and their attempts to grasp control of the situation reflected this. One afternoon relaxing briefly in the Culloden Hotel, where they were billeted, Dennis amused himself by designing a coat of arms for the Whitelaw team. I sadly can only remember one of the four quarters. This was a row of three hooks drawn somewhat as one might have been found in a medieval torture chamber. Their significance in Dennis's view was that whenever the secretary of state was encouraged to make a statement of policy it was afterwards found to have been a mistake. But we were obliged to live with it. Hooked.

@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can send your contribution by post to Times Obituaries, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, or by email to tributes@thetimes.co.uk

Births, Marriages and Deaths

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit: newsukadvertising.co.uk for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email BMDs@thetimes.co.uk

AND LET us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

EVANS on 4th August 2024 to Bryony (née Earnshaw) and Ieuan, a daughter, Emmeline Alys.

READING

on 29th June 2024 to Robyn Cunningham and Nicholas Reading, a son, Aubyn Jack. Grandson to Andrew, Julia, Chris and Kathryn, who is deeply missed.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR. H. J. G. CRICHTON AND MISS Z. C. TWISTON-DAVIES The engagement is announced between Hal, son of Desmond and Emma Crichton of Pitton, Northamptonshire, and Zoe, daughter of Audley and Caroline Twiston-Davies of Killeck, Herefordshire.

Deaths

AMBLER Timothy Felix John died peacefully on 3rd August 2024, aged 87, at home, after a long illness. Private family funeral. Memorial service on Saturday 21st September. For details contact stuttton@northorfolkfuneralservices.co.uk or 01328 710 301. No flowers please. Donations instead to Glaven Caring.

BIGLAND Mallory Lena "Puff" (née Barker), died peacefully at home on 3rd August. Much-loved wife of Guy and devoted mother of Hal. Service to celebrate her life at St Mary's Church, Streatham, on Tuesday 20th August at 2pm. Donations if wished to Charlie Waller Trust or Sue Ryder.

CAMPBELL Colin died on 31st July 2024, aged 74. Beloved brother of Tina and the late Alastair. Much-treasured uncle and great uncle.

CATOR Sara Elizabeth (née Keeling), 1954-2024, died peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family. Private funeral service at Woodbastwick Church and thanksgiving service for Sara at Norwich Cathedral at 2pm on Friday 20th September. Donations to Big C Cancer Charity.

MCBAIN Maureen Anne Copinger (née Mahoney) on 26th July 2024, aged 94, died at home after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late George McBain OBE, devoted mother to Chantal, Neville and Niall and adored grandmother to ten grandchildren and two great-grand children. Private family funeral c/o Cowley & Son, Cirencester, 01285 653298.

MORSE Brita Mary (née Edholm) died peacefully on 8th August 2024, aged 84. Beloved mother of Jessica, Jasper and Piers Edwards. Devoted grandmother to Jordana, Daisy and Isadora.

Court Circular



St James's Palace 12th August, 2024 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.

MOUNTEVANS Johanna (née Keyzer), "Yogi", beloved wife of the late Broke, Lord Mountevans, died surrounded by love on 26th July 2024. Cherished sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend to many. Funeral Thursday 29th August at 12.30pm, All Saints' Church, Milford on Sea, SO41 05Q. Inquiries to Tapper, Milford on Sea, 01590 644664.

ORR-EWING Sir Alistair Simon died on 6th August. Hugely loved by his wife, Victoria, and their children, Archie, Jamie and Georgina, and proud grandfather of ten. Memorial service at St Mary's Church, Shipton-under-Wychwood, OX7 6BP, on 25th September at 2pm.

PRANDLE Margaret Laurie (née Kepp) 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.

TIMOTHY Bridgit (née Crichton) died on 5th August 2024, aged 94. Peacefully at home. 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 August 28th at 12.45pm. Private ceremony in Beltra, Co Sligo, at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations to Toybee Hall, London.

WARDLE Sarah Jane (née Ingham) died on 7th August 2024, aged 80, peacefully in Harrogate District Hospital. Wife of Johnny, mother of Sarah and James. Private family funeral. Service of thanksgiving in Ripon in early October.

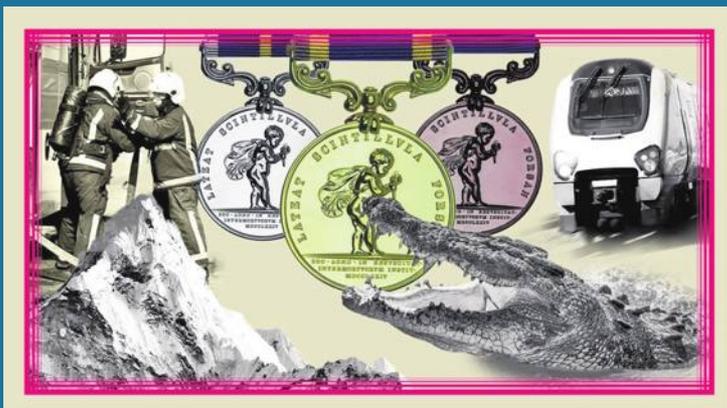
LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7782 7553

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



Bravery award



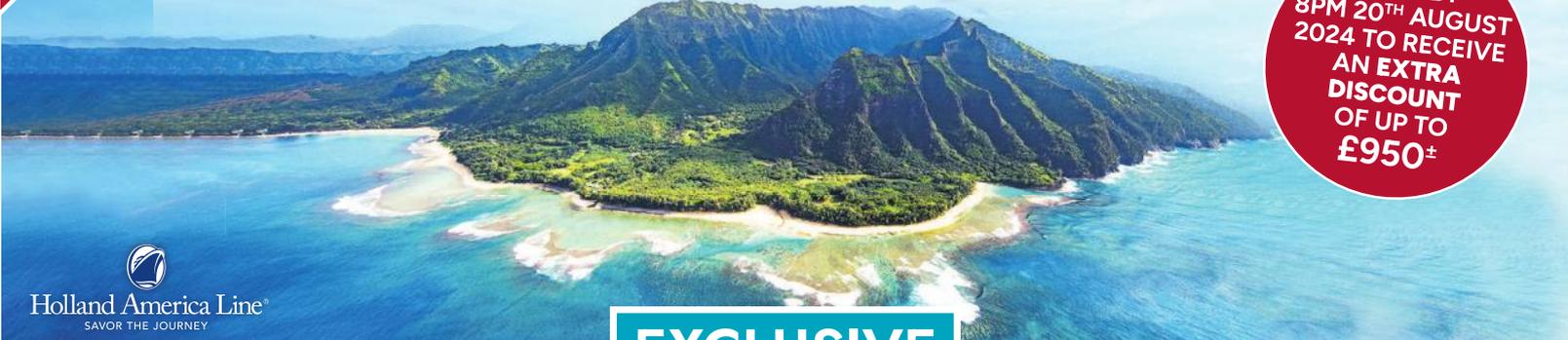
We are inviting you, the readers of The Times, to select the winner of the Times / Royal Humane Society award for civilian and police bravery

Visit thetimes.com, search for "Ten extraordinary acts of courage" and register your vote.

PRICES ARE INCREASING

THE BESTSELLING 2026 SOUTH PACIFIC, HAWAII & AUSTRALIA SAVINGS PROMOTION

BOOK BY
8PM 20TH AUGUST
2024 TO RECEIVE
AN EXTRA
DISCOUNT
OF UP TO
£950±



Holland America Line
SAVOR THE JOURNEY

EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS OF UP TO £5,600±

FREE 4★ HOTEL STAYS IN SYDNEY & SEATTLE±

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS*, DRINKS, GRATUITIES & WI-FI**

EXCLUSIVE FREE STATEROOM UPGRADE*

EXCLUSIVE FREE ON BOARD SPEND OF UP TO \$400

42 NIGHTS DEPARTING 11TH MARCH 2026

MARCH 2026

- Wed 11 **Fly overnight from London to Sydney, Australia**
- Thu 12 **Sydney, Australia**
Upon arrival, transfer to a hotel for your **FREE** three night 4★ hotel[†] stay
- Fri 13 - Sat 14 **Sydney, Australia**
Spend the days exploring at your leisure
- Sun 15 **Sydney, Australia**
Transfer to the port and embark the 5★ *Noordam* for your 36 night voyage of the South Pacific
- Wed 18 **Noumea, New Caledonia**
- Thu 19 **Easo, Lifou, New Caledonia**
- Fri 20 **Port Vila, Vanuatu**
Enter the magical and mysterious world of ancient Melanesia at Ekasup Cultural Village; swim in rock pools within the cascading waterfalls of a rainforest jungle; and visit Mele Gardens – showcasing Vanuatu's magnificent flora
- Sun 22 **Suva, Viti Levu, Fiji**
- Mon 23 **Lautoka, Fiji**
- Tue 24 **Dravuni Island, Fiji**
- Thu 26 **Vava'u, Tonga**
- Fri 27 **Nuku Alofa, Tonga**
Cross the International Date Line

- Sun 29 **Rarotonga, Cook Islands**
Snorkel with technicolour fish on the reef, visit the lagoon's uninhabited islands or admire the marine life from a glass-bottomed boat
- Tue 31 **Raiatea, Society Islands, French Polynesia**
- APRIL 2026
- Wed 1 **Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia** (depart early am on 2nd)
- Thu 2 **Bahia d Opunoha, Moorea, French Polynesia**
- Fri 3 **Fakarava, Tuamotu, French Polynesia**
- Thu 9 **Kona, Hawaii, USA**
- Fri 10 **Kahului, Hawaii, USA**
- Sat 11 - Sun 12 **Honolulu, Hawaii, USA** (overnight)
Learn to surf on Waikiki Beach, feast on local cuisine at a sunset luau and discover the elegant stories and histories told through hula dancing
- Mon 13 **Nawiliwili, Kauai, Hawaii, USA**
- Sun 19 **Seattle, Washington, USA**
Disembark and transfer to your **FREE 4★** hotel[†] for your two night stay
- Mon 20 **Seattle, Washington, USA**
Spend today exploring at your leisure
- Tue 21 **Seattle, Washington, USA**
Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London
- Wed 22 **Arrive in London**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Please note, a day may be lost/gained when crossing the International Date Line

YOUR VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Brilliant blue lagoons, proud jagged peaks, coconut groves and a hint of gardenia in the air. Everything you've ever imagined about this island is true. An enchanting place, to say the least, it's little wonder Tahiti is a muse to so many. Herman Melville and Paul Gauguin certainly found some inspiration here. And Papeete, the island's very cosmopolitan city, has its fair share. So make sure you visit Papeete's vibrant waterfront and colourful market.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA

The West Coast's 'Emerald City' boasts green parks, delicious coffee, and colourful neighbourhoods filled with music, artists, and farmers' markets. Whether you're admiring the city skyline from the Space Needle or exploring the wilderness of Mount Rainier, Washington State's tallest mountain, Seattle is the perfect place to mix urban life with the natural world.



WHAT'S INCLUDED
IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SAVINGS PROMOTION

- **FREE THREE NIGHT** pre-cruise 4★ hotel stay in Sydney, Australia[†]
- **36 NIGHT** full board voyage on board the 5★ *Noordam* including:
 - **EXCLUSIVE FREE** on board spend of up to \$400 for Ocean View Staterooms and above
 - **BOOK** a Veranda Stateroom or above & receive an **UPGRADE** to the 'Have It All Plus Package'^{††} including:
 - Elite Drinks Package including wine, beer, cocktails, specialty coffee and soda**
 - **FREE** shore excursion credit worth up to \$600 per couple*
 - **THREE** nights of dining in a Speciality Dining restaurant**
 - Wi-Fi and crew gratuities**
- **FREE TWO NIGHT** post-cruise 4★ hotel stay[†] in Seattle, Washington, USA
- Return flights from London (regional and premium class flights may be available on request*) and overseas transfers

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES®

Earn up to **68,998** Cruise Miles®, worth up to **£689**, when booking this incredible voyage with Reader Offers Ltd^{††}



YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PRICES

STATEROOM/SUITE	GRADE	FULL PRICE (PP)	NOW PRICE (PP)
Interior	N	£6,699	£5,449
Interior	I	£7,149	£6,299
EXCLUSIVE FREE upgrade to an Ocean View (HH)^{††}			
Ocean View	F	£7,299	£6,599
BOOK a Verandah Stateroom or above & UPGRADE to the Have It All Plus Package^{††}			
Verandah	VH	£12,499	£11,299
Signature Suite	SS	£17,799	£16,199
Pinnacle Suite	PS	£37,299	£34,499

Solo prices are available from only **£8,599**

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Today Showery rain across northern and western areas. Dry and sunny further southeast. Max 28C (82F), min 6C (43F)

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



What has happened to the wasps this summer? This is the time of year when hordes of buzzing

and whining wasps descend on picnics hunting down jam sandwiches and anything else sweet and sugary, making a nuisance of themselves. Swatting them only drives them into an even greater frenzy. And even worse, wasps can become punch drunk as they feed on fermenting fruit, making them even more brazen as they buzz around like airborne hooligans, stinging for no good reason.

The marked absence of wasps can be put down — at least in part — to the weather. A wet winter with waterlogged ground and floods led to poor survival of the queen wasps. That was followed by a very wet spring over most of the UK that left the ground even more waterlogged in many places and when the queens emerged they struggled to establish a nest in the rain. They also needed to lay eggs and hunt prey, all of which was no small task in the rain, wind and the occasional storm. Many of the nests that were created were then vulnerable to flooding.

The rains also spelt big trouble for most other insects that wasps need to feed on, and in summer wasps need a particularly high protein diet to feed the young in their nests. The decline in flying insect numbers may be more than just a result of poor weather, however. Intensive farming has also been blamed, and there has been a marked decline in insect numbers around the globe.

Even though wasps are often seen as vicious pests, they actually perform valuable services in the environment. They are accidental pollinators of flowers, and are natural pest controllers that attack insects such as aphids and caterpillars that feed on plants. In fact, wasps are valuable allies of gardeners and in the UK are reckoned to capture about 14 million kg of insects such as caterpillars and greenfly each summer. They are also important decomposers thanks to their scavenging on waste.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder **previous day **no data not available

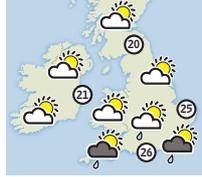
	Temp C	Rain mm	Sun hr*
midday yesterday			
Aberdeen	16	R	9.6
Aberporth	18	C	0.0
Anglesey	18	D	0.0
Aviemore	20	R	6.2
Barnstaple	18	D	0.2
Belfast	20	S	0.0
Belfast	18	S	0.2
Birmingham	28	R	0.0
Bournemouth	25	PC	0.0
Bridlington	20	S	0.2
Bristol	22	B	0.0
Camborne	17	C	0.0
Cardiff	20	C	0.2
Edinburgh	20	C	1.8
Eskdalemuir	18	R	5.4
Glasgow	19	C	3.6
Hereford	25	M	0.0
Herstmonceux	27	S	0.0
Ipswich	27	S	0.0
Isle of Man	18	PC	1.8
Isle of Wight	24	S	0.0
Jersey	18	R	0.0
Keswick	19	R	2.8
Kinloss	19	R	0.8
Leeds	22	PC	0.2
Lerwick	14	C	0.8
Leuchars	17	C	5.0
Lincoln	27	PC	0.8
Liverpool	21	C	0.2
London	20	R	0.0
Lyneham	24	PC	2.2
Manchester	23	C	0.4
Margate	26	S	0.0
Milford Haven	19	PC	0.0
Newcastle	23	C	0.0
Nottingham	24	PC	1.4
Orkney	14	C	1.4
Oxford	26	R	0.0
Plymouth	21	C	0.0
Portland	20	PC	0.0
Scilly, St Mary's	20	S	0.2
Shoreham	31	S	0.0
Shrewsbury	24	C	0.4
Snowdonia	17	C	0.0
Southend	25	S	0.0
South Uist	16	R	10.2
Stornoway	16	C	3.8
Tiree	17	B	11.6
Whitehaven	19	C	1.4
Wick	14	R	1.2
Yeovilton	24	R	0.0

Five days ahead

Feeling fresher with spells of unsettled weather, particularly in northwestern areas

Tomorrow

A mostly dry day with long spells of sunshine. The chance of a few isolated showers across southern Britain during the morning.
Max 27C, min 9C



Thursday

A band of rain will spread in from the northwest, heavy at times across northern areas of Ireland and northwest Scotland. Drier across southeastern areas with sunny spells.
Max 26C, min 7C



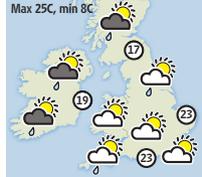
Friday

Showers across southeast England will clear eastwards during the morning. Thick cloud and showery rain will spread into northwestern areas in the afternoon. Dry and sunny elsewhere.
Max 26C, min 8C



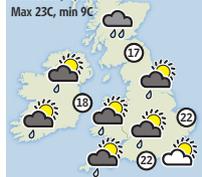
Saturday

A band of showery rain will spread in from the west, heaviest across Ireland and western Scotland. Largely dry in southeastern areas with some long spells of sunshine.
Max 25C, min 8C



Sunday

An unsettled day across northwestern areas with thick cloud and outbreaks of rain and showers, heaviest during the afternoon. Drier further southeast with sunny spells.
Max 23C, min 9C



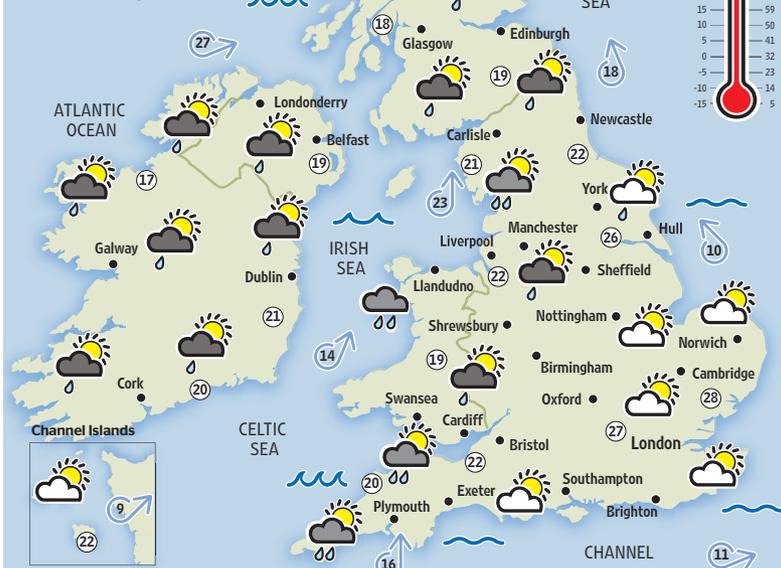
Wind speed
34 (mph)

Sea state
Calm
Slight
Moderate
Rough

Temperature
28 (degrees C)

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Monday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk



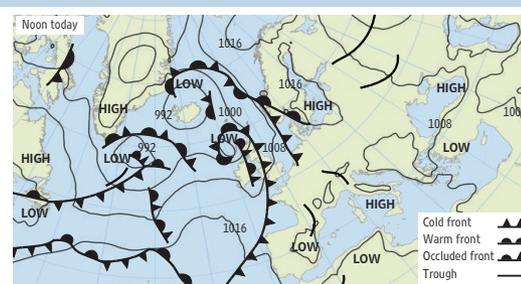
General situation: A band of showery rain will spread in from the west, heaviest across western Britain. Largely dry in southeastern areas with long spells of warm or hot sunshine. Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: A cloudy morning with scattered light showers spreading eastwards. Dry during the afternoon with sunny spells. Light to moderate westerly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 6C (43F). Wales, W Mids, SW Eng, Channel Is: A dry and sunny morning further east

with a band of showery rain spreading in from the west. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 25C (77F), minimum 10C (50F). NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Edinburgh and Dundee, Argyll, Glasgow, N Isles, Cen Highland: Outbreaks of rain and showers will spread in from the west, heaviest in western areas. Drier later with sunny intervals. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 6C (43F).

SW Scotland, Borders, Lake District, NE Eng, IoM, NW Eng, Cen N Eng, E Eng: A mostly dry morning with sunny spells. Thick cloud and showery rain will spread eastwards during the afternoon. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 25C (77F), minimum 8C (46F). E Mids, E Anglia, London, Cen S Eng, SE Eng: A dry day with long periods of warm or hot sunshine. Light southwesterly winds. Maximum 28C (82F), minimum 14C (58F).

Tides
Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today	Ht	Ht
Aberdeen	07:45 3.4	20:28 3.3
Avonmouth	-- --	13:08 10.1
Belfast	05:26 3.0	18:10 2.9
Cardiff	-- --	12:53 9.4
Devonport	11:49 4.3	-- --
Dover	04:44 5.4	17:18 5.4
Dublin	05:57 3.3	18:31 3.2
Falmouth	11:27 4.1	23:55 4.1
Greenock	06:22 3.0	19:10 2.8
Harwich	06:01 2.4	18:20 3.3
Hayhead	04:21 4.5	17:04 4.3
Hull	-- --	12:22 6.0
Leith	09:01 4.4	21:38 4.3
Liverpool	04:56 7.4	17:37 7.2
London Bridge	07:43 5.8	20:06 5.8
Lowestoft	03:49 2.1	16:02 2.2
Milford Haven	-- --	12:23 5.2
Morecambe	05:09 7.3	17:50 7.0
Newhaven	04:55 5.2	17:24 5.0
Newquay	11:20 5.3	23:48 5.2
Oban	11:52 2.9	23:56 2.9
Penzance	10:50 4.3	23:15 4.2
Portsmouth	05:33 3.8	18:05 3.9
Shoreham	04:55 4.9	17:26 4.9
Southampton	04:32 3.7	16:59 3.8
Swansea	-- --	12:23 7.2
Tees	10:06 4.5	22:48 4.3
Weymouth	-- --	12:27 1.4



Synoptic situation
An area of low pressure west of Scotland will push a series of fronts eastwards across the British Isles today. This will bring a band of thicker cloud and showery rain to northern and western areas, heaviest across western Britain. A ridge of high pressure over southeastern Britain will keep conditions more settled with long periods of sunshine.

Highs and lows
24hrs to 5pm yesterday
Warmest: Cambridge, 34.8C
Coldest: Cairnorn, 6.6C
Wettest: Castlederg, Co Tyrone, 19.2mm
Sunniest: Shoeburyness, Essex, 14.0hrs*

Hours of darkness
Aberdeen 21:24-05:04
Belfast 21:29-05:29
Birmingham 21:06-05:27
Cardiff 21:08-05:27
Exeter 21:07-05:31
Glasgow 21:27-05:17
Liverpool 21:14-05:21
London 20:56-05:15
Manchester 21:11-05:18
Newcastle 21:13-05:10
Norwich 20:54-05:06
Penzance 21:14-05:41
Sheffield 21:07-05:15

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	31	PC	Madeira	26	PC
Amsterdam	29	S	Madrid	34	S
Athens	31	B	Málaga	29	PC
Auckland	15	B	Malherca	32	PC
Bahrain	41	S	Malta	34	S
Bangkok	33	PC	Melbourne	18	PC
Barbados	30	SH	Mexico City	23	B
Barcelona	29	PC	Miami	33	PC
Beijing	29	S	Milan	33	S
Beirut	32	PC	Mombasa	29	PC
Belgrade	35	S	Montreal	23	PC
Berlin	26	S	Moscow	18	B
Bermuda	31	PC	Mumbai	29	PC
Bordeaux	25	C	Munich	29	S
Brussels	31	S	Nairobi	21	B
Bucharest	33	S	Naples	35	S
Budapest	32	S	New Orleans	34	S
Buenos Aires	14	PC	New York	25	B
Cairo	34	S	Nice	32	PC
Calcutta	34	PC	Nicosia	36	PC
Canberra	16	B	Oslo	19	S
Cape Town	17	PC	Paris	35	PC
Chicago	25	PC	Perth	18	SH
Copenhagen	20	B	Prague	26	S
Corfu	36	S	Reykjavik	15	PC
Delhi	28	M	Riga	18	PC
Dubai	43	S	Rio de Janeiro	22	PC
Dublin	19	PC	Riyadh	43	S
Faro	25	S	Rome	33	S
Florence	29	S	San Francisco	17	B
Frankfurt	31	S	Santiago	18	S
Geneva	30	PC	São Paulo	17	S
Gibraltar	27	S	Seoul	32	PC
Helsinki	14	R	Seychelles	29	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	30	SH
Honolulu	31	B	St Petersburg	17	B
Istanbul	32	PC	Stockholm	18	B
Jerusalem	33	PC	Sydney	16	R
Johannesburg	18	S	Tel Aviv	32	PC
Kuala Lumpur	31	PC	Tenerife	28	S
Kyiv	18	PC	Tokyo	33	PC
Lanzarote	28	S	Vancouver	21	PC
Las Palmas	27	PC	Venice	32	S
Lima	15	DU	Vienna	32	S
Lisbon	28	PC	Warsaw	23	S
Los Angeles	25	PC	Washington	27	PC
Luxor	42	S	Zurich	31	PC

TIMES Travel Offers

Flights not included - contact us for a quote*

Times readers save £100 with the code **TIMES100***

Highlights of Turkey

Departures | August 2024 to October 2025

Discover a diverse nation, rich in history and culture

Turkey played a vital role in the development of the Western world; over the centuries, it has provided a geographical and cultural bridge between Asia and Europe, with ruins and monuments attesting to the rise and fall of many great empires. Starting in Istanbul, we travel through the country, visiting ancient cities and Unesco World Heritage sites including Ephesus, Hierapolis and Aspendos, exploring the natural wonders at Pamukkale and Cappadocia and taking time to relax on the Aegean coast. Add to that the memorials of Gallipoli and you can be sure of a fascinating journey that showcases the best of this country.

Heritage sites including Ephesus, Hierapolis and Aspendos, exploring the natural wonders at Pamukkale and Cappadocia and taking time to relax on the Aegean coast. Add to that the memorials of Gallipoli and you can be sure of a fascinating journey that showcases the best of this country.

15 DAYS FROM **£2,049*** per person

CALL TODAY ON **0808 271 6462**
thetimes.com/highlights
QUOTE TIMS100*

*Prices are exclusive of flights and correct at time of going to press. *Save £100pp when booking through Times Travel - quote TIMS100 at time of booking. The price above is reflective of the itinerary already included. Prices correct at time of going to press. Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. This offer is not combinable with any other offers, including Loyalty Discounts Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK.

Our trusted partner **exodus** ABTA

Sport



Kool surprised herself with a late surge to the line to win the opening stage of this year's women's Tour, before sporting the Yellow Jersey on the podium

Late sprint for the line earns Kool first Tour stage win on home soil

The Dutch rider Charlotte Kool kept her head amid a chaotic bunch sprint finish to win the first stage of the women's Tour de France. The 25-year-old took the Yellow Jersey on home soil as the women's Tour got under way in the Netherlands with a 123-kilometre flat ride from Rotterdam to the Hague. Topping 60km/h as she crossed the line, the ds-m-firmenich PostNL rider claimed her maiden Tour win with a superb surge in the final 100 metres.

"I went so early and I thought, 'It's too long', and it hurt so bad but it was enough in the end," Kool said. "It was really hectic but I like it. I kept on thinking, 'OK, I like hectic, I like chaos.'" Finland's Anniina Ahtosalu, of Uno-X, and Italian Elisa Balsamo, of Lidl-Trek, completed the podium. Two stages will be raced today, the first over 69.7km from Dordrecht back to Rotterdam across the Dutch flatlands, followed by a 6.3km individual time-trial.

Lingfield Park Thunderer

2.15 Split Elevens 3.45 Circe
2.45 Pressure's On 4.15 Miss Dubai
3.15 Miss Nightfall (nb) 4.45 Thursday

Going: aw; standard; turf: good to firm-good in places
Draw: none Sky Sports Racing

2.15 Handicap (€2,983: 7f) (10)

- (5) 42113 SPLIT ELEVENS 17 (BF, CD) J Butler 6-9-9 M Cole (2)
 - (6) 50616 OUTREACH 15 (P, D) M Usher 4-9-9 G Bass
 - (2) 0000 BRAZEN DIAMOND 17 (C) P Coulton 5-9-7 C Hutchinson
 - (4) 26135 RINNOVATI 20 (8, BF, D) A Watson 3-9-6 Laura Couslan
 - (7) 06-05 ELECTRIFIED 26 K P De Fay 3-9-4 S D Bowen
 - (10) 2-606 DOONBEY FARMER 66 (C, G) S Brown 6-9-21 Wright (2)
 - (1) 20135 FORGOTTEN TREASURE 15 (D) W Knight 3-9-3 O Carmichael (7)
 - (8) 44064 CAPALLICISTE 35 (D) F Davis 4-9-3 Taryn Langley (7)
 - (9) 0-040 SNOW EAGLE 21 (P) M Blake 3-8-11 Alec Volkhsan
- 3-1 Rinnovati, 10-3 Split Elevens, 6-1 Capalliste, 13-2 Forgotten Treasure, 8-1 Poles Apart, Outreach, 12-1 Electrified, 16-1 Doonbeey Farmer, Brazen Diamond, 33-1 Snow Eagle.

Thunderer's choice: Split Elevens Slow start but finished well in recent races Dangers Rinnovati, Forgotten Treasure

2.45 Handicap (3-Y-O, €4,972: 7f) (9)

- (1) 210-0 SERENE SERAPH 87 (P, D) R Hannan 9-11 James Doyle
 - (5) 1430 AHLAIN 48 (D) J Tate 9-11 N Callan
 - (2) 10066 PUREFOY 18 (P, D) A Bolding 9-6 O Murphy
 - (4) 51-20 PRESSURE'S ON 101 (D) G Dunlop 9-3 D Shephard
 - (3) 21-50 ROCKSTAR ICON 12 (CD) P O Cole 9-2 S M Levey
 - (7) 0-262 KING OF CHARM 18 (D) Martin Dunlop 9-0 M Keenan
 - (8) 02050 SKY WARRIOR 22 C Cox 8-13 H Doyle
 - (9) 4160 SHELBRIDGE 49 (H) G Scott 8-13 C Shephard
 - (6) 02030- THIS TIME MAYBE 300 M Usher 8-8 G Rooke
- 1-4 King Of Charm, 4-1 Ahlain, 5-1 Pressure's On, Serene Seraph, 8-1 Rockstar Icon, 10-1 Purefoy, 12-1 Sky Warrior, 16-1 This Time Maybe, Shelbourne.

Thunderer choice: Pressure's On has shaped well in both his races this season Dangers King Of Charm, Rockstar Icon

3.15 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O, €8,100: 5f) (10)

- (1) 1 GOLDEN PARADISE 120 (D) G Scott 9-8 C Shephard
 - (10) EMPOWERED QUEEN 016 Sangster 9-2 O Murphy
 - (7) 05 FACULTY 27 K P De Fay 9-2 B Sayette
 - (5) GLITTERING HOPE (T) Miss A Murphy 9-2 H Doyle
 - (8) 0 KENSINGTON TONY 22 K P De Fay 9-2 S M Levey
 - (6) 40 PURE ARTISTRY 49 B Bell 9-2 H Couch
 - (2) 50 SAINT FORTNEY 20 R Cook & J Bridger 9-25 D Bowen (2)
 - (3) 3 MISS NIGHTFALL 15 J Fanshawe 9-0 D Muscatt
 - (9) SCENT OF MAY H Candy 9-0 T Whelan
 - (10) 5 STAR OF MEMMAS 22 (BF) R Hughes 9-0 F Marsh
- 1-5 Golden Paradise, 3-1 Miss Nightfall, 1-1 Empowered Queen, 13-2 Star Of Memmas, 10-1 Faculty, 14-1 Pure Artistry, 16-1 Glittering Hope, 20-1 Scent Of May.

Thunderer choice: Miss Nightfall Good debut at Windsor last month Dangers Empowered Queen, Golden Paradise

The following horses are blinkered for the first time today: Lingfield 2.15 Rinnovati; 2.15 Poles Apart Nottingham 2.30 Takes Time; 4.00 Robusto

Yesterday's racing results

Ayr
Going: good (good to soft in places)
2.25 (7f 50yd) 1. Duty First (Hollie Doyle, 10-1 fav) 2. Shining Pearl (11-8), 3. Who Wants Me (25-1), 5 ran, 2/3l, 1l, A Watson.
3.00 (1m) 1. Believe Me (A Mullen, 10-1), 2. Rebecca's Girl (7-1), 3. Desert Dream (15-2), 7 ran, NR: Millibue, Our Noble Lord, Nk, 2/3l, 1 Jardine.
3.35 (1m) 1. Keep Me Stable (Tommie Jakes, 17-2), 2. Showmethewayhome (12-1), 3. Retirement Beckons (4-1), 9 ran, 4l, 3/4l, Miss L A Perratt.
4.10 (7f 50yd) 1. Braes Of Doune (P Mulren-

nan, 5-2), 2. Sir Garfield (6-5 fav), 3. Jkr Cobbler (14-1), 10 ran, NR: Banner Road, Colour Code, Darbucks, Lumenbourg, 3/4l, 3/4l, J S Godlie.
4.40 (1m 2f) 1. Faylaq (P Mulrenhan, 7-2), 2. Pol Roger (11-4 fav), 3. Yorkshshire Lady (10-1), 10 ran, 3/4l, nk, J S Godlie.
5.15 (6f) 1. Sixcor (Billy Loughnane, 4-1), 2. Atome (5-2 fav), 3. Earn Your Stripes (14-1), 8 ran, NR: Sound Of Ionan, Ki S, Miss L A Perratt.
5.45 (6f) 1. Ramona Di Loria (Rowan Scott, 10-3), 2. See My Baby Jive (9-2), 3. Inanna (10-1), 10 ran, NR: Piper's Fort, The Game Blade, 3/4l, 3/4l, Ewan Williams.
6.15 (1m 2f) 1. Glasses Up (Joanna Mason, 6-1), 2. Gregorina (9-1), 3. Bearaway (5-1), 12 ran, NR:

Catrake Force, Mix De Girls, 3/4l, nk, R M Smith. Placepot: €45.20. Quadpot: €9.10.
Kempton
Going: standard / slow
2.10 (1m) 1. Lazieulanch (Daniel Muscatt, 9-1), 2. Mathuro (15-8 fav), 3. Bowdler (16-1), 14 ran, Nk, 5/2l, S Woods.
2.45 (1m) 1. Tribal Chief (Harry Davies, 4-1), 2. More Than A Fein (14-1), 3. Mbpappe (8-1), 10 ran, NR: Millertiers, New Kings Road, Onthemoneyhoney, 1l, 3/4l, D Mennisier.

3.20 (7f) 1. Likely Perspective (Rossa Ryan, 7-2 fav), 2. Neoma (9-1), 3. Darn Hot Mystery (25-1), 14 ran, 1l, 3/4l, R Hughes.
3.55 (7f) 1. Kaytvo (S De Sousa, 16-1), 2. Shrimp Shady (9-4), 3. Portnoy (12-1), 1 ran, Hd, nk, Miss A Murphy.
4.30 (7f) 1. Amilock (Rossa Ryan, 11-10 fav), 2. Zou's Your Daddy (11-3), 3. Uppercase (8-1), 8 ran, NR: Captain Brett, Nk, 2/3l, R M Beckett.
5.00 (1m 3f 219yd) 1. Alpen Power (J Fanning, 15-2), 2. Caprelo (2-1 fav), 3. Surrey Force (16-1), 8 ran, Nk, 1/2l, C Johnston.
5.35 (1m 2f 219yd) 1. Alacrity (K Stott, 3-1 fav), 2. Carpathian (9-2), 3. Umbria (5-1), 10 ran, NR:

Bittalemon, Measured Moments, Nk, nk, A M Bolding. Placepot: €79.60. Quadpot: €16.90.
Windsor
Going: good to firm
5.40 (6f 12yd) 1. Piranha Rama (R Kingscote, 3-1 fav), 2. Puglia (18-1), 3. Kaleidoscope Eyes (25-1), 12 ran, 2/3l, P D Evans.
6.10 (6f 12yd) 1. Glitterati (L Morris, 3-1), 2. Silca Bay (33-1), 3. Bleurboutin (6-4 fav), 13 ran, NR: Glientanar, Huscal, 4l, 3/4l, A Watson.
6.40 (5f 21yd) 1. Staincliff (Charles Bishop, 1-6

fav), 2. All Ways Glamorous (12-1), 3. My Awele (20-1), 5 ran, NR: Gloucester, State Of Madness, 8/1, ns, J Channon.
7.10 (6f 12yd) 1. Elmorjed (Jim Crowley, 11-4 fav), 2. Amazonian Dream (16-1), 3. Aramis Grey (10-1), 4. Indian Creek (28-1), 16 ran, Nk, ns, W J Haggas.
7.40 (1m 3f 99yd) 1. Kinetic (Callum Shephard, 10-11 fav), 2. Make A Scene (4-1), 3. Ramaah (17-2), 5 ran, NR: Albert Lasker, 7/1, 4/3l, James Owen.
8.10 (1m 3f 1yd) 1. Bonaventure (S M Levey, 7-2), 2. Oh So Audacious (9-4 fav), 3. Milvus (10-1), 10 ran, Nk, nk, S Williams. Jackpot: €1,062.90. Placepot: €9.70. Quadpot: €4.00.

3.45 Handicap (€13,085: 1m 1f) (7)

- (5) 24025 WISPER 13 M Trengoning 6-10-2 O Murphy
 - (1) 5414 CIRCE 14 R Hannan 3-9-9 H Doyle
 - (2) 02130 AIMING HIGH 25 (H) D M Simcock 5-9-7 C Shephard
 - (4) 3-2-110 MERCURY DAY 14 C Allen 3-9-5 J Gillian
 - (7) 33038 STAR JASMINE 12 G Boughley 3-9-3 P Cosgrave
 - (6) 4-200 TRUE WISDOM 13 C Johnston 3-9-3 J Mitchell
 - (8) 1-323 SHMOZZLE 24 R Beckett 3-9-1 H Crouch
- 2-1 Wisper, 2-2 Circe, 9-2 Star Jasmine, 5-1 Shmozzle, 7-1 Mercury Day, 9-1 True Wisdom, 10-1 Aiming High.

Thunderer choice: Circe Unlucky at Goodwood, will enjoy the extra furlong here Dangers Wisper, Mercury Day

4.15 Classified Stakes (€2,983: 1m 4f) (6)

- (5) 26541 FOINK 5 (B, D) J S Best 4-10-0 J Leavy (5)
 - (1) 30303 ESCOBEDO 10 (H, T) S Kirk 6-9-9 R Hornby
 - (4) 40502 FULLFORWARD 21 (V) M Madwyck 4-9-9 W Carson
 - (3) 54045 RITA RANA 27 (H) A Wintle 5-9-9 F Marsh
 - (6) 42231 MISS DUBAI 8 (D) D Coakley 3-9-5 T O'Shea
 - (2) 00 INNISFREE PEARL 24 (T) Ward 3-8-13 S M Levey
- 6-4 Foink, 5-2 Miss Dubai, 4-1 Fullforward, 8-1 Escobedo, 14-1 Innisfree Pearl, Rita Rana.

Thunderer choice: Miss Dubai Good record at Lingfield, can enhance further in a weak race Dangers Wisper, Mercury Day

4.45 Handicap (€2,983: 1m 2f) (9)

- (6) 45206 MANILA MIST 22 (T) K Jewell 4-9-9 C Bishop
 - (2) 40254 THURSDAY 14 S Dow 4-9-8 N Callan
 - (3) 40015 CHICO DULCE 28 (T, BF, D) M Madwyck 4-9-7 W Carson
 - (4) 2006 HAZEL BEAR 17 J Osborne 4-9-6 C Shephard
 - (5) 63436 KHANGAI 2 (8, BF, D) M Rimell 4-9-5 H Doyle
 - (6) 33300 MON ETOLIE 15 (P) C Johnston 3-9-2 O Murphy
 - (7) 51030 LAURENTIA 35 (BF, D) Long 8-1-1 G Rooke
 - (8) 0-9401 KODIAC BRAVE 17 (V) Clara Benton 6-9-0 Georgia Doble
 - (9) 44431 NEW FANGLED 21 (P) Portman 3-8-13 R Hornby
- 2-1 Newfangled, 3-1 Chico Dulce, 4-1 Khangai, 15-2 Manilla Mist, 8-1 Thursday, 14-1 Hazel Bear, 14-1 Mon Etolie, 16-1 Laurentia, 25-1 Kodiak Brave.

Thunderer choice: Thursday can make amends, led down favourite backers here Dangers Newfangled, Khangai

Hamilton Park Thunderer

5.30 Moonstone Boy 7.00 Lunario
6.00 Groundhog 7.30 Slainthe Mhath
6.30 Historic City 8.00 Lunacy

Going: soft-good to soft in places
Draw: 5f-6f, low best KENSINGTON TV

5.30 Handicap (€3,926: 5f) (5)

- (3) 46300 MOONSTONE BOY 38 (8, D) J Jardine 3-10-45 Farmer (5)
 - (1) 45502 STORME JOHNSON 4 (BF, D) P Midgley 8-9-13 K S Mclugh (5)
 - (5) 6000 GANGE BREAKER 18 (P) R Menzies 3-9-9 R Kavanagh (5)
 - (4) 00451 REFUGE 22 (D) M & D Easterby 7-9-4 L Chalkley (5)
 - (2) 40033 HOLBACHE 16 (P, D) J Camacho 6-9-1 T Kiddy-Marshall
- 2-1 Refuge, 10-1 Holbache, 5-2 Storme Johnson, 13-2 Moonstone Boy, 16-1 Gange Breaker.

6.00 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O, €4,806: 6f) (12)

- (7) 0 GROUNDHOG 18 D & N Barron 9-7 C Rodriguez
- (1) U IT'SNEVERJUSTONE 40 D Loughnane 9-7 T Eaves

6.30 Maiden Stakes (€4,050: 1m 1f) (7)

- (7) 0 ROYAL EMPEROR 61 R M Smith 5-9-11 Shay Farmer (7)
 - (2) 0 KING KEV 16 C Kallett 3-9-7 Mark Winn (3)
 - (6) 0 SKINNY MALIKA 12 E Beethell 3-9-5 C Rodriguez
 - (4) 0 THATS MY BOY LUKE 10 T Easterby 3-9-5 D Allan
 - (5) 0 THOMAS 6 47 D S N Barron 3-9-5 C Beasley
 - (4) 60022 HISTORIC CITY 7 (P) S N Barron 3-9-3 D Tudhope
 - (3) 23020 SLANEY SWAGGER 87 Alice Haynes 3-9-3 K O'Neill
- 11-10 Historic City, 7-4 Slaney Swagger, 8-1 Skinny Malika, 12-1 Thomas G, 14-1 King Kev, 20-1 That's My Boy Luke, 100-1 Royal Emperor.

7.00 Handicap (€12,370: 1m 1f) (11)

- (4) 3212 ARCTIC MOUNTAIN 60 (BF) S N Barron 4-10-3 Fanning (3)
 - (1) 4055 THEORYEYEVING 17 D O'Meara 4-10-3 D Tudhope
 - (5) 2212-PADDY THE SQUIRE 35A (W, LBF) Jardine 4-9-11A Mullen
 - (9) 52153 INDEMNITY 18 (BF) R Varian 4-9-11 P J McDonald
 - (6) 332-2 STAND STRONG 688 (BF) Ewan Williams 4-9-5 R Scott
 - (8) 02121 GISELLE DEFENCE 23 J Williams 4-9-5 R Kavanagh (7)
 - (11) 15-25 TELER RED 26 K R Burke 7-4-4 S Feilden (7)
 - (3) 22111 LUNARIO 10 (8, T, C) Alice Haynes 4-9-3 K O'Neill
 - (2) 40015 BUBBLES WOOLNY 22 (BF) T Easterby 3-9-1 D Allan
 - (2) 14111 GOOD MORNING ALEX 48 (D) N Barron 3-9-0 C Beasley
 - (10) 30134 CLASSY BOY 23 R R Burke 3-8-12 S James
- 7-2 Arctic Mountain, 5-1 Good Morning Alex, 6-1 Giselle Defence, 13-2 Lunario, Indemnity, 10-1 Paddy The Squire, Classy Boy, Bubbles Woonly.

7.30 Handicap (€5,286: 6f) (15)

- (6) 00-52 MAXI BOY 31 (D) Fionn McSharry 7-9-10 D Tudhope
- (9) 62266 WINTER CROWN 15 (P, D) J Camacho 4-9-4 Ryan Sexton
- (3) 00060 JUMP THE GUN 29 (P, CD) J Jardine 7-9-6 Mark Winn (3)
- (10) 23304 PLAINE MATH 31 (BF, CD) K Scott 6-9-5 S James
- (4) 31100 SOPH STAR 15 (P, T, D) Alice Haynes 4-9-5 K O'Neill
- (5) 11536 CATHERINE CHROI 29 (R, D) J Jardine 6-9-5 M Tabb (5)
- (11) 00532 RAMBUSO CREEK 15 (P) R Ryan 5-9-3 T Eaves
- (1) 00000 ROCK POWER 27 (D) T Easterby 5-9-3 D Allan
- (2) 54043 ROCK MELLOW 9 (P, D) J Gidde 5-9-2 Amie Waugh (9)
- (10) 05214 ROXY 18 (C, D) Gidde 6-9-1 P Mulrennan
- (7) 51013 IRIS DANCER 18 (R, D) T Davidson 6-9-1 A Mullen
- (12) 154655 AMERICAN STAR 10 (P, D) R Carr 5-9-0 JP Sullivan
- (8) 35242 IMPRESSOR 27 (P, CD) Phillip Makin 7-9-0 R Scott
- (14) 02040 DISTILLATE 3 (T, D) A McHugh (4) 8-12 Adam Caffrey (3)

8.00 Handicap (€3,664: 1m 4f) (13)

- (7) 54502 SYCAMORE GAP 26 (T, D) R Menzies 4-9-13 C Beasley
- (1) 00634 SEA MASTER 21 (8, T) Ward 4-9-13 T Eaves
- (13) 62232 DESERT QUEST 22 (CD) Ewan Williams 6-9-13 R Scott

8.30 Maiden Stakes (€3,780: 1m) (10)

- (1) 00515 BRISTOL HILL 10 (C, D) Miss L Perratt 6-9-9 S Gray
- (1) 40465 MICHAEL'S PLEDGE 25 (B) J & S Quinn 4-9-8 J Hart
- (5) 60004 LUNACY 3 (8, T, C) J Jardine 4-9-6 A Mullen
- (2) 20341 NATIONAL QUESTION 21 (8, D) A Nicol 4-9-5 S James
- (2) 4004 YELLOW LEMONS 32 J Gidde 3-9-4 P Mulrennan
- (6) 6-04 MIX DE GRIS 26 L Russell 3-9-3 Ryan Sexton
- (10) 0-466 STAR OF MARCHINX 11 (H) Gary Rutherford 8-9-3 Amie Waugh (5)
- (8) 50042 REVEAL 10 (B) Miss L Perratt 3-9-2 T Jakes (5)
- (4) 00134 GREGORINA 22 (V) A McGuinness (Ire) 3-8-13 Adam Caffrey (3)
- (3) 0064 LADY PHOEBE 10 A Nicol 3-8-11 C Hardie
- (7-2) Desert Quest, 11-2 National Question, Reveall, 13-2 Sycamore Gap, Gregorina, 8-1 Lunacy, 12-1 Michael's Pledge, 14-1 Yellow Lemons.

Nottingham Thunderer

2.30 Star Of St James 4.00 Valley Of Flowers
3.00 First Instinct 4.30 Miss Stormy Night (nap)

3.30 Empire Of Hope 5.05 Snow Berry

Going: good to firm-good in places Draw: none

2.30 Handicap (€3,229: 1m 2f) (16)

- (3) 1223- SUN FESTIVAL 250 (D) J Parr 6-11-7 Mr L Kent
- (11) 60-46 ADDOSH 123 (T) James Owen 6-11-7 Miss Teagan Padgett (3)
- (3) 49520 STAR START 25 (B, D) R Carr 4-11-6 Miss C Parker (3)
- (4) 42105 BAKERSBOY 8 (P, D) Alice Haynes 6-11-5 Mr N Sangster
- (5) 423-1 SHOWLAN SPIRIT 15 (V) G Baker 5-11-3 Mr Jack Callan
- (12) 00045 SEA OF CHARM 15 (B, D) G Nicholls 6-11-7 Mr William Dunlop (3)
- (9) 30400 DAFFIN 15 (T) K Frost 4-11-1 Miss Lauren Frost
- (7) 02222 STAR OF ST JAMES 13 (D) I Furlado 7-10-12 Miss Stephanie Dorey
- (10) 61-06 MORE DIAMONDS 8 (P) James Horton 5-10-12 Miss S Shephard
- (10) 30060 TIO MIO 11 M Chapman 6-10-11 Mr Harry Smith (3)
- (15) 00055 PITTSBURGH 11 (T) R Potter 8-10-10 Miss E McGarry-Jones (3)
- (6) 20350 TAKES TIME 15 (B) D Loughnane 6-10-11 Miss K M Cadden (3)
- (8) 46360 TWILIGHT QUEST 14 (P) G Margaron 4-10-9 Miss R Margaron
- (4) 00300 GILBERT 28 (T) A West 5-10-11 Miss Milica Dusanovic (3)
- (11) 40566 STRAUTOUTTACAMPTON 14 M Chapman 8-10-7 Miss A Bowers-Carter (3)

16(14) 44342 KINETIC 5 (BF) James Owen 3-10-10
2-2 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.

3.00 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O, €3,725: 6f) (11)

- (3) 0 ADDENDUM 18 J & S Quinn 9-2 D Nolan
 - (2) 5 ALMASI 23 Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-2 K Shoemarr
 - (10) BOWERCHALKE J Chapple-Hyam 9-2 Billy Loughnane
 - (4) 0 FIRST INSTINCT W Haggas 9-2 T Marquand
 - (6) 00 IMPATIENLY 12 J Chapple-Hyam 9-2 Laura Pearson
 - (9) 53 KALAHARI BLUE 25 (BF) Ollie Sangster 9-2 K Stott
 - (7) 11 KAMAND I Mohammed 9-2 M Ghiani
 - (8) 00 SKALABAH 18 R Varian 9-2 S De Sousa
 - (9) 06 SMALLBROOK LANE 69 C Cox 9-2 R Kingscote
 - (4) 43 SPIRITUALISM 83 (P, T) Miss A Murphy 9-2 Rossa Ryan
 - (11) 00 TWILIGHT POPPY 12 K Frost 9-2 C Lee
- 5-2 Kalahari Blue, 7-2 First Instinct, 5-1 Spiritualism, 7-1 Kokabah, 8-1 Almasi, 12-1 Kamand, 14-1 Bowerchalke, Impatiency.

4.00 Handicap (€10,308: 2m) (7)

- (6) 02000 SOLENT GATEWAY 9 (T, V, D) H Palmer 6-10-4 D Probert
 - (2) 31402 ROSE ADZEON 9 (V) C Johnston 4-9-11 Billy Loughnane
 - (1) 02044 CLAN CHIEFTAIN 18 (P, T) R Beckett 4-9-6 Rossa Ryan
 - (4) 03614 ROBUSTO 19 (8, D) E J Houghton 4-9-5 S Osborne
 - (3) 20322 VALLEY OF FLOWERS 18 (H, BF, D) J Coward 4-9-5 Joana Mason
 - (7) 64025 FLICKERING HALO 19 (T) Easterby 3-9-12 Oisin Orr
 - (4) 44431 ALMUDENA 13 (P, T) Sir M Prescott 3-8-3 L Morris
- 7-4 Almudena, 4-1 Valley Of Flowers, 5-1 Flickering Halo, 6-1 Dreams Adzen, 8-1 Clan Chieftain, 10-1 Robusto, 14-1 Solent Gateway.

4.30 Handicap (3-Y-O, €5,496: 6f) (8)

- (2) 142- VALENTINE CATCHER 248 (D) T Easterby 9-10-20 Fanning
 - (4) 12-40 PEN PORTRAIT 12 (H, D) S & E Crisford 9-9 H Davies
 - (3) 00500 MIDNIGHT AFFAIR 12 R Fahy 9-8 Oisin Orr
 - (4) 34111 MISS STORMY NIGHT 17 (H, CD) C Cox 9-7 R Kingscote
 - (5) 32412 TOURIST 19 (H) H Kobesski 9-7 C Lee
 - (5) 21401 DURAN 18 (D) H Tinkler 9-7 F McManamon
 - (7) 00446 EXPONISTA 12 (P, D) D Loughnane 9-5 Rossa Ryan
 - (8) 40540 CALL GLORY 25 (P) M Appleby 9-1 A Rawlinson
- 9-4 Tourist, 11-4 Miss Stormy Night, 5-1 Pen Portrait, 7-1 Valentine Catcher, 8-1 Exponista, 12-1 Pen Portrait, 16-1 Midnight Affair, Call Glory.

5.05 Handicap (€3,402: 5f) (8)

- (8) 60-64 JUST GLAMOROUS 26 (D) C Mason 11-10-1 Gina Mangan (3)
 - (4) 54055 HIGH VELOCITY 17 (B, D) Loughnane 5-9-12 Rossa Ryan
 - (7) 05102 FRANK THE SPARK 15 (D) P Midgley 4-9-11 D Nolan
 - (3) 00000 FORTUNATE STAR 17 (CD) D Carroll 4-9-102 Wheatley (3)
 - (6) 00012 THREE BEAUZ 7 (T) R Menzies 4-9-5 C Lee
 - (5) 56032 CHIEDZIOE 18 (V) P McEntee 3-9-5 T Heard
 - (2) 4011 SNOW BERRY 25 (P, D) M Appleby 6-9-4 A Rawlinson
 - (5) 05300 CAPTAIN BENTLEY 7 (P) M Mulleuane 5-9-9 C Bennett
- 5-2 Snow Berry, 7-2 Frank The Spark, 9-2 Three Beauz, 5-1 Chiedzioe, 8-1 High Velocity, 10-1 Just Glamorous, 14-1 Fortunate Star, 25-1 Captain Bentley.

Course specialists

Lingfield: Trainers A Balding, 60 from 279 runners, 21.5%; Michael Bell, 18 from 85, 21.2%; J Fanshawe, 23 from 124, 18.5%; K P De Fay, 29 from 157, 18.5%; A Watson, 52 from 291, 17.9%; Charlie Johnston, 20 from 119, 16.8%; Jockeys S D Bowen, 4 from 17 rides, 23.5%; J Gilligan, 6 from 27, 22.2%; O Murphy, 49 from 244, 20.1%; James Doyle, 24 from 120, 20.0%; S Levey, 49 from 258, 19.0%.

Stokes injury would leave huge hole as nobody has his sense of authority

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent



"Irreplaceable" can be a word thrown around carelessly in the context of selection in sport but for the England Test team Ben Stokes is as close as someone gets to that description. Captain, leader, spiritual founder of Bazball and, crucially now, since his recovery from knee surgery, a fully fledged all-rounder again, worth his place in the team with either bat or ball. There is no one else in the English game who comes close.

He is a cricketer with a high pain threshold. To see him helped from the field, therefore, and then taken to the dressing room on a stretcher during the match between Northern Superchargers and Manchester Originals in the Hundred, having clutched the back of his left leg after a quick single, does not augur well. It didn't look good at the time, although it was clearly hamstring related rather than knee.

The irony was, in an underwhelming men's competition this year, this was one of the best games of the Hundred: a high-scoring encounter, with a dazzling finale from the Trinidadian Nicholas Pooran, on an excellent pitch in front of 21,000 spectators, half of whom had formed part of a record crowd for a women's fixture at Emirates Old Trafford. Stokes's injury took the gloss off that.

What will England do? If the extent of the injury is such as to rule him out of at least the first Test against Sri Lanka, the captaincy seems likely to go to Ollie Pope, the designated vice-captain. It was at Rawalpindi, during the tour to Pakistan in late 2022, that Pope first emerged as a potential successor to Stokes. When an illness swept through the team on the eve of that Test, England let it be known that Pope would lead should Stokes be unfit to do so.

Since then, he has taken over in brief stints when Stokes has left the field; he has stood in during a warm-up game in New Zealand and was appointed official vice-captain before the Ashes in 2023. Pope's elevation to No 3 was among the first calls made by Brendon McCullum and Stokes and he is clearly held in high regard by the pair, although his leadership experience is minimal, having captained Surrey in one County Championship match in 2021 and eight T20 Blast games this summer.

Whether experience counts for anything at all is unclear. Stokes



EAMONN AND JAMES CLARKE

Stokes picked up a suspected hamstring injury in the Hundred on Sunday, right, and was on crutches yesterday, left, as he underwent further tests. Pope, below, does not have much captaincy experience



Highest win rates as England Test captain

	Tests	Win %
Ben Stokes (2020-24)	27	63%
Douglas Jardine (1931-34)	15	60%
Mike Brearley (1977-81)	31	58.1%
Percy Chapman (1926-31)	17	52.9%
Michael Vaughan (2003-08)	51	51%
Peter May (1955-61)	41	48.8%
Andrew Strauss (2006-12)	50	48%
Leonard Hutton (1952-55)	23	47.8%
Johnny Douglas (1911-24)	18	44.4%
Joe Root (2017-22)	64	42.2%

Source: Opta Minimum 15 Tests as captain

England v Sri Lanka Test series

England squad Ben Stokes (Durham), Gus Atkinson (Surrey), Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Jordan Cox (Essex), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Dan Lawrence (Surrey), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Matthew Potts (Durham), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Ollie Stone (Nottinghamshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Mark Wood (Durham).

1st Test Emirates Old Trafford, August 21-25

2nd Test Lord's, August 29-September 2

3rd Test Kia Oval, September 6-10

had never captained any team before taking over England and has emerged as one of the best, most intelligent and intuitive captains of England I have seen. But individuals like Stokes are rare, and it would be wise to keep expectations of Pope, or whoever takes over, in check. No one comes close to having Stokes's sense of authority.

Alternatives would be Chris Woakes, who is a vastly experienced cricketer and a first-choice pick (at home) and Harry Brook, who is leading the Super-

chargers this year and who is certain of his place. But there is little point in designating an official vice-captain if he is not going to lead in the captain's absence, so Pope is the likely stand-in.

Who will replace Stokes in the XI is more problematic, there being no like-for-like offering as good in the English game. They could simply change the balance of the team, and bring in the spare batsman from the 14-man squad, Jordan Cox. The Essex batsman earned his call-up to the squad because of Zak Crawley's finger injury, which will result in Dan Lawrence being promoted to open the batting, with Cox brought into the squad on standby.

Cox is a middle-order batsman, who

moved from Kent at the start of the year. He has had a good season in the championship, having scored more than 700 runs at an average of almost 70, with three hundreds, and he fits the Bazball mould, being an aggressively minded batsman. He earned a call-up to the white-ball squad in Pakistan in 2022 and has been on the radar for a year or two.

That, though, will change the balance of the team and put much more of a load on the fast bowlers, Mark Wood and Gus Atkinson, and the young, inexperienced spinner, Shoaib Bashir. This summer, Stokes's bowling had formed an essential part of the attack, shielding Bashir in the first

innings, and allowing Wood and Atkinson to bowl in short bursts. A four-man attack would change that dynamic — although Joe Root and Lawrence could bowl their share of off-spin overs, too — and so bringing in Cox seems the least likely option.

A more likely alternative would be to bring in an all-rounder, such as Sam Curran or Craig Overton, or to make do with what they have in the squad, bringing in an extra seamer (Ollie Stone and Matthew Potts are the options). Jamie Smith, who impressed as wicketkeeper-batsman in the series against West Indies, could move up one place to No 6, allowing Curran or Overton (or the extra seamer) to slip in at eight, behind Woakes.

Curran has played only one championship match since the beginning of 2023, and Overton missed the Southern Brave's most recent match with hamstring tightness too. Brydon Carse (Durham) and Tom Lawes (Surrey) were the bowling all-rounders on the Lions trip to India this winter but Carse is banned having breached betting protocols and Lawes has played in only three championship matches for Surrey this season.

Like fast bowlers, genuine all-rounders such as Stokes, who are worth their place in the team with bat and ball, are a very scarce resource. It is no coincidence that, in modern times, England's best periods have coincided with the presence of Ian Botham, Andrew Flintoff and Stokes, while Stokes's captaincy credentials make him the rarest breed of all.

Bradley names Snedeker as second US vice-captain for next year's Ryder Cup

Golf The United States captain, Keegan Bradley, has named Brandt Snedeker as his second vice-captain for next year's Ryder Cup.

Snedeker joins Webb Simpson in Bradley's backroom staff for the biennial contest against Europe at Bethpage Black in New York from September 26 to 28.

"As I've started preparing for the 2025 Ryder Cup, I quickly realised

that Brandt was someone I wanted by my side," Bradley said. "Having competed in two Ryder Cups, including a stellar individual performance in 2016, Brandt's experience and insight will surely be beneficial to our team."

Snedeker, who was the only unbeaten US player at Hazeltine with three wins from three matches, said: "I am so grateful to Keegan for giving

me the opportunity to represent my country in the role of vice-captain. The Ryder Cup is unlike anything in our sport and I hope to bring the passion and pride to help Keegan deliver his vision of what a Ryder Cup in New York should look like.

"I am so excited to serve alongside my good friend Webb and know we will do everything in our power to help Keegan and the players."

Rai wins first PGA Tour title after Kuchar's late refusal

Golf Aaron Rai claimed his first PGA Tour title as he made the most of a late collapse from Max Greysenman at the Wyndham Championship.

The Englishman, who carded a closing 64 to finish on 18 under par and two shots clear, trailed by four shots midway through the back nine at Greensboro.

"It is a dream come true," Rai, a two-times winner on the DP World Tour,

said. "So many people have played a huge role in me being at this point."

Matt Kuchar, who led at halfway after a pair of 64s, apologised after refusing to finish his round in bad light on Sunday after driving at the final hole and insisting on coming back to complete his round yesterday. Needing a win to reach the FedEx Cup play-offs, Kuchar slipped back to a tie for 12th — nine strokes off the pace.

Sport Sky Bet Championship

Burnley give Parker perfect start

Luton Town Chong 55	1
Burnley Brownhill 6, Odobert 37, O'Shea 72, Vitinho 80	4

Jon West

Scott Parker enjoyed an emphatic victory in his first match as Burnley's new manager as Luton Town were torn apart in front of their own fans.

First-half goals from Josh Brownhill and Wilson Odobert allowed Burnley to continue an unbeaten run against Luton that dates back to the year 2000.

Home hopes rallied when Tahith Chong pulled one back early in the second half but more Burnley goals from Dara O'Shea and Vitinho meant there was no way back for Rob Edwards's side.

"I have nothing but praise for my players," Parker, below, said. "They weren't winning a lot of games last season and there's a psychological element where we have to go from that to becoming a winning machine."

Parker was then asked about the absent midfielder Sander Berge, who has been the subject of transfer speculation. "He's definitely got an injury," he said. "I'm not going to speculate on Sander, or any of the players."

This was a clash of two clubs with similar recent history — promotion together then relegation together — but vastly contrasting pre-seasons.

Vincent Kompany left Burnley to become Bayern Munich's head coach and Parker returned to the second tier to replace him, having previously guided Fulham and Bournemouth to Premier League promotion.

Parker had a short, unsuccessful stint with Club Brugge after being sacked by Bournemouth in 2022 for imparting too many harsh words about the quality of a squad that went on to stay up without him anyway.

He described his pre-season as "400mph" having inherited a huge pool of players, including Wout Weghorst, who was named on the bench at Kenilworth Road. The Holland striker represented Manchester United, Besiktas and Hoffenheim in loan spells away from Turf Moor and had not played for Burnley since Premier League relegation in May 2022.

Luton, meanwhile, had battled gamely against the odds last season and almost bloodied some big-name noses before running out of Premier League puff. The



O'Shea climbs highest for the third Burnley goal as Luton's return to the Championship ended in a heavy defeat against opponents relegated alongside them in May

supporters stayed with Edwards and his players and although Ross Barkley moved to Aston Villa, Edwards was able to put out a similar-strength side to last term. Summer signings Shandon Baptiste and Reuell Walters started, with Edwards handing full league debuts to youngsters Joe Johnson and Zack Nelson — a gamble that did not pay off.

Walters, the 19-year-old defender who was with Arsenal last season, won early crowd approval for a robust challenge on Luca Koleosho but Burnley required just six minutes to take the lead.

Brownhill, put through down the inside-left channel by Lucas Pires, outpaced Nelson and fired through the legs of the goalkeeper, Thomas Kaminski, the Belgian

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPts
Sheffield Wed	1	1	0	0	4	0	4 3
Burnley	1	1	0	0	4	1	3 3
Blackburn	1	1	0	0	4	2	2 3
West Brom	1	1	0	0	3	1	2 3
Sunderland	1	1	0	0	2	0	2 3
Oxford Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	2 3
Watford	1	1	0	0	3	2	1 3
Middlesbrough	1	1	0	0	1	0	1 3
Stoke	1	1	0	0	1	0	1 3
*Sheffield Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	2 1
Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	3	3	0 1
Leeds	1	0	1	0	3	3	0 1
Bristol City	1	0	1	0	1	1	0 1
Hull	1	0	1	0	1	1	0 1
Millwall	1	0	1	0	2	3	-1 0
Coventry	1	0	1	0	1	1	-1 0
Swansea	1	0	1	0	1	-1	-1 0
Derby	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2 0
QPR	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2 0
Cardiff	1	0	0	1	2	2	-2 0
Norwich	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2 0
Preston	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2 0
Luton	1	0	0	1	4	3	-4 0
Plymouth	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4 0

* deducted 2pts for breach of league rules

international. Luton rallied but Elijah Adebayo fired tamely at James Trafford. Home frustration further manifested itself in a Tahith Chong shot that threatened a corner flag more than the Burnley goal.

Burnley doubled their lead with a mirror image of their opener. This time Luton were prised apart on their left flank, where Odobert was able to sprint away from Johnson to collect a perfectly weighted through-ball from Connor Roberts and coolly slot home.

Luton did, however, have more drive about them, presumably after some harsh words at half-time from their manager, and Johnson did well to block Odobert's shot at the other end.

Kaminski pulled off a one-handed save to stop O'Shea from increasing Burnley's lead from inside a crowded box. The hosts reacted by pulling one back through Chong in the 55th minute. Chiedozie Ogbene sent a cross into the box and Alfie Doughty's cushioned

header was perfect for the former Manchester United player to thump home.

But the revival was quashed in the 72nd minute by O'Shea's header from a Pires corner.

Luton were deflated and Vitinho lashed home a fourth in the 80th minute. Lyle Foster deserved the plaudits by sprinting through to set him up, having began a lung-buster of a run from outside his own box.

"It was a difficult first night," Edwards said. "There were some good things but ultimately, with their quality, they punished us."

Luton Town (3-41-2): T Kaminski 8 – R Walters 6, T Mengi 6, J Johnson 6 (A Townsend 80min) – C Ogbene 7, S Baptiste 6 (P Mpanzu 87), Z Nelson 6, A Doughty 7 – T Chong 7 – C Morris 5, E Adebayo 6. Booked Chong, Nelson. Burnley (4-3-3): J Trafford 6 – C Roberts 7, D O'Shea 8, M Esteve 7, L Pires 8 (H Massengo 83) – J Brownhill 7, J Cullen 6, W Odobert 7 (L McNally 90) – L Koleosho 6 (A Zaroury 66), L Foster 6 (W Weghorst 82), Vitinho 6. Booked Trafford, Pires, Cullen. Referee M Donohue.

Results

Football

Sky Bet Championship

Luton 1 Burnley 4

● Table above

Cricket

The Hundred: Birmingham Phoenix v Trent Rockets: Men

Edgbaston (Birmingham Phoenix won toss and elected to bowl): Birmingham Phoenix beat Trent Rockets by six wickets

Trent Rockets (balls)

TT Banton lbw b Southee 5 (7)

A D Hales c Southee b Wood 9 (10)

J E Root c Abbott b Southee 2 (4)

T P Alsop c Mousley b Southee 51 (37)

R Powell lbw b Wood 1 (4)

S I Maslin retired 29 (29)

C J Green c Abbott b Milne 6 (5)

L Wood c Bethell b Southee 1 (2)

L Gregory not out 0 (0)

S J Cook b Southee 0 (1)

J A Turner run out 1 (2)

Extras (w 11, nb 2) 13

Total (100 balls) 118

Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-16, 3-16, 4-22, 5-99, 6-108, 7-115, 8-117, 9-117.

Bowling Milne 4-0-17-1; Southee 4-0-12-5; Wood 4-0-30-2; Abbott 4-0-36-0; Ali 2-0-13-0; Howell 1-0-5-0; Mousley 1-0-5-0.

Birmingham Phoenix (balls)

B M Duckett lbw b Wood 30 (16)

*M M Ali c Green b Turner 13 (16)

†J L Smith c Root b Wood 30 (32)

L S Livingstone not out 0 (1)

D R Mousley c Root b Turner 0 (1)

J G Bethell not out 38 (29)

Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 4) 9

Total (4 wks, 93 balls) 120

B A C Howell, S A Abbott, A F Milne, T G Southee and C P Wood did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-33, 2-33, 3-52, 4-52.

Bowling Wood 4-0-33-2; Cook 3-3-0-29-0; Turner 4-1-17-2; Gregory 3-0-14-0; Green 3-0-13-0; Wasim 1-0-11-0.

Women

Edgbaston (Birmingham Phoenix won toss): Trent Rockets beat Birmingham Phoenix by three wickets

Birmingham Phoenix (balls)

*E A Perry c Gardner b Stonehouse 5 (6)

S L Kallis run out 47 (45)

F C Wilson c Gordon b Sciver-Brunt 2 (5)

A E Jones b Sciver-Brunt 0 (1)

R M Ghosh b Gardner 41 (36)

E L Arlott b Gardner 0 (1)

C R Pavey not out 4 (4)

I E C M Wong not out 4 (2)

Extras (b 5, lb 1, w 3) 9

Total (6 wks, 100 balls) 112

S A Smale, H L Baker and K A Levick did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-9, 3-9, 4-104, 5-104, 6-105.

Bowling Stonehouse 3-0-14-1; Sciver-Brunt 4-0-16-2; King 3-0-21-0; Gardner 4-0-17-2; Gordon 2-0-12-0; Graham 4-0-26-0.

Trent Rockets (balls)

B F Smith c Wilson b Levick 13 (8)

G E Scrivens c Jones b Arlott 19 (23)

†N A J Wraith c Baker b Wong 1 (5)

*N R Sciver-Brunt c Arlott b Pavey 34 (25)

A K Gardner run out 20 (12)

H L Graham c Pavey b Arlott 3 (3)

K L George not out 7 (9)

A M King b Pavey 5 (6)

J P Groves not out 7 (7)

Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 2) 5

Total (7 wks, 97 balls) 114

A K Stonehouse and K L Gordon did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-20, 3-53, 4-89, 5-93, 6-93, 7-101.

Bowling Perry 1-0-14-0; Wong 4-0-15-1; Levick 3-2-0-25-1; Pavey 4-0-21-2; Arlott 4-0-21-2; Baker 3-0-17-0.

Men

Oval Invincibles 7 6 1 0 0 12 1,072

Southern Brave 7 5 2 0 0 10 0,595

B'ham Phoenix 7 5 2 0 0 10 0,324

N Superchargers 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

M'ster Originals 7 1 6 0 0 2 -0,823

London Spirit 7 1 6 0 0 2 -0,884

Women

Welsh Fire 7 4 2 0 1 9 0,086

Oval Invincibles 7 4 2 1 0 9 0,016

N Superchargers 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

M'ster Originals 7 3 4 0 0 6 -0,398

B'ham Phoenix 7 3 4 0 0 6 -0,742

Southern Brave 7 1 5 1 0 3 -0,493

Cycling

Tour de France Femmes

Stage 1 (Rotterdam-The Hague, 124km): 1 C Kool (Neth), Team dsm-firmenich PostNL 2hrs 47mins 40secs; 2 A Antosalo (Fin Uno-X Mobility); 3 E Balsamo (It, Lidl-Trek); 4 L Henttala (Fin, EF-Oatly-Cannondale); 5 M Vos (Neth, Team Visma | Lease a Bike) same time. Selected Others 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 same time; 141, A Towers (GB, CANYON//SRAM Racing) at 1min 14sec; 147, B Storrie (GB, Team dsm-firmenich PostNL) at 2min 46sec; DNF, N Grinczer (GB).

Overall leaders: 1 C Kool (Neth, Team dsm-firmenich PostNL) 2hrs 47mins 30secs; 2 A Antosalo (Fin, Uno-X Mobility) at 4secs; 3 E Balsamo (It, Lidl-Trek) at 6sec; 4 L Henttala (Fin, EF-Oatly-Cannondale) at 10sec; 5 M Vos (Neth, Team Visma | Lease a Bike) same time.

Tennis

ATP National Bank Open

Montreal, Canada: Semi-final A Popyrin (Aus) bt S Korda (US) 7-6 (7-0), 6-3.

ATP Cincinnati Open

Qualifiers: Men B Holt (US) bt Z Svajda (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; C Moutet (Fr) bt M Fucsovics (Hun) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; Y Nishioka (Japan) bt A Cazaux (Fr) 6-4, 6-4; A Kovacevic (US) bt R Hijikata (Aus) 6-1, 7-6 (7-5); Women T Townsend (US) bt C Paquet (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; M Frech (Pol) bt J Bouzas Maneiro (Sp) 6-1, 6-4; E Avanesyan (Arm) bt H Dart (GB) 6-4, 6-1; V Griyacheva (Fr) bt A Sasnovich (Bel) 6-4, 6-3; A Krueger (US) bt N Osaka (Japan) 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Fixtures

Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

English League Cup first round

Barrow v Port Vale; Bolton v Mansfield Town; Bristol City v Coventry; Bromley v AFC Wimbledon; Burton Albion v Blackpool; Cambridge United v QPR; Cardiff v Bristol Rovers; Carlisle v Stoke (7.30); Charlton v Birmingham; Colchester v Reading; Crawley Town v Swindon; Derby v Chesterfield; Fleetwood Town v West Brom; Grimsby v Bradford; Huddersfield v Morecambe; Leyton Orient v Newport County (7.30); Lincoln City v Harrogate Town; Northampton v Wycombe; Norwich v Stevenage; Oxford United v Peterborough; Portsmouth v Millwall; Preston v Sunderland; Rotherham v Crewe; Salford City v Doncaster; Sheffield United v Wrexham (8.0); Shrewsbury v Notts County; Stockport v Blackburn (7.30); Swansea v Gillingham; Tranmere v Accrington; Walsall v Exeter; Watford v MK Dons; Wigan v Barnsley.

Cricket

The Hundred: Northern Superchargers v London Spirit (women 3.0, men 6.30).

Chelsea turn to Félix as Gallagher switch stalls

Gary Jacob

Chelsea are working on a deal to sign Atletico Madrid's João Félix after their proposed deal for Samu Omorodion collapsed, throwing Conor Gallagher's move in the other direction into doubt.

Romelu Lukaku could also be leaving Stamford Bridge again after Napoli offered up to £25.6 million for the striker, but Chelsea want £40 million.

In another busy transfer window for the club, Chelsea had agreed a £34.5million deal for Omorodion, the Atletico Madrid forward, enabling Gallagher to move to the Spanish club for the same fee on a five-year contract.

However, the deal for Omorodion ran into contractual issues. The 20-year-old Spanish striker, who joined Atlético from Granada last summer and went on loan to Alaves for the season, has been offered to a number of other Premier league clubs.

Chelsea and Atletico are therefore working on a transfer for Félix, who is keen to return to west London if a deal can be struck. He scored four goals in 16 league appearances in his first spell on loan last year, which

cost Chelsea about £15 million, including a £9 million fee.

He was on loan at Barcelona last season, scoring ten and assisting in six goals in all competitions. At the time, he extended his contract with Atletico until 2029. He joined the La Liga club from Benfica for £126 million in 2019. Félix, the 24-year-old Portugal forward, is also wanted by Aston Villa this summer.

Napoli want Lukaku but their offer is short of Chelsea's valuation of the Belgium forward, who has two years left on his contract. Lukaku, 31, left Chelsea in 2014 and rejoined in 2021 but spent only one season in London before moving to Inter Milan on loan. He has made it clear he only wants to be reunited with Antonio Conte, his former head coach, who took charge of Napoli this summer. Under Conte, Lukaku, who was at Roma last season, scored 47 league goals across two seasons to help Inter win their first Serie A title in 11 years in 2021.



Félix, right, could return to west London, while Chelsea are looking for £40 million for Lukaku, who wants a reunion with Conte

United set to seal deals for Mazraoui and De Ligt

Charlotte Duncker

Manchester United are set to complete the double signing of Matthijs de Ligt and Noussair Mazraoui from Bayern Munich for a combined £60 million. Both arrived in Manchester yesterday to complete their medicals.

Fees were agreed with Bayern Munich for both players at the weekend, with United paying an initial £38.6 million for De Ligt, with a further £4.3 million in performance-related add-ons. They will pay £12.9 million for Mazraoui and £4.3 million in add-ons.

The deal for Mazraoui was dependent on Aaron Wan-Bissaka leaving the club, with the right back wanting a £7 million pay-off to complete his transfer. However, a fee of £15 million was finally agreed with West Ham United.

The 26-year-old, who has been at United for five years and is in the final year of his contract, was left out of the squad for Saturday's Community Shield defeat against Manchester City.

Erik ten Hag knows De Ligt and Mazraoui well as he managed them during his time at Ajax and United's need for defensive reinforcements has been heightened by a foot injury to their £59 million summer signing, Leny Yoro, who is out for three months.

Despite their problems, which led to Ten Hag playing Lisandro Martínez at left back on Saturday, United are not pushing for a deal to sign the free agent Mario Hermoso. The 29-year-old left Atletico Madrid this summer.

Everton, Fulham and Ipswich show interest in Phillips as City look to offload midfielder

Everton, Fulham and Ipswich Town have all inquired about Manchester City's Kalvin Phillips.

The midfielder is surplus to requirements at the Etihad, with City chiefs open to offers for the 28-year-old, and while they would prefer a sale they would consider a loan move.

Phillips still has three years left on his contract after joining City for about £43 million in 2022, but he spent last season on loan at West Ham United and wants a fresh start.

The England midfielder has had offers from abroad but it is understood he would rather stay in England to resurrect his career.

Kurt Zouma's proposed move to Shabab Al-Ahli has collapsed over issues with his medical history. West Ham and the United Arab Emirates club are trying to reach a compromise to revive the transfer without a fee. Alternatively, the east London club could try to reach an agreement with the 29-year-old centre back, who has

a history of knee issues, on a payment for the final year of his contract.

Leicester City have agreed an initial loan for the 22-year-old Bayer Leverkusen striker Adam Hlozek with an obligation to buy the Czech forward for £17 million if they stay up.

Steve Cooper has spoken about the need to continue to strengthen before their return to the top flight and they are lacking in firepower after Patson Daka came off in their final pre-season friendly with a knee injury.

Lioness Zelem leaves for new challenge in Los Angeles

Former Manchester United captain Katie Zelem has joined Angel City in Los Angeles. The 28-year-old England midfielder has signed with the NWSL club until 2026.

"I'm thrilled to take on this exciting new challenge," Zelem said. "The opportunity to compete in the NWSL, one of the most competitive leagues in the world, is a huge step in my career. I'm eager to test myself against top players while contributing to the success of this ambitious club."

Zelem contributed 32 goals and 46 assists in 161 matches for United.

"Katie Zelem is a wonderful addition to our squad at the perfect time," Angela Hucles Mangano, the Angel City general manager, said. "She has honed leadership skills at high levels as the captain of Manchester United, is a skilled midfielder with an elite-level football acumen, and her desire to bring championships to LA was palpable. We are excited to welcome her."

sky sports Premier League Watch live 16 August in stunning Ultra HD

& sky House of the Dragon Watch in stunning Ultra HD

& NETFLIX The Gentlemen Watch now

Get it all at our lowest price

£52
£43
a month

Prices may change during 24-month contract. New Sky TV customers only.



Offer ends 21 August. New Sky TV customers only. £43 Sky TV, Netflix, Sky Sports & UHD. Requires Sky Stream or Sky Glass TV (from £14 extra p.m.). New 24-month minimum terms for Sky Ultimate TV subscription (£23m) and Sky Sports Complete Pack (£19m). Requires either Sky Stream Pack and TV with HDMI port or a Sky Glass TV, and broadband (min. recommended speed 25Mbps). Prices may change during contract period. You must keep all packs for 24 months to continue getting this offer. If you remove one Pack, you will pay standard in-contract price for all Packs (£28pm for Sky Ultimate TV and £28pm for Sky Sports Complete Pack). Includes Sky UHD Pack (£1pm) on a rolling 31-day contract. Standard prices apply after 24 months (currently £31pm for Sky Ultimate TV, £30 for Sky Sports Complete Pack and £9 for UHD). Offer not available with any other offers. Ongoing monthly prices and content subject to change. Content/shows/features available vary each month. Streaming TV account required, manage online at sky.com or via the My Sky app. Email address required for account login. Includes Netflix Standard with Ads (RRP £4.99). Netflix Terms of Use Apply.

Sport Football

Liverpool snubbed by top target Zubimendi

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Martin Zubimendi has rejected Liverpool's advances and opted to remain at his boyhood club Real Sociedad in a setback for the new head coach Arne Slot.

Liverpool were originally informed that Zubimendi was prepared to leave the Basque club this summer, but the 25-year-old Spain midfielder has now backtracked after being placed under pressure by Sociedad to remain loyal.

It is unlikely at this stage that Liverpool will switch their attention to an alternative midfielder, with Zubimendi having been targeted because he suited a specific profile of No 6 for Slot's squad.

Having been told that he would be prepared to leave in this window, Liverpool saw the chance to move for him as opportunistic.

The view of the club is that they have Ryan Gravenberch and Curtis Jones as potential partners for Alexis Mac Allister, while Dominik Szoboszlai and Trent Alexander-Arnold can also play there.

Wataru Endo is a more destructive No 6 and looks unsuited to the demands of the new coach, having not been favoured by Slot during pre-season. There is also the 17-year-old



Trey Nyoni, who joined the club from Leicester City last year and is highly rated.

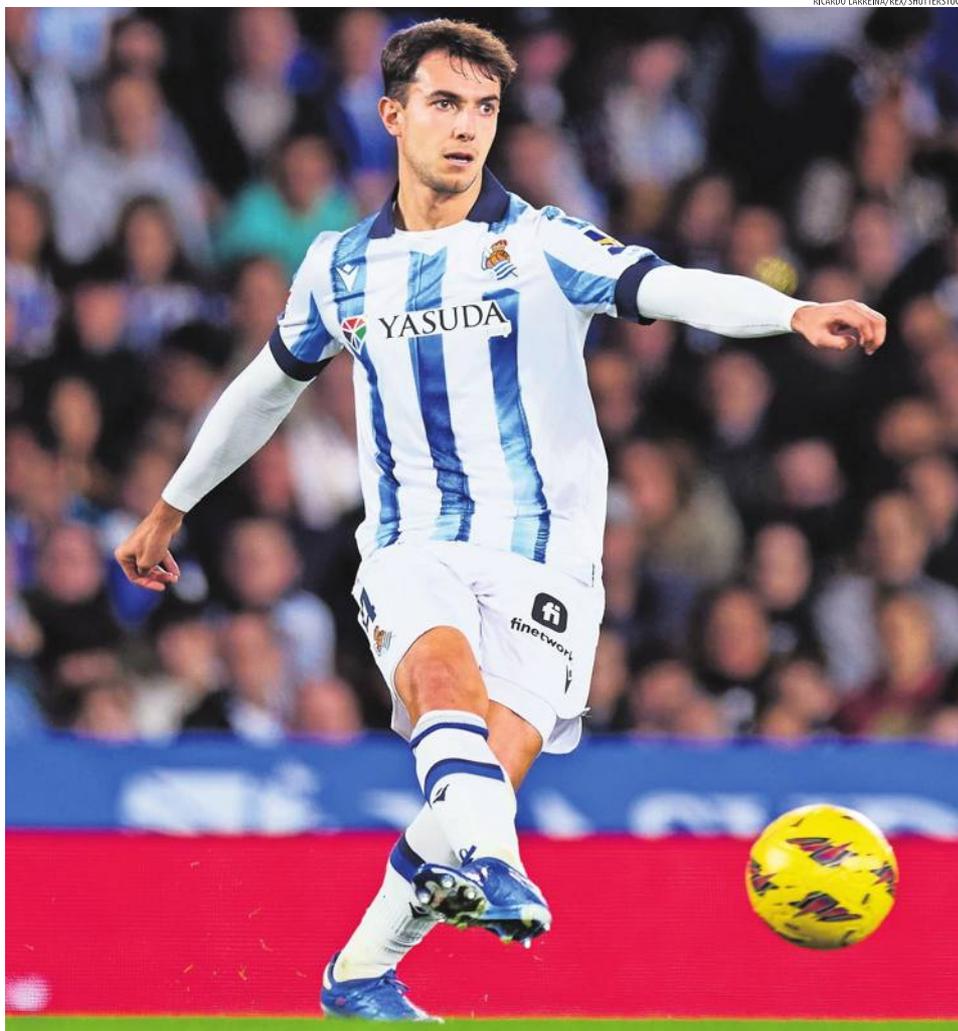
Zubimendi has previously been targeted by clubs of the calibre of Barcelona, Arsenal and Bayern Munich without moving from the club he joined at the age of 12. Despite that, Liverpool had been assured that the Spain international, who featured in the Euro 2024 final success over England last month, was ready to take the next step in his career and compiled background checks accordingly.

However, Sociedad made it clear that he would have to force his way out of the club by personally triggering a £51 million release clause in his contract and that they would not negotiate with Liverpool.

Sociedad's powerplay came with the club having sold the defender Robin Le Normand to Atletico Madrid this week, while the midfielder Mikel Merino is a target for Arsenal.

The collapse of Liverpool's pursuit of Zubimendi means they remain the only Premier League club still to sign a player in the transfer window. They are monitoring the Valencia and Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili, who is valued in excess of £30 million.

Meanwhile, Red Bull Salzburg has submitted a third bid for the Liverpool midfielder Bobby Clark, which



Real Sociedad demanded loyalty from Zubimendi, who was a target for Liverpool. Clark, left, is wanted by Red Bull Salzburg

is thought to be closer to the club's £10 million asking price. Salzburg had a second offer of £8 million rejected on Sunday but that has not ended their desire to sign the 19-year-old.

The Austrian side, who finished second in the league last season, are now managed by Pep Lijnders, the former Liverpool assistant manager who worked under Jürgen Klopp at Anfield. He is assisted by Vitor Matos, who also worked with Clark at Liverpool.

Lijnders is determined to take the former Newcastle United junior to the club. Liverpool are weighing up Salzburg's third offer.

The Austrians play the second leg of their Champions League third-round qualifying game against FC Twente today, having won the first leg 2-1. The appeal of playing Champions League football for Clark is thought to be great.

Clark joined Liverpool from Newcastle in 2021 and made 12 senior

appearances last season, scoring his first goal for the club in a 6-1 win against Sparta Prague in the Europa League.

There has been talk of potential loans this season to the Sky Bet Championships. There was also serious interest from two Premier League clubs and talks of a new deal at Anfield. Salzburg now appear to be the frontrunners, with the Austrian side waiting to hear if Liverpool will accept their bid.

Newcastle increase Guéhi offer to £60m

Gary Jacob, Martin Hardy

Newcastle United have increased their offer for Marc Guéhi to an initial £55 million, rising to £60 million with add-ons.

The England centre back has been valued at more than £70 million by Crystal Palace, who need to pay 20 per cent of the profit on the deal to Chelsea, who sold him for £18 million in 2021. Newcastle previously offered to pay an initial fee of about £48 million.

Palace's options as a replacement include Maxence Lacroix, who is in the last year of his contract at Wolfsburg, where he worked under Oliver Glasner, now the southeast London club's manager. They have also looked at Trevoh Chalobah, who is unwanted by Chelsea, and Odilon Kossounou, who has two years left on his deal with Bayer Leverkusen.

The Guéhi deal is especially important to Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach. As it stands, five days before their



Palace value Guéhi at more than £70 million

Premier League campaign begins, Newcastle's starting XI will be weaker than it was for the first game of last season. The days of calling them the richest club in the world may well be disappearing but, still, the deterioration in quality says something.

Progressive? That word has been associated with Newcastle since the takeover of the club by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund in October 2021. Howe, his staff, his players and the board who appointed him, have all been moving in a forward direction in recent years. But a first XI getting weaker? That was never the plan.

Sandro Tonali, who started the opening-day fixture against Aston Villa last season after his £55 million move from AC Milan, is still suspended and Sven Botman, the left-sided central defender, is recovering from an

anterior cruciate ligament tear. Newcastle have signed four new players this summer — two goalkeepers, the defender Lloyd Kelly and William Osula, a 21-year-old striker who arrived from Sheffield United. Only Kelly has a chance of starting against Southampton on Saturday.

It is why there has been unease and an admission from Howe, in pre-season in Germany, that he will stay only if he is happy. Paul Mitchell, the club's new sporting director, was in Germany too, and the Guéhi deal is in his hands.

Succeed and Howe can reshape his defence, while Newcastle will have made one of their biggest statements in the transfer market. Signing present England internationals takes supporters' memories back to buying Michael Owen and Alan Shearer.

Much hinges on landing Guéhi and perhaps Noni Madueke, the Chelsea winger, to show that the intent remains to go better than last season's seventh-placed finish. A deal for Madueke may rest in the potential sale of Miguel Almirón. A representation from MLS side Charlotte FC are in England trying to land the Paraguayan winger.

Bissouma in trouble after posting laughing gas video

Gary Jacob

Yves Bissouma could be punished by Tottenham Hotspur after footage emerged that appears to show him inhaling laughing gas, which the midfielder called a "severe lack of judgment".

Bissouma, 27, posted a video on social media on Saturday that showed him inhaling from a balloon in a car. He had a night out after playing the opening half of Tottenham's 3-2 defeat by Bayern Munich in the Visit Malta Cup — only one week before the start of the Premier League season.

Possession of nitrous oxide for recreational use has been a criminal offence in the UK since 2023 and can lead to a two-year prison sentence.

"I want to apologise for

these videos. This was a severe lack of judgment," Bissouma said. "I understand how serious this is and the health risks involved, and I take my responsibility as a footballer and role model very seriously."

The Mali midfielder struggled in the second half of the season at Tottenham after an excellent start under the new head coach, Ange Postecoglou. Suspensions, injury and malaria contributed to a loss of form.

He has made 56 appearances, including 26 starts last season, since his move from Brighton & Hove Albion for an initial £25 million two years ago. "We are looking into the events," a Tottenham spokesman said. "This will be dealt with as an internal matter."

Kyle Walker, then at Tottenham, was reprimanded by the club after being pictured with the substance in 2013.



The video shows Bissouma inhaling from a balloon in a car

Álvarez's emotional goodbye to City as he joins Atletico

Julián Álvarez said Manchester City would “always have a special place in my heart” after completing an £81 million move to Atletico Madrid.

The Argentina striker has signed a six-year contract with Atletico after the clubs agreed an initial fee of €75 million (about £64 million) and €20 million in add-ons — making it a record sale for City. It also represents a significant profit on a player signed from River Plate for £14 million.

Álvarez enjoyed astonishing success in his debut 2022-23 season for City. By Christmas of that campaign he was a World Cup winner with Argentina and went on to win the treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League with his new club, who retained the English top-flight title last term.

Álvarez, 24, said: “Today I say goodbye to this amazing club, with a lot of emotion. These have been two very special years. During this time I have grown and learnt a lot

— both as a player and as a person.

“To the directors and the technical staff, thank you for your confidence and support. Your teachings and vision have helped me to develop so much.

“To my team-mates, thank you for every moment we have shared, for the effort and dedication in every training session and every match.

“I have learnt a lot from each and every one of you and I remain with memories and friendships that will last for ever.

“To the fans, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the great support and for making me feel at home from the very first day. I will always be extremely proud to have been part of this family.

“Manchester City will always have a special place in my heart. I wish you every success in the future



Álvarez, who won the Premier League twice with City, has completed his move to Atletico for £81 million — a record sale for the champions

and I will keep on supporting the club wherever I may be.”

Meanwhile, Eddie Nketiah's proposed move from Arsenal to Marseille is in the balance after the French club agreed a deal to sign the forward Elye Wahi for up to

£25.6 million from Lens. Wahi, 21, scored a goal and made another in Lens's win over Arsenal in the Champions League group stage last October.

Nketiah has been among the players whom Arsenal have wanted to sell after spending

heavily on signings in recent seasons. Arsenal have been holding out for about £30 million for the 25-year-old and have been in talks with Marseille over an initial loan that would become a permanent transfer for about £26 million next summer.

Legal battles could make this the most seismic season of Premier League era

Martyn Ziegler

Chief Sports Reporter



The 2024-25 season is gearing up to be the most controversial since the start of the Premier League and perhaps in the history of top-flight English football.

Manchester City are the 6-4 favourites to win the Premier League but are also as low as 8-1 to be relegated as a result of the hearing into the 115 alleged rule breaches.

The greatest attention will of course be on City, but the Premier League also has outstanding legal cases involving Everton and Leicester City regarding possible breaches of Profitability and Sustainability Rules, and investigations into Chelsea over payments made during Roman Abramovich's ownership.

Furthermore the league has yet to approve a move by Chelsea's holding company to sell two hotels to a sister company in June 2023 and to sell the women's team to the parent company in June this year.

Before the hearing into City's alleged rule breaches, the outcome of the club's legal action against the Premier League's associated party

rules will be known. City have gone to arbitration, claiming the rules are anti-competitive, and the outcome of that could have implications for the value of contracts with related-party sponsors.

The case involving the alleged rule breaches by City, though, is where the real earthquake could happen.

The hearing will be the climax of the Premier League investigation, which started more than 5½ years ago, after allegations were made by the German investigative website Der Spiegel.

An independent commission is due to start in mid-to-late September, unless there are further legal delays, with the hearing expected to last for at least ten weeks and the result provided early in 2025. Whatever the outcome, the repercussions will be seismic.

If the most serious charges against City — especially those around providing accurate financial information for nine separate seasons — are proved, then relegation looks the obvious sanction. Everton's eight-point deduction last season for two rule breaches around financial losses — far less serious offences — may be

a pointer, while the example of Swindon Town being relegated from England's top flight in 1990 for irregular payments to players could be cited as a precedent.

Relegating City, serial champions in recent years and the Premier League's most successful club of the past decade, would have an

enormous impact. There could also be implications for City's Abu Dhabi owners and the club's leadership over their continuing involvement.

The Premier League's charges include several breaches for each of nine seasons from 2010 to 2018 of providing “in the utmost good faith, of accurate financial information that gives a true and fair view of the club's financial position, in particular with respect to its revenue (including sponsorship revenue), its related parties and its operating costs”.

Other serious charges include not providing full details of the manager Roberto Mancini's pay, as required, over the four seasons he was at the club from 2009 to 2013, and not providing full details of players' remuneration from 2010-11 to 2015-16. City have also been charged with

not co-operating with an investigation and handing over documents as required over five seasons from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

There are actually 130 alleged rule breaches to be dealt with rather than 115 — when the Premier League originally announced the list of charges in February 2023 there was confusion over some of the rules listed in relation to particular seasons and it had to issue a correction.

City have denied any wrongdoing and have spared no expense in hiring the best legal minds to defend their case, including Lord Pannick KC. Every possible legal avenue to help the club's defence has been explored and they will also take every appeal opportunity should charges be proved.

The repercussions should City win might be less obvious but would reverberate throughout English football. It would leave the whole structure of the Premier League's financial rules in tatters, have wider implications for any club seeking to challenge those and put the league's leadership under serious scrutiny.

Guardiola's side are favourites for the title

CONTINUED FROM BACK

City hearing to start next month

Etisalat payments can be dealt with by the Premier League among its charges as it does not have the same time restrictions as Uefa.

The Times revealed last year that a Uefa report, produced in 2020 but never published, stated that a mystery figure from the United Arab Emirates paid City £30 million that was supposed to come from Etisalat.

The adjudicatory committee of Uefa's Club Financial Control Board's report concluded that the payments, which were supposed to come from the UAE's majority-state-owned telecommunications company, were actually “disguised equity funding”.

It alleges that funding came from City's owner, the Abu Dhabi United Group (ADUG), the investment group headed by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Abu Dhabi's vice-president.

The report says that during Uefa's disciplinary hearing City's lawyer named the person who paid the money as “Jaber Mohamed” and stated he was “a person in the business of providing financial and brokering services”.

The report questioned why Etisalat or ADUG needed a broker. City's case was that Etisalat repaid the money to their owners in 2015, but that was not accepted by the Uefa adjudicatory committee.



6-4

Man City's odds to win the Premier League this season — they are the bookmakers' favourites

8-1

The odds on City being relegated from the top flight, as a result of the 115 alleged rule breaches hanging over the club

Sport Paris Olympics 2024

How we can make athletics relevant outside of Olympics

Michael Johnson

Four-times Olympic gold-medal winner



0.005sec and Quincy Hall overtaking Matt Hudson-Smith at the very end of the 400m.

The men's 4x100m was another great, tight race. From start to finish there were great performances, which was fantastic because in the post-Bolt years, the focus was always about records and times. Not in Paris.

I thought GB performed well. There were solid performances. Obviously, Keely Hodgkinson winning the gold in 800m was great and I was glad to see Hudson-Smith on the podium in the 400m, and of course, Katarina Johnson-Thompson finally got an Olympic medal at the fourth time of asking. Britain have also established themselves as a really good relay country. They are competing against the best and have been very consistent by getting on all five podiums. Now it should be a case of looking to see what it might take to get gold.

The question is: what next? How do we retain this interest? The answer I have come up with is a new league called Grand Slam Track, which will start next year. The Olympics have always proved there is an appetite for athletics, but you need the same rivalries, high stakes and storytelling we saw here in Paris, and fans need to know where they can find it in between the Olympics. They need to know that when they watch it they are watching the best athletes. That's what we are focused on delivering.

We will also always allow fans to get to know the athletes. At the Olympics it does not matter because fans see the colour of the national vest, but outside of the Olympics they need to know who to support and why. Maybe they will look at Noah Lyles and want him to lose. That's sport. It's about fans debating who's the best.

How will this work? It is a league in



Hocker caused a major upset by winning the 1,500m gold in Paris

These have been a really good Olympic Games. The track and field is always great, but this was one of the best meetings I have seen. It had it all.

Rivalries like Femke Bol versus Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Josh Kerr versus Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Rai Benjamin versus Karsten Warholm really cut through. Then we had people coming through and winning who were not expected, like Cole Hocker in the 1,500m. There were some brilliant, tight races, with Noah Lyles winning the 100m by

the mould of tennis's grand slams, so you have four high-level annual events in the same location each year with the best athletes competing head to head. Grand Slam Track athletes will be under contract and so they are guaranteed to be there. There are no field events. The focus is on speed and the fastest athletes, so we go only from the 100m to 5,000m.

There are six groups comprising two different events. So the short sprints group will be the 100m and 200m. The short hurdles covers the 100m/110m hurdles and 100m flat. Long sprints cover the 200m and 400m, long hurdles the 400m hurdles and 400m flat. Then we have a short distance group covering 800m and 1,500m, and finally a long distance

Our team's Paris 2024 highlights



Sum up this Olympics in five words	Too good for five words.	Almost as good as London.	Brillante, extraordinaire, superbe, impressionnant, mémorable.	Great, but so much controversy.
How did Paris do?	As well as London; there is no higher compliment.	If you are bored of Paris you may not be bored of life, but you are probably bored of magnificent buildings, romance, cafes, bike lanes, style, substance, steak frites and a certain <i>je ne sais quoi</i> . Paris looked and did great.	Won a gold medal.	Brilliantly, even if the water in the Seine did look unpleasant. Paris provided the most spectacular backdrop. No doubt inspired by London, the organisers made the best of their beautiful city.
Best thing I saw	Léon Marchand, right, winning two gold medals in two individual finals in 114 minutes. In the breaststroke, the chants of "Léoni!" as his head bobbed were simply wonderful.	I enjoyed Tom Pidcock's comeback and watching Simone Biles live is remarkable, but nothing topped Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone destroying Femke Bol to set a 400m hurdles world record. One of the greatest runs of all time.	Kieran Reilly, right, storming his way to a spectacular silver medal in the BMX freestyle park final.	The crowd at the swimming when Léon Marchand was contesting the 400m individual medley final. They delivered this guttural roar each time his head bobbed up during the breaststroke leg, having worked out it was the one time he could hear them. Never seen anything like it – brilliant.
Best British performance	Tom Pidcock (mountain bike) and Alex Yee (triathlon), left. Two never-say-die warriors launched gold-medal winning comebacks from causes that looked, to the common eye, completely dead and buried.	Keely Hodgkinson, hands down. A gold medal in a global, glamour running event won by an athlete with true charisma on the back of four silver medals. That rowing win by the women's quad on the last stroke was pretty good too.	Tom Pidcock for that audacious move around the tree which made the punters in the café where I was watching it on the telly leap around and cheer like lunatics.	Keely Hodgkinson. She had to deal with the pressure of expectation for the first time in her career, and she delivered. What a star.
British sport that must do better	Participation. This isn't going to continue for ever. If a few more folk don't follow the inspirational heroes of this last fortnight and join them rather than watch them, then one day the funding will dry up.	Boxing, right. Or should it be the judges must do better?	To offer the minority Olympic sports decent funding so the likes of Emily Campbell (weightlifting bronze) do not need to train in damp, disused warehouses.	Track cycling. With all that investment, not least in developing the best equipment, they really ought to have done better. Time, perhaps, for a review of the coaching set-up.
My wish for LA 2028	That it changes its plan to reverse athletics to the first week and swimming to the second because if the track and field finishes halfway through, there will be a danger that the Games peter out.	That people stop being snuffy about the Olympics. It's the best thing in sport.	To not make the Olympic Family (sponsors) the priority over spectators, who struggle to obtain tickets to events.	That, by then, both the International Olympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) have undergone significant reform, with Wada given independence. We cannot have a repeat of the shambles that has cast a huge shadow over the spectacle in Paris.



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



group for 3,000m and 5,000m. Each meet will be held across three nights and the athletes have to run in the two races in their group.
Someone like Josh Kerr will run the 800m and 1,500m. His better event is the 1,500m, but maybe another athlete is stronger at 800m so that creates a narrative: Josh can beat him at the 1,500m, but he does not want to

fall too far behind in the 800m. A big part of this will be storytelling. In the build-up and in between, we will be promoting them on prime-time television around the globe.
We need eight athletes in each of the 12 groups — six men's groups and six women's — so we will have 96 athletes. We will contract 48 Grand Slam Track Racers, so the top four in

How Grand Slam Track will work

Each group contains eight athletes, who will compete in two events. Each group has a men's and a women's category, giving twelve groups in total:

	Event one	Event two
Group one	100m	200m
Group two	110m hurdles	100m flat
Group three	200m	400m
Group four	400m hurdles	400m flat
Group five	800m	1,500m
Group six	3,000m	5,000m

100m, 100m flat, 400m and 400m flat are separate races

each group will sign long-term, multi-year contracts. They are guaranteed to be at all four meetings. The other four will be called "Challengers" and will sign for a race based on who is hot at the time. If someone pops up mid-season and clocks an amazing time we can bring that person in.

This is a way of making our sport relevant outside of the Olympics and World Championships. In the past we have asked fans to buy a ticket and they find the best athletes are not there, or they pull out because they are not obligated. That diminishes the sport and it diminishes the earning potential of athletes as well.

Sydney and Josh signed up as ambassadors in the summer to help us promote the league, and now the Olympics are over we've started signing other Racers. We will be announcing more athletes in the next couple of months and we have had lots of interest. With only 48 slots and four in each group, we want the very best. We had to wait until after Paris to determine who that is.

It may surprise some people, but it was not hard to get funding. People

love this sport. I have been around it long enough to understand what the issues are and why the sport has not resonated. Go to an investor and show them where the opportunity is and there is interest.

There are no field events and I understand the concern about that. I hope that help is on the way for them too. But the honest truth — and we are not often truthful in this sport — is there are numerous problems with it. I have started businesses before and it is always hard. But with businesses you can't take on all problems. You take on what you think you can change for the better. I have eliminated products I loved from a line in a previous company, but the question is: can we make the product sell? You have to concentrate on those that you think you can.

Track has traditionally been run by federations, so there is the automatic assumption that it will include everyone. Federations operate under inclusivity models, but businesses don't. They have to make decisions that don't always satisfy everyone.

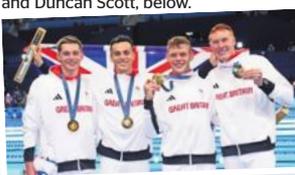
There will be two meetings in the

US and two in other countries. We have already announced LA, and the other three cities will be announced later this month and in September. LA has the next Olympics and so that puts us in a great position to build on Paris. We are in the second round of conversations with broadcasters. The level of interest has been another point of validation for the sport and the concept. We expect to announce primary broadcast partners in the fall.

This USA team have been really impressive at the Olympics and that helps us a lot. This is going to be an opportunity to elevate their profile in the US. People know about Sydney and Noah, and there is also the next generation. Quincy Wilson is 16 and ran in the 4x400m relay. He is a phenom. Typically in the US, we have lots of young kids who are superstar athletes. Some make it and some don't, but this kid is above and beyond all that. He is special, like Sydney was at 16, when she was competing at the Rio Games.

Professional sports by their very nature are the best versus best. Young kids want to be Premier League football players because it means they are one of the very best in the world. Federations are the exact opposite and bring in everyone and try to treat people equally. That's their role. I like that at championship level. I liked the introduction of the repechage round in Paris, and I liked people from small countries just trying to get into the next round. But that model does not work when talking about pro sports designed as entertainment for fans.

I honestly believe this is the only way to elevate the sport outside of global championships and I am excited for the future.

 <p>JAMES GHEERBRANT</p>	 <p>CRAIG LORD</p>	 <p>TOM KERSHAW</p>	 <p>JOHN WESTERBY</p>	 <p>ELGAN ALDERMAN</p>
<p>A beautiful exhibition of sport.</p>	<p>Pitch-perfect homage to London 2012.</p>	<p>Spectacular, sweaty, emotional, cultural, controversial.</p>	<p>Everything the Games should be.</p>	<p>Hail, o mighty pole vault.</p>
<p>Very well overall. The staging of the fencing and taekwondo at the Grand Palais, the equestrian events at the Parc de Versailles, right, and the beach volleyball in front of the Eiffel Tower were magnificent. Although the uncertainty and postponement of the triathlon felt unfair on the athletes.</p>	 <p>Formidably, from friendliness to the fabulous venues and fantastic crowds.</p>	<p>The venues at the foot of iconic landmarks captured the essence of a wonderful city, unless you were a triathlon swimmer, and the transportation and volunteers were all excellent.</p>	<p>A brilliantly distinctive host, largely because the French public are naturally invested and interested in such a broad range of Olympic sports: volleyball, handball, basketball etc.</p>	 <p>Good Games, good Games. The city provided stunning backdrops to so many events, and France's superstars delivered.</p>
<p>Honourable mentions for kayak cross, freestyle BMX and the final five minutes of the basketball semi between the USA and Serbia, but the best thing has to be the gold-medal match between Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. Tennis from the gods and a moment of absolute fulfilment for probably the greatest athlete of my lifetime.</p>	 <p>The powerfully contained "no words needed" reaction of the 4x200m freestyle cap-and-goggles brotherhood of James Guy, Tom Dean, Matt Richards and Duncan Scott, below.</p>	<p>There were so many breathtaking moments — some awe-striking, others gut-wrenching — but nothing tops the ten seconds that decides the fastest man in the world.</p>	 <p>That finishing burst from Femke Bol, right, to win the mixed 4x400m relay for the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Watching elite gymnasts on the rings was the moment I felt the chasm between Joe Bloggs and Olympian.</p>
<p>Of those I saw, Kieran Reilly's BMX freestyle performance was breathtaking, and would have been worthy of a gold medal.</p>	<p>It has to be that British quartet. They made history as the first precise-match quartet to retain any relay crown in 128 years of Olympic swimming.</p>	<p>Keely Hodgkinson's emphatic 800m victory, right, amid all the pressure and expectation on her, was tremendous.</p>	<p>Emma Finucane. These Olympics probably came a little too soon for her. And she still won three medals — a gold and two bronzes. Roll on 2028.</p>	<p>Tom Pidcock. Came back from a puncture to catch a home favourite, audaciously overtake him and cross the line to a chorus of jeers</p>
<p>Handball, volleyball and water polo are not really ingrained in our culture, but basketball is widely played in British cities. There's no reason why we shouldn't aspire to be better at it, and divert some elite funding accordingly.</p>	<p>The field side of athletics produced no podium finishes for Great Britain (there's always a reason).</p>	<p>It was a bitterly disappointing Games for GB Boxing, who left with just one medal, compared with six in Tokyo.</p>	<p>Hockey. Quarter-final defeats for both men and women were a bitter disappointment after previous successes.</p>	<p>Sailing. A lot of money towards a sport that isn't overly bewitching when there are golds, let alone when there are only two medals of any kind.</p>
<p>Bouldering on the letters of the Hollywood sign. It's not too late to make it happen.</p>	<p>That the Games retains its look and feel as a universal festival of sport, as it has been in Paris, as it was in London: the Olympics is not a "World Series" of just one nation.</p>	<p>That boxing is able to keep its place at the Olympics and avoid the kind of controversy that overshadowed it here.</p>	<p>That we are given a feel for LA as a city and that it's not just all about U-S-A.</p>	<p>Britain takes pride in developing low-performance sport, on fields and courts around the countries, fuelled by high-performance idols.</p>

Sport Paris Olympics 2024

2008



Daley was only 14 when he made his Olympic debut in Beijing, left. He won his first medal at the Games in London four years later, below left, and also claimed bronze in Rio, top far right, before winning gold in the 10m synchro with Matty Lee in Tokyo, bottom far right. He completed the set with a silver in Paris this summer, right, when he was also a Team GB flagbearer at the opening ceremony in his final Games

2012



2024



Daley is a trailblazer who made

The newly retired diver faced so many obstacles – bullying, homophobia, the death of his dad – but still won five Olympic medals, writes **Alyson Rudd**



There was speculation that Tom Daley would compete at a sixth Olympics because the Games will be held in Los Angeles, where he now lives with his husband and two sons. It was, we hoped, too seductive a prospect to turn his back on and perhaps it was laced with far too much wishful thinking because, aged 30, the diver has announced his retirement.

“I have to make the decision at some point and it feels like the right time,” he told *British Vogue*. “It’s the right time to call it a day.”

But we can dream that he will change his mind. After all, he stopped diving after competing at the Tokyo Games and resumed only because

Robbie, his elder son, expressed a desire to see his dad compete at an Olympics. What if Phoenix Rose, his one-year-old, pipes up that he does not remember Paris and feels short-changed?

It will be very strange indeed to watch the diving at the 2028 Games without being able to root for Daley. On the other hand he will surely be there, supporting his successors in between bouts of knitting. There are few sports stars who offer such visible and emotional encouragement as Daley.

He is Mr Diving. He is the reason we care about diving and has inspired others to try to emulate him. If it were not for Daley many of us might not have given ourselves the chance

to become captivated by a sport that mixes bravery with such supple beauty.

It has not been easy for him either. Divers enter serious competition when very young, which is, naturally, complicated. Daley shot to shame as a 13-year-old and was bullied at school as a consequence. Out with his fellow pupils he would be recognised in the street or in cafés and, while this was not something he could control, there was suspicion that he was courting such attention.

He changed schools, found new friends and performed extremely well academically, which underlines why he was able to deliver consistently on the big stage. Daley possesses a quiet determination to execute whatever he does brilliantly, no matter the obstacles.

It was not enough for him, for example, to wonder at the homophobia that exists in Commonwealth nations. Instead he made a documentary, *Illegal to be Me*, in which he suggested, calmly, that

Where Daley won his medals



His diving partners

Daley won two Olympic medals on his own (10m platform bronze in 2012 and 2021) and three in the 10m synchro, with the following partners:
 2016 (bronze): Daniel Goodfellow
 2021 (gold): Matty Lee
 2024 (silver): Noah Williams

countries with anti-LGBTQ+ laws should not be allowed to compete at the Commonwealth Games. He spoke with athletes who have to keep their personal lives secret or risk being dropped from their team altogether. Or worse.

Because we met him so young, we watched him mature, and saw how he had to cope with the death of his father. Rob was Daley’s staunchest ally and he once sneaked into a press conference after his son had won the 10m platform world title in Rome in 2009 and demanded, in front of the media, a cuddle from his son.

Two years later Daley flew in from the United States to be at his father’s side as he lay dying of a brain tumour that had been diagnosed five years earlier. Which, of course, means that Daley was competing and training with an impending tragedy hanging over him. It also meant he did not regret competing — he was, aged 14, Great Britain’s second-youngest male Olympian — at the Beijing Games in 2008, because it at least meant his



2016



2021

Sports that cost Team GB £10m a medal — but others surprised

Elgan Alderman

Paris is back to normal, the closing ceremony has (probably) ended and British athletes have returned home with medals, memories or both.

Team GB hit some targets at the Olympics and missed others. There was a drop-off in golds, yielding the lowest figure since Athens 2004, but a near-identical overall tally of medals to the past three Games. Gerrymandering the table to prioritise all colours over golds, as the United States often do, Team GB were third behind the US and China.

The target of UK Sport — which is funded by the government and the National Lottery — was 50 to 70 medals and a top-five position in the overall standings, while “harnessing the power and platform that this success provides to drive positive impact in society”. It committed £315 million of funds across Olympic and Paralympic sports, of which it lists a total outlay of £245.8 million towards the former, for the Paris cycle and an extra £70 million to more than 1,000 athletes as performance awards.

In a move that was seen as a shift away from “posh sports”, and in the aftermath of scandals surrounding the pursuit of medals at the cost of athlete welfare, UK Sport announced it would change tack at the end of 2020. A four-year focus gave way to 12. The 2004 strategy — a “no compromise” pursuit of medals — would be softened.

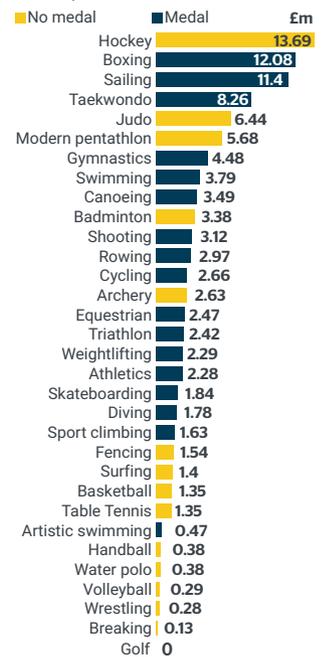
There are three award types: World Class Programme, National Squad Support Fund and Progression. The first of those is for major sports that have a chance to win medals. The second, launched in 2021 to fund teams for major championships that feed into Olympic participation, went to artistic swimming, baseball, breaking, handball, softball, volleyball, water polo and wrestling. The last specification was for basketball, fencing, skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, table tennis and weightlifting. There is no funding listed for football, golf, rugby sevens or tennis.

With the Games over, we can now count the cost of each medal.

Hockey is always a high-risk proposition, given that there are two team events, and the £13.7million of funding produced no podiums. Boxing

Value for money

Pounds per medal for each sport in which Team GB finished on a podium, or total funding if sport did not receive a medal (yellow bar)



and sailing both came in at more than £10million a medal, and taekwondo was not far off. If the silver in artistic swimming felt like a bolt from the deep blue, that's because it was. From only £467,250 of assistance, Kate Shortman and Isabelle Thorpe earned silver.

Adjusting the ratio for pound per gold, the big beasts of athletics, sailing and swimming look less efficient. They produced 17 medals between them but only one gold apiece. Equally cycling and gymnastics, with three golds out of 14 medals, averaged more than £10million per first place. Toby Roberts's gold in the men's climbing was another late shock and turned sport climbing into an efficient source: one gold for £1.6 million of funding.

us care about diving

father saw him on the biggest stage of all.

Then came London 2012. Daley had christened the new Aquatics Centre the previous year by being the first athlete to perform a dive there and by the time the Games began he was a fully fledged poster boy. This almost backfired when so many cameras flashed as he took his final dive that the bright lights put him off. Fortunately the judges allowed him to try again and he sealed a bronze medal and immediately said how excited he was to try again in Rio.

And it is not an easy sport, by any means. “When you hit the water,” he once told me, “it’s a sense of relief that you haven’t hurt yourself, more than anything.”

He won bronze in Brazil in the synchro 10m platform but was out of sorts in the individual event and did not make the final despite being a hot favourite.

“This is just heartbreaking,” he said. “In the Olympics you can get your dreams crushed in an instant. This is

my lowest moment in diving. It doesn’t get any lower than this.”

Suddenly another four-year cycle stretched ahead in which he would prepare to improve on coming third.

“I feel incredibly proud to say that I am a gay man and also an Olympic

“Without him many of us might not have become captivated by diving’s bravery and beauty

champion,” he said after taking gold in Tokyo alongside Matty Lee.

He said he felt more relaxed in Tokyo than at any other event, that having a child was his real gold medal. However, he did not bank on that child's request to see him compete at yet another Olympics. Had he even given himself enough time to prepare for Paris? Somehow

he and Noah Williams, his new partner, took silver at the World Aquatics Championships in February, which meant they qualified for Paris, where Daley was chosen to be a flagbearer for the opening ceremony.

Daley and Williams won silver behind the hugely dominant Chinese. “There was a lot of pressure and expectations,” he said. “I was eager for it to be done. But when I walked out, and saw my husband [Dustin Lance Black] and kids and my friends and family in the audience, I was like, “You know what? This is exactly why I did this.”

And so he is retired aged 30 but not about to disappear. He writes books and sells clothes and presents TV programmes and campaigns and, of course, he knits.

“I feel very proud of my career,” he said, his voice cracking with emotion as he was interviewed by the BBC after arriving back at St Pancras station yesterday. “It’s just hard to talk when you’ve loved something so much.”



Climbing had £1.6million of funding — and Roberts won a surprise gold medal

APR/GETTY IMAGES

Sport

My plan for athletics

Michael Johnson explains his bid to channel Olympic fever
Pages 56-57



Stokes is irreplaceable

England Test captain's aura is unique, writes Mike Atherton
Page 51



City hearing set to start next month

Verdict on 115 charges due early in new year

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter
Matt Lawton Chief Sports Correspondent

The hearing against Manchester City on 115 alleged breaches of Premier League rules is set to start next month with the outcome known early in the new year.

The independent commission had been expected to start in November but sources with knowledge of the case have said that it is now due to begin in mid-to-late September, unless there are further legal delays.

The hearing has been scheduled to last ten weeks, with the commission members expected to deliver their verdict at the start of 2025. The outcome of City's separate legal case brought against the Premier League's associated party transaction rules is set to be revealed in the next two weeks, which would then allow the 115 charges hearing to take place earlier. There is a belief that City have achieved some successes in the arbitration hearing.

The Premier League declined to comment. City did not respond when approached by The Times.

City are facing the threat of relegation from the Premier League if the most serious charges against them are proved. The alleged rule breaches include not providing accurate financial information for nine separate seasons, not providing full details of former manager Roberto Mancini's pay over the four seasons he was at the club from 2009 to 2013, and not providing

full details of players' remuneration — including that of the former midfielder Yaya Touré — over six seasons from 2010-11 to 2015-16.

City have also been charged with not co-operating with an investigation and not handing over documents as required over five seasons from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

City have always denied any wrongdoing and say they have "irrefutable evidence" that will clear them. They have employed Lord Pannick KC to lead the club's defence against the charges.

The Premier League launched an investigation into City in 2018 after the publication of *Football Leaks* documents by the German website Der Spiegel, including copies of Mancini's contract, image rights agreements involving Touré's agent, and numerous emails suggesting City's owners had paid sponsorship money directly.

City were banned by Uefa for two years of European competition in 2019 only for that to be overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

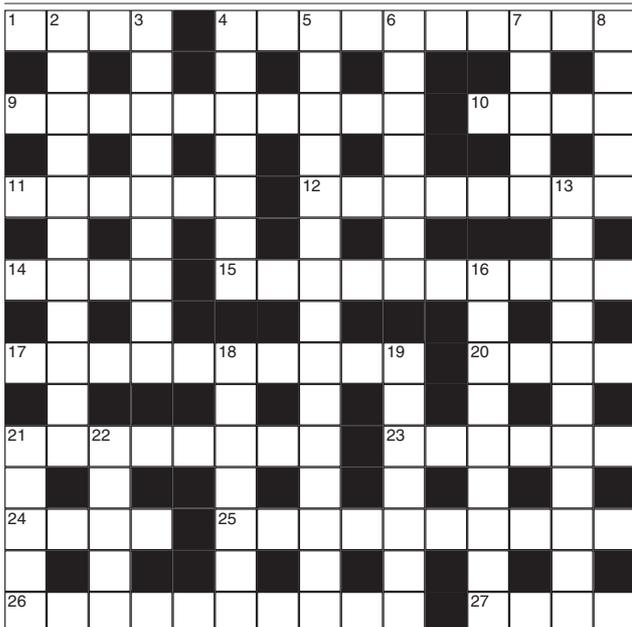
The court ruled that payments of £30 million in allegedly disguised owner equity funding via the Etisalat telecoms company could not be dealt with as rule breaches as they were time-barred. Two of the three CAS panel members also cleared City of receiving disguised equity funding via Etihad Airways saying that "remains unsubstantiated".
Continued on page 55



Olympic legend Daley waves goodbye to diving

After winning his fifth medal at as many Games, British diver who transcended the sport retires on his return from Paris. Alyson Rudd pays tribute to the trailblazer who became a household name and a national treasure, pages 58-59

Times Crossword 28,994



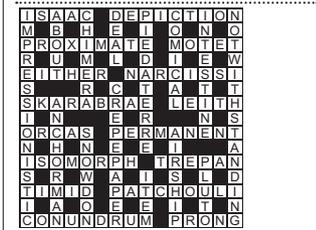
ACROSS

- Tranquil hiding place for illegal substance (4)
- People's way of speaking about English port (10)
- The audience's left with great playing in prospect (5,5)
- Cycling around African country's capital city (4)
- Spelling expert loses face about unknown, archaic letter (6)
- Grace needing tablet, say, breaking arm (8)
- Extremists in innermost Nicaragua backing Contra (4)
- Doctor isn't admitting mislaying coat? (5,5)
- Desire unity, eschewing European lack of morals (10)
- Note right back is in good shape (4)
- Navigator in five ice-bound vessels heading west (8)
- Partly explain a rule about astronomers' inspiration (6)
- Return of one shut in cooler, an innocent person (4)
- Discipline husband, as well as fool to start with (4,2,4)
- Daydreamer in novel relates holding out nuts (5-5)
- Runner over a long distance has zero energy (4)

DOWN

- One captured by Cezanne with kit off in famous picture (7,4)
- Stubborn so-and-so admits to last of drug running (9)
- One holding wood let go of rebounding golf ball (7)
- Set up bank, receiving warning over mostly bad grounds for dismissal (3,6,6)
- Poles clutching box, say, after English courses (7)
- New moon's seen first, under gold stars (5)
- Fabled sinner hiding diamonds beneath a skirt (5)
- Mood in state capitals of Alabama and Louisiana (11)
- Cut stellar Muslim ruler woolly fabric (9)
- From Nike etc., fancy clothing accessory (7)
- Comparatively spicy dish tucked into by this person (7)
- Grasping an indefinite number of meat sandwiches (5)
- Satirist succeeded, loudly welcomed by Wilde? (5)

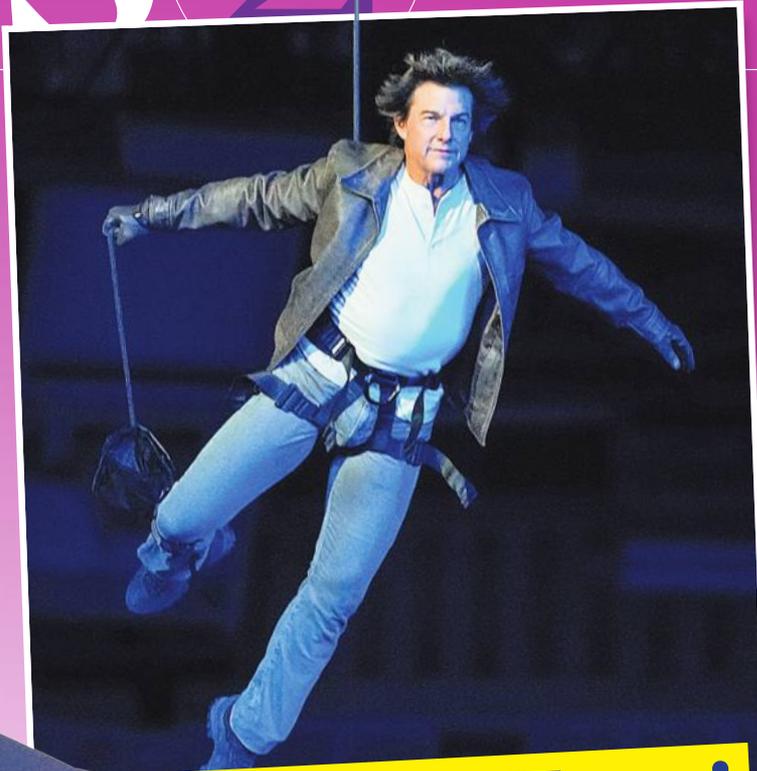
Yesterday's solution 28,993



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

Newspapers support recycling
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2023 was 45.5%





Hang on in there, Tom!

Cruise at 62



Plus 21 best exercises for midlife aches and pains

times2

Is it weird to have a beard? Not if you look like me and William Robert Crampton



In his latest public appearance, congratulating British Olympians, the Prince of Wales is sporting a beard. In terms of palace Kremlinology, this is historically significant because, while Queen Elizabeth allowed Prince Harry to keep his ginger whiskers for his wedding in 2018, Grandma periodically ordered William to get rid of his own facial hair, as and when he allowed it to prosper. And that's even though the heir's bristles are blonder, less luxuriant and therefore less eye-catching than the spare's. So, for William, 42, to be photographed with what looks like a fortnight's growth is a statement, both to his irksome baby brother and also, perhaps, to his dad. A subtle testing of the waters regarding currently acceptable levels of Windsor informality, maybe?

Leaving the peculiar politics of a family where your granny gets to micro-manage your razor regime aside and focusing on the aesthetics, I think William's beard is a hit. For the older man, beards almost always work well. William isn't yet old, of course, but neither is he young any longer. He's also bald, or near as dammit, and beards are especially flattering for baldies — a surrogate, albeit in the wrong place, for what is absent elsewhere.

For men beyond 60, which as of last week includes me, beards work for just about all of us, given what happens to your jawline as you age. Mercifully, I have not undergone the full Andean mudslide catastrophe, when your chin and throat collapse to your chest, burying dozens of Bolivian peasants along with all their llamas, goats, chickens and ponchos ... but still, it's a significant blessing to be able to camouflage incipient blurriness with hair.

Not that I've got much. There are many reasons I'm glad not to have been born in Afghanistan, and the extreme patchiness and sluggishness of my facial growth is among them. After a couple of months, my so-called beard curls in on itself like a mangy Brillo pad and gives up the ghost. The Taliban fuzz fuzz would never believe I wasn't secretly shaving. That reminds me, I like to prepare for November by downing tools around mid-August.



Next to Helmand province, the most hairless-intolerant place on Earth is probably Hackney, east London, where I live.

Step outside my front door and every man, and I mean every man, has a beard. A great big bushy one, usually, the kind of foliage that puts William's one-up-from-stubble look to shame, never mind my own scraggly efforts. Big beards are part of the hipster uniform, along with the checked shirt, the micro-beanie and the paddle-ready rolled-up trousers.

One of the first features I did for *The Times*, back in 1992, was headlined "Is it weird to have a beard?" Say no more. Around the same time, the fact that I commuted to work by bicycle was deemed sufficiently bizarre for an editor to commission a big piece on the subject.

How times change! In Hackney now, clean-shaven would arouse comment. Clean-shaven and in a car would invite suspicion. And as for clean-shaven and in a car while wearing trousers concluding at the correct length, then a scandalised hipster posse would perform a citizens' arrest.

As regards E8, the future king is part way, but only part way, towards impressing his future subjects.

Gluttony is never a good look

It's not often, if ever, that I find myself in agreement with the Chinese Communist Party. (Except Mao Zedong was obviously right when he said "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun", which is why serious tooling-up is the only way to keep his successors in line.) But as for Beijing cracking down on mukbangers — influencers who live stream themselves eating enormous amounts of food — I reckon the CCP is bang-on. Gluttony is never a good look, especially in a country where many tens of millions are malnourished.

All-you-can-eat salad bars came in when I was a teenager, but given the early options were cucumber, beetroot and tomatoes, the appeal was limited. But those early trial runs did mean that, once tastier options — usually Chinese food, as it happens — became available, I was already skilled at building a durable "lettuce rampart" around the bowl, the better to ladle in sweet and sour.

But the weight gain brought me to my senses. All you can eat: either you grow out of it, or else you grow with it. The commie hardliners are, for once, correct to go in hard.

Watch out, Sue's about — but how powerful is she really?

She became famous as the Partygate investigator. Now Sue Gray is Keir Starmer's gatekeeper. Is she as tough as some say, asks Damian Whitworth

On election night, when the exit poll showed that Keir Starmer was on for a landslide win, Sue Gray, his chief of staff, was with the Labour leader. They watched the results on a sofa at a friend's house, with his family and a few close aides.

Then the internet went down, leaving the man who would be asked to form a government in a few hours without TV or broadband. Starmer — according to his biographer, Tom Baldwin, who was also in the room — went upstairs to see if he could get a phone signal. Gray, her brain already whirring with the minutiae of her boss's first day in the new job, informed him that security would take his phone off him when he entered Downing Street.

Gray doesn't just do fine details. As the Downing Street equivalent of the Hand in *Game of Thrones*, she is there to use her knowledge of the corridors of Whitehall — and proven ability to bang heads together — to enable the prime minister to get things done.

Yet this sticky August week she finds herself in a position she hates: part of the story rather than a below-the-radar architect. No one doubts Gray is powerful. But as a senior Whitehall source told *The Mail on Sunday*: "She thinks she runs the country."

Starmer hired Gray from the civil service because of her reputation for achieving results. But his gatekeeper was portrayed at the weekend as too ferocious, a sort of Downing Street Cerberus, who restricted access to the prime minister even to those working on national security issues. She clashed with Simon Case, the cabinet secretary, reportedly demanding that he deny a member of staff access to a secure government computer system.

That staff member was said to be Morgan McSweeney, head of political strategy at Downing Street and the mastermind of Labour's election

victory. Gray and McSweeney are said to be involved in a power struggle — it has been claimed that McSweeney twice found his desk had been moved by Gray, each time a little bit further away from the prime minister's office.

"It's broadly unsustainable to have two separate power bases," a Whitehall source says. "It feels problematic." Some in Westminster believe that McSweeney's role in delivering victory was so important that he will be more crucial than Gray to Starmer. Others disagree, saying Starmer showed he was prepared to upset longtime Labour servants by bringing in Gray, and regards her as key. The claims come after *The Times* reported Gray had been accused of "subverting" cabinet ministers to try to secure a government bailout to rebuild a sports stadium in Belfast, where she was once based as a senior civil servant.

Labour sources say that Gray and McSweeney tell anyone who will listen they get on well and are as frustrated as anyone by the anonymous briefings. There are inevitably "tensions when you are trying to work out a system of government, because it is difficult. But they are focused on delivery and this is a distraction," says a source close to the government, who adds neither has a desire for a high profile because they have seen how aides who "become the story" have damaged governments. Alastair Campbell in the Blair era and Dominic Cummings, Boris Johnson's Hand turned furious critic, spring to mind.

The briefings against Gray are unlikely to be worrisome for a veteran operator who has faced rather more dramatic stand-offs, not least in Northern Ireland, where she briefly owned and ran a pub.

Gray is married to Bill Conlon, a Northern Irish country singer with whom she has two sons, including Liam Conlon, who is the new Labour MP for Beckenham and Penge. During a career break in the 1980s the couple ran the Cove Bar in Newry, close to

The dream of early retirement

Gen Z, I'm fond of arguing, are not nearly as dozy, dopey, dippy and generally dismal as

they are often depicted. Further evidence of the young folk's essential decency comes from a new poll that reveals over a fifth of them are planning for retirement. Given the oldest Gen Zer is 27, that figure represents an admirable degree of financial foresight.

I've overheard new graduates on the bus comparing pension entitlements.

Mind you, it doesn't pay to start mentally checking out too soon. In 2018, when our son was 21, my wife and I took him on holiday to Massachusetts. "This is great," he announced

during a few days on the undeniably magnificent Cape Cod, "I think I'll retire here." He has said similar about California, Tuscany, Rome and Vienna, so the lad's got taste at least, if not yet the 40-year career that usually precedes putting your feet up.



the border with the Republic of Ireland. One night after driving a member of staff home she was stopped by paramilitaries who demanded she hand over her car. She refused. When she spoke and it was clear she was “f***ing English”, the situation looked uncomfortable. Then one of the men said: “That’s Sue from the Cove, let her go on.”

That period in Northern Ireland led to allegations she had worked for British intelligence. Baldwin wrote in his biography of Starmer that she burst out laughing when he put that to her in an interview. “I’m definitely not a spy and no, I never have been,” she said. While Gray is a seasoned Whitehall operator, she appreciates a good joke and has an appreciation for the challenges facing people out of work from her time running a job centre. A former Cabinet Office source told *The Sunday Times* her approach to highly educated mandarins was: “I will show these bastards how to do it”, and recalled “she wasn’t going to take any nonsense from highfalutin posh boys”.

Her Irish Catholic parents came to Britain in the 1950s and Gray, born in 1957, had a working-class upbringing in north London: her father was a furniture salesman and her mother a barmaid. She joined the civil service straight from school. When she reached the Cabinet Office she built a reputation under both Labour and Tory governments as a fixer of problems, unfazed when deployed to unpalatable jobs. These included interviewing John Prescott, the deputy prime minister, when revelations emerged of his affair with his diary secretary. From 2012 she was in charge of propriety and ethics, and investigated Andrew Mitchell over Plebgate and Damian Green over claims of sexual harassment.

She reportedly stepped in when the planning for Margaret Thatcher’s funeral turned out to be inadequate.



Top: Sue Gray in her office in parliament. Above: with Keir Starmer last year

“She finds herself in a position she hates: part of the story”

She has been likened to the Wolf, a character in *Pulp Fiction* who cleans up horrible messes. Baldwin writes that Gray was once so powerful that she was described by one minister as the person who “runs Britain”.

Her reputation for getting to the bottom of potential ethics breaches led to her being brought back to the Cabinet Office in 2021 to run the Partygate investigation after Case recused himself. It found that Johnson misled parliament about parties during the Covid pandemic. The scandal weakened him as PM and led to senior Downing Street staff resigning.

Gray hated the scrutiny her inquiry brought. While watching rugby on TV she was reportedly mortified when the commentator said of an on-field controversy, “we’re going to need Sue Gray to sort that one out”.

In 2023 she was found to have broken the civil service code by holding talks with Starmer about the chief of staff role without telling her bosses. She had a lengthy wait before she could take up the job — the appointment was eventually cleared by the advisory committee on business appointments and she took gardening leave for six months. Starmer told Baldwin he was willing to wait for her “because of Sue’s obvious integrity”.

Before the general election Gray warned of the challenge ahead. “I know Whitehall and it will try to mould the new government and ministers into its way of thinking,” she said. She was trying to prepare the Starmer team so that “we can walk in and start delivering”. When she was a civil servant she was “not afraid to make enemies”, according to a Whitehall source. The briefings would suggest some of those enemies, whether old or new, are sniping.

I’m a vape addict like 1 in 10 adults in the UK

Georgina Roberts on why she can’t stop

When I walk into my local off-licence, the man behind the till recognises me and reaches for a peach-flavoured Elf Bar vape. It’s disturbing how quickly he’s learnt my order — within weeks of me moving into my new house. Each time it happens I feel embarrassed, especially if I’m with someone, as it proves my addiction.

More than one in ten adults in Britain vape, the highest level recorded, according to a YouGov study published this week. Over half of my 28-year-old friends do. At the end of a pub session the table we have been at will be littered with colourful plastic sticks: Elf Bars and Lost Marys.

It’s a running joke among my friends that I’m the worst. When one of them asks to grab something from my handbag, I panic, knowing they will see the vape graveyard rattling around with my keys and lipstick.

The study has found that only 8 per cent of the vapers are people who have never smoked cigarettes. More than half of them (three million) are former smokers. Like them I used to smoke, but ditched roll-ups in favour of Juul, the first “It vape”, five years ago.

I moved on to Elf Bars because they tasted fruitier and didn’t need to be refilled with vape liquid. That convenience — they’re sold in almost every corner shop in London, are cheaper than cigarettes (about £6 a pop) and don’t need to be recharged — used to be a plus, but I now resent it because it makes it harder to stop. Unlike a cigarette, which you stub out, there is no natural end to a vape. It goes on and on, and when it runs out of battery you buy another one.

One of the things I hate most about vaping, and which makes it feel like such a dirty habit, is the dependency I have on it. Every morning I wake up with one stashed under my pillow, ready for that first puff. I secretly vape everywhere: on trains I sneak to the loo with a vape stashed in my sock.

Like any addict, I feel panicky, irritable and sweaty when I run out, and will go to extreme lengths to get my fix. My vape died the other day when I was at a party. It was 2am, so all the nearby shops were shut. Rather than just accept I’d have to dance without a vape like a normal person, I ordered one on Deliveroo for £17.

On some level I must be in denial about how hooked I am, because I underestimate how many vapes I will need to bring with me on holiday (seven vapes for seven days). So the final few days of relaxing trips are marred by me frantically searching for shops that sell them.

I know it’s an unattractive habit.

When my boyfriend reaches out to hold my hand, he often has to curl his fingers around the vape I’m clutching. When one of my friends saw this, they jokingly quoted Princess Diana’s BBC interview with Martin Bashir, and said, “Well, there were three of us in this marriage ...” I know he worries about what it’s doing to my insides too.

Recently the downsides of my addiction have become too hard to ignore. There’s the cost — I spend about £150 a month on it — which I can’t afford since my rent has gone up. But my main worry is my health. I used to breezily brush off people who said I vaped too much by saying I was being healthier by vaping than smoking. But now I’m not so sure. Every month I see a new study being published about the health risks of vaping. When I read them I flinch.

I’m not the only one worrying. Half of adults now believe vaping is as harmful or more harmful than smoking tobacco, up from 8 per cent a decade ago, according to the study. I’m sure vaping had a hand in my bout of bronchitis in April, and in the upper respiratory tract infection I had earlier this month. I lost my voice at Glastonbury Festival in June, and it only came back when I didn’t vape on the final day. I rinse with Corsodyl mouthwash every morning to ward off vape-induced gum disease, but the answer is staring me in the face.

I am desperate to quit and I have tried. The survey found that it typically takes two years to fully quit using e-cigarettes, which doesn’t fill me with much hope. But it is doable. I did manage to kick the habit for a few weeks last summer after I visited an Allen Carr stop vaping clinic, a method that has helped everyone from Richard Branson to David Cameron quit cigarettes. But then I fell off the wagon on a night out.

I have managed to wean myself off the vapes a bit in the past few weeks, since I’ve discovered Snus. They are under-the-gum nicotine pouches that have become popular among my friends. I reckon I’ll be able to fully switch to Snus soon, but even then that’s still a nicotine addiction.

It runs in the family. My dad was a heavy smoker, until he switched to the healthier option — nicotine gum — when I was ten.

Although the gum helped him to completely quit smoking, he has been hooked on chewing mountains of it ever since. He sounded

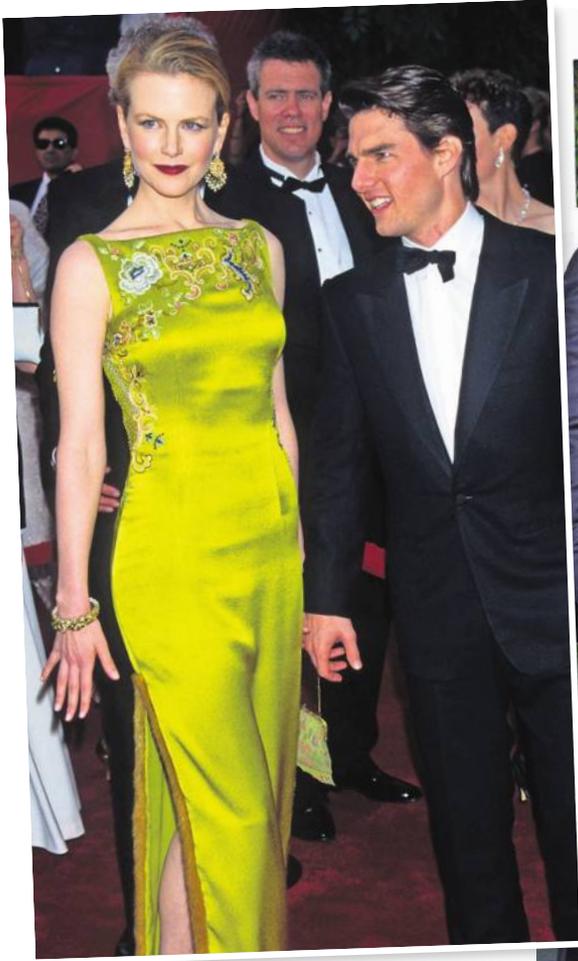
so excited and proud when he rang me last week to he has given them up, and is now ten days clean from the nicotine. It has spurred me on. I’d love to be able to ring him and say the same thing soon. If my dad is able to kick a habit he has had for 30 years, I should be too,



Georgina Roberts

times2

And now for my next stunt



Despite a decade marked by divorce and PR storms, Tom Cruise has maintained his position as a global star attraction. How has he done it? By Helen Rumbelow

With a waft of his Sandi Toksvig-style feathery haircut the 62-year-old took a tiny steadying step forward, the kind that any 62-year-old makes when rising from watching too much sport on television and has sofa cramp in their thigh, except for this 62-year-old it was to fall from the edge of the roof of the Stade de France in a live abseil at the close of the Paris Olympics. It was absolutely no accident that the Tom Cruise stunt was a redo of the spoof parachute jump staged by Queen Elizabeth and James Bond to kick off the London Olympics in 2012. The 12-year period from 2012 to 2024 for Cruise has been the strangest of any Hollywood star, which for an ordinary mortal would be filed under the label of “midlife crisis”.

Except that it follows none of the typical protocols if you don't include a

commitment to waxed agelessness and straddling motorbikes. In fact 2012 was when he gave up getting married to younger women.

Yet in a strategy that can be summarised as befriending cuddly British actors, painful self-flagellation and rather surprising glimmers of feminism, Cruise has clawed his way back up the mountain of public opinion, a feat more audacious than any literal stunt.

Case in point, his meeting with the acclaimed 26-year-old Spanish-American singer Victoria Canal at Glastonbury this summer, and the tabloids immediately speculating that they were a couple.

Instead, Canal took to her Instagram grid last week to post that the rumours were “bonkers ... I'm sorry to bum you out but I am not dating the man, albeit a lovely person & artist”. She finished by adding, “Tom has been nothing but a respectful and encouraging person and mentor.”

Relax, guys! Cruise is not going to marry her into the Church of

Scientology, he's just an ultra-macho action hero guy who wants female artists to get the respect they deserve!

His homage to the Olympics in London in 2012 contains all the seeds of Cruise's rehabilitation decade since then: the Anglophilia, his determination to best action heroes more iconic and far younger — Daniel Craig, playing Bond in 2012 aged 44, certainly did not parachute into the Olympic stadium. Most of all, royalty.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Cruise was considered Hollywood royalty with his talent for zeitgeist-defining blockbusters, but from the turn of the century began to be regarded in many quarters with suspicion or mockery.

This was largely due to PR disasters relating to his loyalty to Scientology and his espousing related beliefs, and his divorce from Katie Holmes, an actress with a persona so cute her unhappiness seemed to trigger a protective cuddle reflex in the American public.

So in 2012 Cruise's reputation was at its nadir. It marked the year of his Holmes divorce. It also marked the year he turned 50. From this point on he retreated and radically changed direction; Cruise would never again give a profile interview to a reporter. He would also bury his traditional acting

From left: Tom Cruise with Nicole Kidman in 1997; with Katie Holmes in 2012; at the Paris Games closing ceremony. Right, from top: at the Olympic women's football final between the US and Brazil on Saturday; with his children Connor and Isabella in 2008; his daughter Suri. Below: with Victoria Canal and Bruce Springsteen

career and from 2012 onwards he would refuse roles with the character range that had made him famous, such as those in *Jerry Maguire*, *A Few Good Men* or *Rain Man*.

From 2012 he would play only action heroes, endlessly flying and jumping into new voids with billion-dollar franchises such as *Top Gun*, *Jack Reacher* and, most lucratively, *Mission: Impossible*.

Royalty he may have been but only in the British Henry VIII sense, with Cruise's three ex-wives, his break from childhood Catholicism to a bizarre new belief system, and his refusal to explain. By contrast, Cruise's fall from the Olympic stadium on Sunday night marked his ascent: the king of Hollywood once more. The rest of the filmed sequence zeroed in on his biceps and the strength they needed to haul him atop the Hollywood sign. Cruise smiles and murmurs into his radio, “I'm on my way.”

How did he do it? As someone who has watched Cruise my entire life, I would never have imagined the actor I saw play a cocky, testosterone-fuelled young man dancing in his pants in *Risky Business* in 1983 would be wearing a crotch harness dangling over Paris more than four decades later.

Especially not with the PR storms he has endured in between, and let us



— why Cruise powers on

COVER: ASSOCIATED PRESS; BELOW: WIRE IMAGE; GETTY IMAGES; ASSOCIATED PRESS; BACKGROUND: INSTAGRAM



now say a prayer for the resilience of the powerful man, contrasted with a comparable woman. These storms mostly date to 2005 when Cruise's sister was briefly in charge of his publicity. In that year Cruise went nuclear on Oprah Winfrey's show, jumping on her sofa, shouting "yes" as a profession of his love for Holmes — or, as *The Washington Post* put it, "Chernobyled".

Cruise next critiqued his fellow actor Brooke Shields because she had taken antidepressants after experiencing postnatal depression. Cruise said on NBC, "I really care about Brooke Shields ... but there's misinformation, and she doesn't understand the history of psychiatry ... psychiatry is a pseudoscience."

Cruise called Shields "irresponsible". Shields responded that Cruise "should stick to saving the world from aliens and let women who are experiencing post-partum depression decide what treatment options are best for them". He later apologised.

His filmography up until 2012 could be described as interrogations of masculinity, frequently, as in *The Color of Money* or *Born on the Fourth of July*, related to hyper-macho sports or the military. This could often be highly sceptical: my favourite Cruise performance is in *Magnolia*, in which he plays a motivational speaker estranged from his father, a young man made toxic and

vulnerable through feelings of abandonment and betrayal.

Cruise was estranged from his father after his mother left him when Cruise was 12. In an early interview with *Parade* magazine Cruise said his father "was a bully and a coward ... the kind of person where, if something goes wrong, they kick you. It was a great lesson in my life."

He went to visit his father a decade later in hospital when he was dying of cancer. His father agreed to the meeting if he could control it, with the

“**He will pop up at Wimbledon or the coronation celebrations**

rule that "I didn't ask him anything about the past". Cruise later concluded: "What a lonely life."

Maybe that "great lesson" was in his mind when Cruise designed his reset after his third divorce, in 2012. His life thereafter seemed to shift gear into constant motion — both in the relentlessness of his action heroes such as Maverick, Reacher and Ethan Hunt, endlessly doing his "flat-palmed macho running" into the horizon but also his dogged pursuit of the British.

Part of the latter was logistical. The studios and locations for many of his films are in the United Kingdom. But when, for instance, he had a chicken tikka masala from a curry house in Birmingham in 2021, "as soon as he had finished", reported the chef, he ordered the same dish "all over again".

That takes action hero stamina and grit. While Cruise is rarely photographed if not publicising or filming his movies, he will pop up at Wimbledon or Formula 1, or the celebrations for King Charles's coronation, when Cruise said in an address to King Charles, "Pilot to pilot, you can be my wingman any time" — a distinct demotion for the monarch.

The British actors he has cultivated as friends are known for their distinctively British comedic self-deprecation, from James Corden, who mentioned that Cruise wanted to land his helicopter on his London roof, to the comedy writer and actor Simon Pegg, who said: "He likes me because I make him laugh."

When Cruise started his now famous cake gift list — a coconut cake sent to hundreds of his contacts at Christmas — he included a British journalist just because he made a humorous plea in print. Few things are more craven or more successful routes to the British heart than cake.

The cakes for his British friends arrive by private jet from a bakery in Los Angeles (Shields said last year she

has now quietly been dropped off the cake list; I guess even Cruise has to put his cake budget where it is most useful).

In short Britain and the British pose no testosterone threat. Craig hung up his special gun bra at the age of 51 just as Cruise was strapping his on for the next decade. The interrogation of masculinity was shoved aside.

Unlike the Bond series, Cruise makes sure his female action co-stars are not there simply to be impaled in various ways. This is partly due to the cultivated sexlessness of Cruise's action heroes: they are admired but not desired. In *Knight and Day* Cruise apologises to Cameron Diaz's character for touching her without consent. A female character has not taken her clothes off for Cruise since *Rock of Ages* in 2012. But also he is willing to cede agency to women: in *Edge of Tomorrow* in 2014 it is Cruise who is endlessly and violently kicked into shape by the British actress Emily Blunt. Blunt later said at the Cannes Film Festival that Cruise "was someone who was very much about my character being a girl. It was refreshing."

Cruise does do a limited amount of press, but mainly in the form of jokey chats on late-night talk shows, quite often with British hosts and friends such as Corden or Graham Norton. Cruise will not speak about Scientology, nor about family. He has been photographed in public places with his son and daughter from his marriage to Nicole Kidman, but not his daughter with Holmes.

The subject that takes up most of his airtime on talk shows is, notably, his stunts. It appears to be extremely important to Cruise not only that he does his stunts, but that the veracity of him doing his stunts is beyond doubt.

At one point on *The Graham Norton Show* they showed footage of him breaking his ankle filming a stunt, and then carrying on running. Pegg, also on the show, said "that is so Tom". The point of this carefully staged anecdote seems to be his machismo, but I think it is more his tolerance, or appetite, for pain.

When Cruise's stock was at its lowest in 2012, he was only just cultivating his "doing my own stunts" persona that is now central to his ever-emerging personal and professional identity. He decided that he wouldn't just act, pushed aside by a stuntman for the tough stuff. He would suffer. I wonder if this atonement is the key to Cruise's revival, consciously or not.

He wants us to see that he is really being battered, dangled, dropped and risked. Sure, it is a machismo flex that he can manage the physical feats, especially at 62. But as a born Catholic, it may also be important for Cruise that he endures a beating — physical or spiritual — to earn forgiveness.

When Cruise risked a live fall into the Stade de France, some of the most exceptional athletes on earth today greeted him at the base as a hero. Whatever our doubts, watching Cruise being kicked in the face somehow helps.

health

Saggy bottom, back problems, aching joints

21 exercises for midlife bodies

You don't have to suffer niggles and pains over 40, says fitness coach Jack Hanrahan. Try these moves

Once into midlife, it can feel as if you are suddenly susceptible to a whole host of niggles and pains — from a bad back and dodgy knees to frozen shoulders. But if you think you have to accept this as the start of a shuffle to old age, you are wrong.

These common aches are often caused by a lifestyle that involves lots of sitting, being hunched over devices and a busy schedule that doesn't include purposeful exercise to keep muscles strong, joints mobile and your heart healthy. Take action and you can quickly turn things around.

The key is to do simple exercises often that focus on building strength and improving mobility. Strength exercises are key because as you pass 40, you lose muscle far more quickly if you don't use it. That's because as we age we start experiencing anabolic resistance — meaning that our bodies don't respond as well to signals for muscle growth, such as protein or exercise, as well as they do in young people.

This reduction in strength is partly due to the rapid decline with age of the “fast-twitch” muscle fibres that facilitate powerful movements such as jumping, sprinting and lifting heavy things. And it's a vicious circle. As you lose strength and muscles become weaker, you move less efficiently and joints wear down faster. You also tend to put on weight, because as you lose muscle, you burn fewer calories at rest.

“Muscle is a very metabolically hungry tissue and our body doesn't want to be too inefficient,” explains Dr Richie Kirwan, lecturer in exercise physiology at the Liverpool John Moores University's Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Science. “If it

“As we age our bodies don't respond as well to signals for muscle growth



Jack Hanrahan

doesn't need to have muscle (because we don't use it for exercise) it isn't going to keep it around.”

Mobility is just as important. If you move less as you age, joints start to lose access to full range of motion. This is what results in stiff, restricted movement. Mobility exercises work to free up joints by strengthening them at their end ranges of motion, getting all the blood and restorative juices moving around that nourishes them and keeps them healthy.

Some of the exercises below focus on mobility, are quick to do and ideally you would do them every day. Others focus more on building strength and can be as challenging as you make them depending on the weights you use appropriate to your level.

What to do every day

To combat rounded shoulders

Shoulder rotations

Helps restore movement to tight shoulders. Sit or stand tall with your arms out to the side, elbows in line with your shoulders. Externally rotate your biceps so that the palms face upward. Then internally rotate the shoulders until palms are down. Do two sets of five repetitions each way.

Seated upper back rotations

Frees up a stiff back. Sit tall with arms forward. Reach one arm around your body in an arc, keeping your eyes on your hand. Breathe out as you do this and breathe in on the return. Do two sets of five reps each way.

Wall slides

Activates your posture muscles, helps restore shoulder mobility and frees up a stiff upper back. Stand with your back against the wall, with your arms in a W position and the back of your hands touching the wall, or as near as you can get them. Move your arms



upward into a Y position, trying your best to keep contact with the wall. Return to your start position. Do two sets of five reps each way.

For tight hips

90/90 hip stretch

Stretches the deepest hip muscles that can free up a range of motion. Sit in what is called the 90/90 position with your right leg forward, knee bent at 90 degrees to the left, and your left leg to the side, with that knee also bent 90 degrees. Lean shoulders forward with a flat back until you feel a stretch under the hip of the front leg. Do this for two minutes on each side.

Frog stretch

Helps stretch the inner groin muscles. Start on all fours. Spread your knees and turn out your feet. Lower down onto your elbows for two minutes.

Hip flex or stretch

Stretches the hip flexors that get tight from sitting. Adopt the lunge position. Tuck hips, lower chest and lunge forward until you feel a stretch across the front of the back thigh. Do once on each side for two minutes.

To help an achy lower back

Cat cows

This gently mobilises the back. Start on all fours. Round your back and breathe out as you do so. Then arch your back as you breathe in. Do two sets of five to eight reps.

Figure four stretch

Stretches the deep hip muscles that connect to lower back pain. Sit tall on a chair. Cross one ankle over your knee, supporting the lower leg with your hands. Lean forward slightly, keeping your back straight until you feel a stretch under that hip. Do this for one minute on each side, then repeat.



Bird dogs

Activates the core muscles to provide relief to an overly tense back. Start on all fours. Brace your core. Straighten one leg, keeping the toes pulled up and lift 2 to 4 inches off the ground, keeping back straight. Hold for 10 seconds. Lower and return. Then repeat on the other side. Do two sets of five alternating leg lifts.

Do twice a week

To improve your core strength

Deadbug heel taps

Strengthens your anterior core muscles — the stuff on the front. Lay on your back with your knees bent and arms straight. Tap one heel to the ground and resist the lower back popping up off the ground. Repeat the other side. Do two sets of six to eight each way.

Bent knee side planks

Strengthens your lateral core muscles, ie your side muscles. Lie on your side

through the front foot. Do two sets of eight to ten. You can do this with body weight or add a dumbbell as you progress starting from 5kg in each hand.

Step downs

Strengthens muscles around your knees and glutes. Stand on a low bench. Slowly lower your foot down to the ground, while leaning forward, to keep weight over the top foot. As your back foot hits the ground push up again through the front foot to come back up. Do two sets of eight to ten on each side.

Hamstring bridge

Strengthens hamstrings that support the muscles around the knee. Lie on your back with your feet on a bench, keeping your knees in front of your hips. Push down to raise your hips until there is a straight line between knees, hips and shoulders. Hold for 20-30 seconds, twice.

Best for a sagging bum Glute bridges

Builds up your glutes that will counteract the look of sagging (and help with posture too because strong glutes support the lower back). Lie on your back with your feet one foot from your bottom. Push through your feet to raise your hips. Hold for a brief second before lowering and repeating. Do two to three sets of ten to 20.

Hip hinges

Strengthens your glutes and hamstrings and lower back. Stand with dumbbells by your sides, starting with 5kg. Push your hips back to stretch and load your hamstrings and glutes. Keep your back flat and head in line with your spine. Then drive your hips forward to stand up again. Do two to three sets of eight to ten.

Side plank hip thrusts

Strengthens your lateral glutes. Lie on your side with knees bent and legs stacked. Lift your hips up and forward and open up your top knee as you do so. Return and repeat. Do two to three sets of 10-15.

To tone up your shoulders Lateral raises

Tones and builds shape to outside shoulders. Stand tall. Raise dumbbells outwards to the side. Pause at the top when your hand is level with your shoulder before lowering. Do two sets of 12-15.

Rear delt raises

Tones and builds shape to the back of your shoulders. Bend over with a back straight so your body is at a 90-degree angle. Using a very light weight, raise the dumbbells outwards. Pause when your hands are in line with your shoulders. Slowly lower the dumbbells. Do two sets of 12-15.

Farmer's carry

Builds shape to your shoulders, improves shoulder stability and strengthens the core. Walk in a controlled way, holding heavy dumbbells or kettlebells by your sides. These should be heavy enough that they are challenging to hold by the end of the 60 seconds. Walk for 60 seconds, twice.

Jack Hanrahan is a fitness and health coach and founder of PGRM fitness app.
jackhanrahanfitness.com

with knees bent. Drive the hips up and forward until there is a straight line between knees, hip and shoulder. Hold this position and maintain your breathing. Do two sets holding for 20 to 30 seconds at a time on each side.

Plank toe taps

Strengthens your anterior and oblique core muscles, ie blitzing the whole core. Start in a straight arm plank position, hands under shoulders and feet together. Lift one leg, tap the foot out to the side about two feet from your start position. Return and repeat on the other side. Maintain a straight lower back as you do this. Do two sets of five each way.

To protect your knees Split squats

Strengthens the muscles around your knees and glutes, which have a beneficial impact on knees. Start in a split stance with your torso slightly leaning forward. Squat down and up, keeping most of your weight

Dr Mark Porter

The secret to stronger, healthier bones

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) has just approved a new treatment for osteoporosis which should be available on the NHS within the next few months. Abaloparatide, which can be self-administered by injection, will be reserved for those who have not responded to, or cannot tolerate, existing medicines. Nice estimates that more than 14,000 people in England could benefit from its introduction.

Awareness of osteoporosis — both among healthcare professionals and the public — has been transformed during my career thanks to a combination of better diagnostics, new treatments and the efforts of campaigners such as the Royal Osteoporosis Society and its president, the Queen. However, while much progress has been made there are still far too many people in Britain who are unaware of the risks, or who may already have osteoporosis and are missing out on existing therapies. Could you be one of them?

Bone is a complex structure mostly made of calcium and phosphorus salts deposited on to a protein (collagen) framework. It is a living tissue that is constantly being remodelled and renewed. As well as healing injuries, this remodelling allows it to respond to stresses and strains by getting stronger. The opposite occurs — bones get weaker — if loading is reduced when you do too little, take to your bed or get stuck in the International Space Station for months on end.

Bones also get lighter and less dense as we age. Most people reach peak bone mass between 25 and 30, after which it tends to decrease slowly until the age of 50, when it starts to drop more quickly, particularly in women. So we all end up with “thinner” bones over time, but for about one in three women and one in five men this process eventually occurs to such a degree that they develop fragility fractures — broken bones from relatively minor trauma. The most common examples are fractured wrists and hips caused by simple trips and falls. Vertebral fractures of the spine, leading to pain, loss of height and deformity (the dowager's hump) are another common problem. These can even occur under the weight of one's body, without any significant trauma.

Fragility fractures are often the first sign of trouble and should always prompt further investigation (see box). Such investigation is now routine in the NHS, or should be, but in 2017 Nice estimated that about a quarter of hip fractures in Britain (more than 20,000 a year) could have been prevented by a better follow-up with patients who had had other fragility fractures.

Some people are more at risk of developing osteoporosis than others and should be particularly vigilant. It is more common in those with a

Diagnosis and treatment

- GPs and hospitals typically use a combination of a risk calculator (such as the Frax fracture risk assessment tool at frax.shef.ac.uk) and/or a special type of x-ray (a DEXA scan) to identify people with osteoporosis.
- If the risk of fracture is high and/or bones are found to be worryingly fragile, medical options include supplements (calcium and vitamin D) and medication — typically bisphosphonates like alendronic acid, usually taken once a week in tablet form. Specialist clinics may have access to newer options such as abaloparatide.
- People prone to falling because of mobility or balance issues should be referred to a falls clinic to see if their mobility can be improved and/or aids supplied.
- For more information on the causes, diagnosis and management of fragility fractures and osteoporosis visit theros.org.uk or cks.nice.org.uk.

family history of the condition, as well as smokers, heavier drinkers (more than three units a day) and women who go through the menopause early, along with men with low testosterone levels (sex hormones protect bone density).

Other risk factors include general ill health and immobility, being underweight, having arthritis and/or nutrient malabsorption due to bowel problems such as coeliac disease, low calcium intake and vitamin D deficiency. Certain medicines can cause it too, ranging from steroids (typically those taken over the longer term in tablet form) to anticancer drugs such as omeprazole and lansoprazole, albeit to a much lesser degree.

Medicines such as bisphosphonates, which promote new bone formation, may mitigate some of the risks in people taking steroids long term, while HRT can help in women who have had an early menopause (as can testosterone in men with low levels), but self-help is key in both prevention and treatment. A good diet and a healthy lifestyle, particularly weight-bearing exercise and lifting weights, is important, as is getting enough vitamin D and calcium (though evidence for the benefits of high-dose supplements is mixed).

However, perhaps the best self-help tip I can give you is to never ignore a fragility fracture. If you break your leg skiing after tumbling at speed on a black run, you are probably just unlucky, but if you fracture your wrist, hip or shoulder after a slip on the ice outside the après-ski bar, you should be more concerned. And don't be reassured just because you had an x-ray, because this won't pick up “thinning” of the bones unless it is at an advanced stage. If in doubt, always ask your doctor:

could this be osteoporosis? Modern treatments (see box) can slow, halt and even reverse bone loss, but the sooner they are started the better, as there is more bone mass to preserve. The most commonly used drugs, bisphosphonates, are not perfect — they have side-effects ranging from indigestion to jaw problems, and there is still some debate about how long they should be taken for — but there is now a far greater choice of more modern alternatives, which in turn allows better tailoring of therapy to the individual. You can

read Nice's statement on abaloparatide at nice.org.uk.



health

If you haven't been bitten or stung this summer, aren't you the lucky one? The number of people seeking advice on insect bites and stings surged in the first three weeks of May, with 68,986 visits to the NHS website — 162 per cent higher than the same period in 2023. Indeed, Natalie Bungay, technical and compliance manager for the British Pest Control Association, says those figures will probably be surpassed. Yes, we are about to hit peak bug season.

With a cold, wet start to the summer, wasp numbers had reportedly dwindled, but changeable weather has since created the ideal conditions for irritating insects to thrive. "Rainfall followed by a sunny day is perfect for mosquitoes and midges to breed," Bungay says.

More hazardous insects are also more prevalent: tiger mosquitoes carrying potentially deadly dengue fever are sweeping across Europe. More than 2,000 cases were reported in France by the end of April, an all-time high. "This species also carry the Zika and West Nile viruses, and they are now on our doorstep," Howard Carter, a bite protection expert, says. "They are now in the EU and if you visit cities such as Rome this summer you will be greeted with dengue protection information banners." Here's how to protect yourself against insect-related ailments this summer.

Apply insect repellent as routinely as sunscreen

About one in 20-25 people produces chemicals in their blood that acts as a form of natural insect repellent, Carter says. The rest of us need to apply bottled insect repellent as often as we do sunscreen, "even in the UK".

Government advice for travellers on mosquito bites is to use a product with 50 per cent Deet (the acronym for the active chemical ingredient in most insect repellents). If that causes skin irritation, try a product containing a high-strength formulation of either 20 per cent icaridin or eucalyptus citriodora oil. Incognito (hollandandbarrett.com) and Citrefine (citrefine.com) are Deet-free options.

"Spray your clothing as well as exposed skin, as mosquitoes can and will bite through fabric, even jeans," Carter says. "A lot of mosquitoes zero in on the ears, wrists and ankles because this is where the skin is thinner and blood vessels are nearer the surface. Don't neglect these areas."

Limit your odour output

Been bitten more this year? It could be because you have changed your shampoo or your fabric conditioner.

"Any fragranced or scented soaps, shower gels and shampoos, fabric softeners or sunscreens have the potential to attract insects," Carter says. "Select products with natural aromas, such as citronella, which are known to repel insects."

Be aware that midges are most prevalent at dawn and dusk

"Midges can't fly as fast as humans move, so if you are in an area where there are a lot of them, keep walking and moving," Carter suggests. If you can't go without scent, try insect repellent perfumes such as Diptyque's Summer Body Spray (£48, diptyqueparis.com) with mozzie-repelling essential oils or the Buzz (from £50, thebuzzskin.com) — its



Wasps, horseflies, mozzies ... they're all out to get you!

Angry hornets in the UK, mosquitoes carrying dengue fever in France — here's how to protect yourself from insects this summer. By **Peta Bee**

Vacay travel perfume contains citrus notes of orange, bergamot and mandarin to keep pests at bay.

Check horsefly bites

Female horseflies (males don't bite) slice open skin with jagged teeth before releasing an anticoagulant to stop the blood from clotting while they enjoy their fodder — no wonder their bites can be painful. Advice is to cleanse the area, applying ice packs to reduce the swelling and urge to scratch, and keep an eye on it. According to the NHS, horsefly bites are prone to become infected. "Try not to scratch any bite or sting, however itchy, as it raises the risk of infection," Bungay says. If it becomes very swollen, have it checked by a GP, he says.

Treat stings with care

NHS advice is to clean around bee, wasp and hornet stings with soap and water. For bee stings you will need to remove the stinger left in the open wound. Don't use tweezers because you could squeeze poison out of the stinger. Instead, brush or scrape it sideways with your fingernail or the edge of a bank card and then wash the area with soap and water. If your breathing or circulation is affected,

“Don't use tweezers on a bee sting: you could squeeze poison out of it”

you need to seek urgent medical assistance because you could be experiencing anaphylaxis — a severe allergic reaction.

Beware of hairy caterpillars

In the UK, particularly the southeast of England, look out for dark-bodied caterpillars of the oak processionary moth, found on and around oak trees. "They have tiny, fine hairs on their bodies that can cause itchy reactions and eye problems for some people," Bungay says. "They are present in foliage and common in parks and woods, and can be pretty hazardous."

If they get on to your skin, the NHS advises using tweezers to remove the caterpillar and prevent it from shedding more hairs. Rinse your skin with water and apply an ice pack or calamine lotion. If you see any caterpillars walking in a procession up trees or spot a white silken nest, report it to the Forestry Commission.

Yes, even ladybirds bite

"Ladybird bites can hurt a bit but are not serious and not that common," Bungay says. The most aggressive is the harlequin variety, which is red or orange with a distinctive white mark on its head.

And it's not just bites you have to worry about on holiday ...

Wear goggles in the pool to avoid eye problems

Our eyes are highly sensitive and plunging into the hotel swimming pool can subject them to irritants, such as chlorine-based compounds, and bacteria that can cause infections such as conjunctivitis.

None of us, whether we wear lenses or not, should open our eyes underwater unless wearing goggles, according to a study from Loyola University in Chicago.

Ophthalmologists there carried out eye examinations on 50 non-goggle wearers before and after swimming, and found that 68 per cent of participants displayed symptoms of corneal edema (swelling of the eye).

Contact lens wearers are most at risk. "There's an increased risk of eye infections as bacteria from the pool water can get trapped behind your contact lens," Mark Shelton, an optometrist at Bayfields Opticians, says. Wearing goggles over contact lenses is not enough protection — ideally you would remove your lenses and wear well-fitted prescription goggles when swimming.

Cover your feet as much as possible

Damp environments around swimming pools are the perfect environment for the highly contagious human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes verrucas to thrive. Emma McConnachie, consultant podiatrist and spokeswoman for the Royal College of Podiatry, says you should try to walk around communal pool areas in some form of footwear. "A verruca is not harmful but the dead skin that forms over the surface of them can make them very painful," McConnachie says. "They don't always present as the classic black dot, which is a blood vessel that has emptied, and some types spread rapidly or are extra painful, in which case you should see a chiropodist."

Remember to apply SPF to your feet too. "We see a lot of sunburnt feet at this time of year," she says. "It's a risk factor for foot skin cancers, which tend to be missed because people don't check their feet."

Stick to bottled water

About 47 per cent of UK adults experience digestive discomfort when travelling overseas for their summer holiday, according to a recent survey of 2,000 holidaymakers. The NHS says traveller's diarrhoea — defined as passing three or more loose bowel motions in 24 hours — is among the most common complaints. The cause is often food and water contaminated with bacteria, such as E. coli or salmonella, so stick to bottled water when you're abroad, avoid ice cubes in drinks and be wary of salads that may have been washed with tap water.

A review of 11 papers in the journal Epidemiology and Health found that taking a probiotic supplement or eating probiotic-rich foods — yoghurt, kefir, kombucha, fruit, veg, wholegrains — in the weeks before your trip can help to prevent traveller's tummy. If you do succumb, the NHS says it's important to rehydrate and replace body salts (electrolytes) with diluted fruit juice or isotonic sports drinks.

GETTY IMAGES



Laura and Babs Horton

'I'm older and funnier' — the mother and daughter with shows on the Fringe

Babs and Laura Horton, 71 and 40 respectively, talk to **Blanca Schofield** about taking comic plays about women's lives to the Edinburgh Festival

Babs and Laura Horton have a similar sense of humour. So much so that they both included "golden showers" in the shows they have taken to the Edinburgh Fringe this year — only realising after an editor looked over Laura's script and told her he'd already had to look the phrase up while reading her mother's. If you don't understand what it means, I won't be explaining it in the pages of *The Times*.

This is Laura's second play at the festival, but Babs is a newcomer. "My friends say, 'I can't believe you're 71 and you're taking a play to Edinburgh,'" she tells me when I meet them both in central London. "I'm in student accommodation. It's going to be hilarious." Laura, 40, is staying with a friend in Leith.

Babs wrote her play, *In the Lady Garden*, during lockdown — it's a one-woman show in which her 69-year-old character, Alice, reflects on the sexism she has experienced over the years. It is not directly based on her own life but Babs has a lot to say about the restrictions of her 1950s upbringing. "Being a girl was really, really underwhelming ... I went to a convent school that was like, 'You will marry Mr Right and buy sheets and towels for your parents.' The women in my

family didn't have an opportunity to do anything."

She had been set on storytelling from a young age, growing up in northwest London with her father, who worked in the Vauxhall factory, and her mother, who was a waitress. "I wrote all the way through primary school. I loved the library. We didn't have many books at home but my dad bought a set of encyclopaedias, which is a very working-class thing to do. He spent a whole month's wages on it so that we'd have an extra education."

But she was put off writing for years after experiencing classism at the London private school she won a scholarship to, where her English teacher was far from encouraging. "And then I thought, 'I've got to turn this around somehow.' So as I got older, I started to write short stories." Working around her day job in children's mental health services, she had her first novel — the thriller *A Jarful of Angels*, set in a Welsh village — published by Simon & Schuster when she was 49. She has since published three more.

Her daughter Laura also had her confidence knocked at school. "I was told I was too average to be a writer by my careers adviser," she says. "I always felt the world wasn't really made for introverts so I should get in my box."

Madeleine MacMahon in *Lynn Faces*

***In the Lady Garden* is at Pleasance Courtyard (Bunker 1), pleasance.co.uk; *Lynn Faces* is at Summerhall, festival24, summerhall.co.uk. Both to August 26**

She looks at Babs: "I think that's why it was so great when you got published when I was 18 because it gave me an impetus. This is the road I could go down. But it took me a lot longer."

Laura worked in theatre PR and began writing plays in her early thirties, winning a Fringe First award in 2022 for *Breathless*, which was based on her hoarding behaviour and transferred to Soho Theatre in London. This year she's staging *Lynn Faces*, a piece of gig theatre about recovering from a controlling relationship — something she has experience of. It's a dark comedy combining masks depicting Alan Partridge's assistant Lynn Benfield and an all-female band trying (and failing) to play punk music inspired by the Slits' Viv Albertine.

Laura met Albertine at a talk in London and credits her with helping her to come to terms with the nature of her previous relationship. "I got chatting to her after [the talk] and I don't think I realised the extent of the abuse I'd been through — I didn't quite realise how bad it was," Laura says. "She did [understand], based on a few things we discussed. And she said, 'I think you should read my book. I think it will help you.' It was the one about her breaking up with her husband, who was very controlling.

I loved it and we kept in touch."

In the wake of *Baby Reindeer* and *Fleabag*, it can seem as if sharing your trauma has become a prerequisite for Fringe success. Is there a pressure to share intensely personal experiences in your work? "100 per cent," Laura says. "I guess it's just interrogating why you're doing it and how you're doing it." In terms of her own show, she says, "I do not think people understand coercive control. I think there are phrases that are bandied about, like narcissism and gaslighting, that are very real, but I don't think people actually understand what that looks like. So I'm hoping that we can

“

I've got to that cheeky stage now where you don't give a monkey's

demystify as well as provide a show that's silly. It's very daft. But that's deliberate — I want it to be funny."

"It's very rude and very funny," Babs agrees. The pair are clearly close, living within 30 minutes of each other in Plymouth and working on a play together about Tredegar in south Wales, where Babs was born. "We'll hang out lots," Babs says about the Fringe. "We're definitely going to flyer for each other," Laura adds. "What's that thing we have on the back?" Babs asks, pointing to the promo material for their shows. "A QR code," Laura tells her with a loving laugh.

Do they ever get competitive? "Never," Laura insists. And since they've both written comedies — who is funnier? "You're definitely funnier," Laura says to Babs. "Only because I'm older," Babs replies. "I've got to that cheeky stage now where you don't give a monkey's. All the years you worry about, 'Am I too big, am I this, who's looking at me?' When you eventually just throw it off, it's bloody wonderful."

This mentality has inspired *In the Lady Garden*, which is directed and performed by two women who are also over 60: Deborah Edgington and Julia Faulkner. "There's a cloak of invisibility thrown around you when you become menopausal, so when you go to the bar nobody really serves you," Babs says. "And I just think: stuff it. I don't care if I'm fat any more, I don't care what my eyebrows look like. This is a time in my life when I'm going to say what I would really like to say without being rude or horribly stupid." As well as golden showers, the script also features the "c word", Babs highlights.

There's a determinedly modern element too: Alice finds herself in a jail cell after getting involved in a social media scandal. While this is yet to happen to Babs, she has been trolled on Twitter after wading in on political subjects, from Brexit to Angela Rayner. Laura has called her, worried about the hate. "But," Babs says, "I'm too old and ugly to give a monkey's."

Before Edinburgh, *In the Lady Garden* had a run at Theatre Royal Plymouth, where it sold out. Babs wants to encourage other women her age to give it a go too. "When you say, 'It's never too late' as a cliché, I see it as a call to action. Just do it. Don't sit there and go, 'I'm going to do it.' If you just take ten minutes a day or 20 minutes a day, just write. Just go."

Has Clive Myrie swallowed an enthusiasm pill?

Carol Midgley TV review



Mastermind

BBC2

★★★★☆

Forensics: Murder Scene

Channel 5

★★★★☆

OK, Olympians, with your physical excellence and washboard abs, your show is over. It's time for the armchair athletes to shine by exercising their little grey cells. Quiz night is here, with Mondays on BBC2 offering *Mastermind*, *Only Connect* and *University Challenge* back to back for 90 minutes of quality quizzing. If it was in ascending order of difficulty, *Only Connect* should technically be on last, given that some of its questions are so brain-achingly

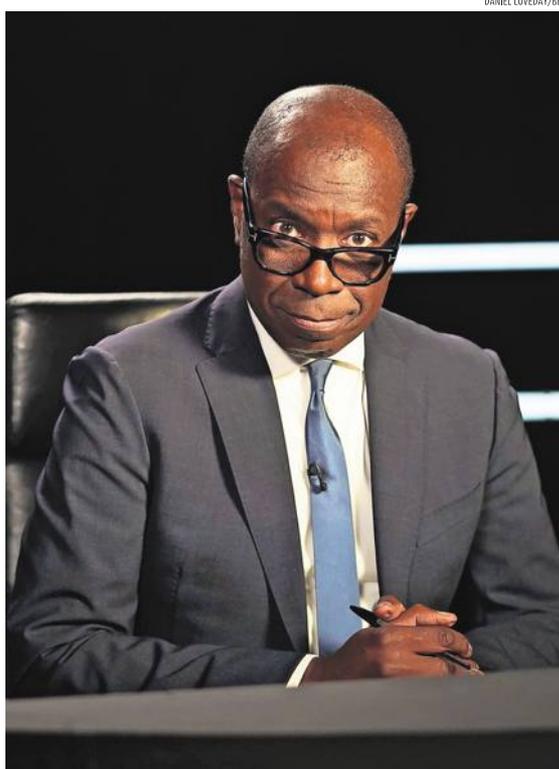
cryptic I wonder why those quizzers who answer correctly aren't instantly locked in a room and told to cure cancer. They'd probably have cracked it by lunchtime.

Anyway, what a welcome sight on the schedule after weeks of dull repeats. We can't discuss them all, so let's do *Mastermind* because it has the simplest questions, even though it's the least entertaining IMO. The host, Clive Myrie, seemed to have swallowed an enthusiasm pill, talking about it returning in "all its fabulous glory", the contestants climbing the "steepest of quizzing mountains" to "lay claim to this stupendous glass bowl". Steady on, Clive.

Every series people seem to ask, "Are the subjects becoming easier?" This is fair because one "contender" had chosen as his specialist subject Shania Twain. The others were *Dad's Army*, Liverpool FC under Jürgen Klopp and, the only "traditional" one, Jane Austen.

The three shows are reassuringly engaging, half-hour formulas that probably can't be improved. The most deserving person/team won in all, so, briefly — extremely briefly — all felt well with the world.

Two women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales. Harleen Kaur Satpreet Gandhi was one of them. **Forensics: Murder Scene**



The host said *Mastermind* was returning in "all its fabulous glory"

showed the colossal forensic and detective work required for every prosecution, even when the evidence against the suspect is overwhelming.

The stabbing to death of this 32-year-old mother in her Leeds flat might have been a row that got out of hand, but the work of forensic experts proved it was premeditated murder. Satpreet Singh Gandhi had been stalking his estranged wife, consumed with jealousy that she had made her own life with new friends. So he bought a knife at Asda.

This impressive series took the viewer into the crime scene to see the blood splatters, the chaos, the tattered bra. This felt strangely intimate and perhaps a little intrusive. But it is a privilege to see just what work goes into every murder investigation.

The police interviews showed Gandhi answering every question with "no comment", even though he knew the game was up. The detective reminded him how he had reinserted the knife into his wife's chest wound in a "sawing" action, to cause maximum damage, but the monster showed no emotion. He got 23 years, which means he could be released in his early sixties. Apart from the horror of this murderous violence, imagine how many police hours could be saved if these men could manage not to kill an average of two former or current partners a week.

Radio choice

Ben Dowell



Assignment

World Service, 9.30am

This documentary follows the so-called parents' revolution in the US with campaigners fighting for tax-funded vouchers giving them the opportunity to select their preferred school. More and more families are ditching institutions altogether, with home schooling reportedly the fastest-growing form of education in the US; the Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has also vowed to abolish the Department of Education. Why, asks the reporter Alex Last, are families turning away from traditional schooling, and what does this mean for the future of America's education system?

OUR TV NEWSLETTER

Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch [thetimes.com/bulletins](https://www.thetimes.com/bulletins)

Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am James Hanson with *Early Breakfast*
6.00am Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with *Times Radio Breakfast* **10.00am** Adam Boulton
1.00pm Ayesha Hাজারিকা **2.00pm** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **4.00pm** Carole Walker with *Times Radio Drive* **7.00pm** Rosie Wright with the *Evening Edition* **10.00pm** Darryl Morris **1.00am** The Story **1.30pm** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30am** Vernon Kay. Sananda Maitreya — formerly known as Terence Trent D'Arby — chooses his Tracks of My Years **12.00pm** Tina Dabeley **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00pm** Sara Cox **6.30pm** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00pm** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30pm** Jo Whitley **9.00pm** The Blue Show with Jamie Cullum. The UK duo Jazz Lab Beats bring their band to the BBC's Maida Vale studios for an exclusive session **10.00pm** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00pm** DJ Borg **3.00am** Tom Daley's Motivational Mixes **4.00pm** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
 Petroc Terlavny presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show. Including **7.00pm**, **8.00pm** News. **7.30pm**, **8.30pm** News headlines
9.30am Essential Classics
 Ian Skelly plays a selection of music and features with discoveries and surprises rubbing shoulders with familiar favourites **1.00pm Classical Live**
 Chamber music from the Edinburgh International Festival, plus the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo perform Strauss's Alpine Symphony at the Proms. Elizabeth Alker presents. From the Edinburgh International Festival, introduced by Stephen Broad: Bach; Feuillette (arranger) (Prelude No 1 — *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book 1, BWV 846); Couperin; Fougeray (arranger) (*Les baricades misterieuses*); Duphy; Fougeray (arranger) (*Pieces de clavecin*, Book 3 — *No 6 Medée*); Bach; Abiton (arranger) (*Ich rufe zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ* — Choral, BWV 639); Bach; Perroy (arranger) (Concerto, after Vivaldi Op 3 No 9, BWV 972); Scarlatti; Abiton (arranger) (Keyboard Sonata K 208); Schumann (Piano Trio in G minor); From the BBC Proms: Saarialto (*Mirage*); and Mozart (Piano Concerto No 9 in E flat "Jeunehomme" K271)

4.00 Composer of the Week:

Chopin (1810-1849)
 Donald Macleod explores Fryderyk Chopin and George Sand's trip to Mallorca on holiday in 1838, a trip which did not turn out to be as idyllic as they had both hoped. Chopin (Mazurka in E minor, Op.41 no 2 "Palman"; Nocturne, op 37 no 2; Preludes, op.28 — nos. 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 "Raindrop"; Ballade no 2 in F major, op. 38; Polonaise in C minor, op.40 no 2; and Cantabile in B flat, B.84) (r)

5.00 In Tune

Live music and interviews from the world's finest classical musicians with Katie Derham **7.00 Classical Mixtape**
 A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world **7.30 Live BBC Proms 2024**

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Martyn Brabbins, performs Elgar, Vaughan Williams's London Symphony and *Stanford Songs* with Christopher Maltman. Presented by Penny Gore, live from the Royal Albert Hall. During the interval, Penny Gore is joined by the historian and journalist Simon Heffer. Elgar (*Overture "Cockaigne — In London Town"*); Holst (*Hammersmith*); Stanford (*Songs of Faith* Op 97: "To the Soul"; "Tears"; "Joy, shimate, joy!"; and "The Fairy Lough"); and Williams (*A London Symphony — Symphony No 2*) **10.00 Night Tracks**
 Hannah Peel presents an adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between **11.30 Round Midnight**
 Bassist and composer Orlando Le Fleming is this week's guest on 4/4 **12.30am Through the Night**
 Danielle Jaglowiczka presents a selection of music, beginning with Herbert Blomstedt conducting the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Schubert and Berwald (r)

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
6.00 Today
 With Justin Webb and Mishal Husain
9.00 The Long View
 Exploring topical issues through history **9.30 Inside Health**
 A quest to demystify health issues (4/6) **10.00 Woman's Hour**
 Nuala McGovern presents the magazine

11.00 Screenshot

With Malcolm McDowell and Helen Mirren, stars of the 1979 movie *Caligula*, as its Ultimate Cut hits cinemas. Last in series (r) **11.45 New Storytellers**

Exploring the community of volunteers who painted the Covid Memorial Wall (2/5) **12.04pm Call You and Yours**

1.00 The World at One
1.45 Cafe Hope

Debbie Meade-McDoughlin speaks to Rachel Burden about her mission to find positivity after her daughter took her own life through running her own charity (2/9) (r)

2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Life Lines

By Al Smith. A lost boy desperately tries to keep his father alive while he waits for help to arrive and Carrie talks a woman through giving birth in a swimming pool (1/2)

3.00 The Psychology of a Second Life
 Jaz Singh explores the psychology behind secret second lives (r)

3.30 Beyond Belief
 Giles Fraser explores the role of spirituality and religion in psychotherapy (7/8)

4.00 This Land
 Charlie Shackleton explores the rocky ground of the public domain through the history of Woody Guthrie's song *This Land Is Your Land*, asking how much shared cultural history is truly shared and how much should be

4.30 You're Dead to Me
 Greg Jenner and guests discuss the Edo period in 17th-century Japan (6/13) (r)

5.00 PM
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Do Gooders

Harriett sets a new set of workplace bullying guidelines, while Clive and Gladys compete in a fundraising challenge (3/6)

7.00 The Archers
 Alarm bells ring for Lily. Meanwhile, Emma puts her foot in it

7.15 Front Row
8.00 File on 4

The story of a CoE priest assessed as posing a risk of 'significant harm' to children and vulnerable people (1/3)

8.40 In Touch
9.00 Crossing Continents

Alex Last discovers why parents in America are opting out of the school system (4/8) **9.30 Great Lives**
 Zing Tsjeng picks the Swedish painter Hilma af Klint (2/9) (r)

10.00 The World Tonight
 News round-up with James Coomarasamy **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enlightenment**
 By Sarah Perry (7/10)

11.00 Jon Holmes Says the C-Word

The comedian and his guests discuss follow-up scans and treatment including chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormone therapy and their bad side effects (6/8)

11.30 What's Funny About
 Television veterans Peter Fincham and Jon Plowman hear the inside story of how Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney created their Bafta-winning sitcom, *Catastrophe* (1/6) (r)

12.00 News and Weather
12.30am New Storytellers

Exploring the community of volunteers who painted the Covid Memorial Wall (2/5) (r)

2.00 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra

Digital only
8.00am 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. Satirical sitcom starring Gemma Whelan

7.30 On Her Majesty's Secret Service. By Ian Fleming. From 1989 **7.45** Where Angels Fear to Tread. By EM Forster. First aired in 2003

8.00 The Personality Test. Comedy panel show with guest host Andrew Neil **8.30** Tickets Please. Comedy with Jeremy Swift

9.00 Esther Waters. By George Moore. Dramatised by Sharon Oakes **10.00** Comedy Club: Do Gooders. The team head to North Wales for Clive's Alzheimers memory walk **10.30** The Consultants. Comedy sketches with Neil Edmunds. Last in the series **10.45** Warheroes of Letters. Copenhagen enjoys life in Paris while Marengo enters retirement. Last in the series **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview. Iain Lee talks to Zach Zucker

11.00 Clare in the Community. Clare faces a disciplinary tribunal **11.30** Dave Podmore's World of Cricket. Comedy. Last in the series

Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell

11.00 Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Rima Ahmed **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Aaron Paul presents coverage and score updates from tonight's Carabao Cup matches **10.30** Gordon Smart. In-depth interviews **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Paul Ross

Talk

Digital only
6.30am Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Alex Phillips **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music

Digital only
5.00am Nathan Shepherd **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Tom Ravenscroft **1.00pm** Chris Hawkins **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** Riley & Coe **11.00** Song Explorer. The stories behind songs by Bjork, Lianne La Havas and Mobb Deep **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever. An eclectic playlist **1.00am** From Mento to Lovess' Rock. The heyday of ska **2.00** From Mento to Lovess' Rock **3.00** 6 Music's Rave Forever **4.00** The 6 Music Playlist

Virgin Radio

Digital only
6.30am Angela Scanlon on The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with uebyuanar **10.00** Steve Denyer on The Ryan Tubridy Show **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** James Merritt

Classic FM

FM: 100-102 MHz
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong. Classical music **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Zeb Soanes features Classical Masters **10.00** Calm Classics. With Ritula Shah **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide Toby Earle

Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams on Tour

BBC1, 9pm

Top pick Freddie Flintoff has had an idea. Two months after Flintoff last saw the lads he moulded into a cricket team, he

returns to Preston to meet them for a training session at their club. His idea is a big one — he wants to take them on a cricket tour of India. Self-improvement and growth, recurring themes in *Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams*, are what he wants to nurture in these young men. “If you want to progress,

you do new things all the time, whether it's getting a job or going for an interview. You're outside your comfort zone,” he explains. “I think a trip to India will be so important for them, and hopefully we can help them move forward, not just from a cricketing point of view but also with their lives.” It's September 2022; the sun is shining

and their futures are bright with possibility. Three months later, Flintoff's own future is uncertain. An accident while filming *Top Gear* leaves him seriously injured. When filming for this series began, the focus had been on how this tour changed the lives of these amateur players. Flintoff's insight into

how the accident affects him expands the documentary's emotional scope. He's their mentor but now needs their support too. “He's all right, but he's not perfectly fine,” says 17-year-old Sean after meeting up with Flintoff in January. “But he was there for us. We've now got to be there for him while he's going through this.”

Celebrity MasterChef

BBC1, 8pm

And so another 20 celebrities, ready to risk future employment opportunities as credible cookery show hosts, step into John Torode and Gregg Wallace's kitchen. The first five are presenter Craig Doyle, reality star Charlotte Crosby,

broadcaster Edith Bowman, pop star Ian “H” Watkins and broadcaster Snoochie Shy, who should all at least be able to recognise the ingredient of their first dish hidden by a cloche. “Lobsters?” Watkins asks when he lifts the lid to reveal a plate of prawns. This might be a tragedy for John and Gregg.

BBC1

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Animal Park. Keepers hand-rear a pair of fennec fox kits (AD) **10.15** Countryfile Treasures. Sean Fletcher visits the seaside town of Whitby (r) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Cambridgeshire, Devon and the West Midlands (AD) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. Charlie Ross and the teams hit the antiques shops of Newark (r) (AD) **1.00pm** BBC News at One; Weather **1.35** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** BBC News at One; Weather **2.00** Money for Nothing. Upcycling an old radiogram, a coffee table and a chest of drawers (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a couple to find a new home in Devon with land, a self-contained annex and lots of room for guests (r) (AD) **3.45** The Repair Shop. The experts restore a small brocade statue, a clock that survived the journey from Trinidad to England, and a painting that's seen better days (r) (AD) **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz contest in which contestants race in moving podiums across the studio floor to try and win £5,000. Hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2

6.30am Animal Park. A new species of predator is introduced to the park (r) (AD) **7.15** Escape to the Country. Nicki Chapman helps a couple hoping to move to the Cheshire countryside (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Dom Does America. Dominic Littlewood samples life working on a cattle ranch in Austin, Texas (r) (SL) **8.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo samples the smallest public railway in the world. Last in the series (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Head Hunters. A customer advisor, an actor and a retired police officer must choose between combining their knowledge or going it alone to claim the prize for themselves (r) **1.45** Catchpoint. Sam and Mark take on the stars of Loose Women (r) **2.15** A Countryside Summer. Marcus Wareing sets a challenge for chefs visiting his kitchen garden (r) (AD) **2.45** Live The Hundred: Northern Superchargers Women v London Spirit Women. (Start-time **3.00**). Coverage of the match at Headingley in Leeds. The Superchargers recorded a four-wicket triumph when the teams met at Lord's last year with the help of three wickets from Sarah Glenn, and they went on to reach the final, where they were eventually defeated by Southern Brave

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. More interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his team of dealers, Alison Chapman, Tim Hogarth, Jan Keyne and Henry Nicholls, are in Preston (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. A team from Harlow Amateur Theatre Society calling themselves the Top Hats answer questions about top 10 lists in the hope of winning a big cash prize. Hosted by Warwick Davis (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as contestants from Glasgow, Norwich, Chichester and Manchester take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4

6.20am Cheers (r) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **9.00** Frasier (r) (AD) **11.00** The Simpsons (r) (AD) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary **12.05pm** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (r) (AD) **12.10** A New Life in the Sun. Build and money problems hit a couple in Spain building a golf vacation business (r) **1.10** Car SOS. The boys take on a rundown Renault Alpine GTA (r) (AD) **2.10** Countdown. John Thomson is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Ben Hillman helps a Liverpool couple find a holiday home in the seaside town of Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. In Weston-super-Mare, two strangers pair up to renovate a property. Between them, they possess all the trade skills they need to make this a big success (r) **5.00** A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? A couple launch new events at their French vineyard in Gironde in an attempt to keep up with rising production costs **6.00** Come Dine with Me. In Chelmsford, a sales manager hopes to impress his guests with his mum's Guyanese recipes on his Caribbean party themed night (r) **6.30** The Simpsons. Lisa develops a Facebook-style social network that takes the town by storm (r) (AD)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day **11.30** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.45pm** Friends. Monica goes shopping with Julie and tries to keep it a secret from Rachel (r) **1.10** Friends. The gang's neighbour Mr Heckles dies (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Mali is downcast after being dumped by Rose, Iluka reports to Elandra that he copped an earful from Mackenzie and John remains opposed to Tane's youth program proposal (r) (AD) **2.15** FILM: The Baby Swindler (PG, TVM, 2023) The new friend of a woman in desperate need of money says she knows people who would pay for positive pregnancy tests. Thriller starring Greta Carew-Johns **4.00** The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits at Sea. The travellers visit the glorious Greek island of Santorini, where they experience the black sands of Perissa beach, hiking and a salsa lesson (r) (AD) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Scotland's Most Scenic Railway Journeys. A trip from the Kyle of Lochalsh, a tiny fishing village on the far west coast of Scotland, heading across the Highlands through the whisky country of Speyside and on to Aberdeen (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The social media Ozempic

The Times investigates how easy it is to buy weight loss jabs online, despite the risk of serious side effects for those of a healthy weight.

<p>7PM</p> <p>7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne</p>	<p>6.00 Live The Hundred: Northern Superchargers Men v London Spirit Men (Start-time 6.30). All the action from the match at Headingley in Leeds. Both teams endured disappointing campaigns last time out, with the Superchargers finishing bottom of the table and Spirit just one place above them, but veteran all-rounder Ravi Bopara gave Spirit something to cheer about at Lord's last season when his four wickets helped them to defeat today's opponents by 13 runs</p>	<p>7.30 Emmerdale Nicola and Jimmy are devastated. Meanwhile, Bear is rattled by Mandy's betrayal, and she is excited about her hen do (AD)</p>	<p>7.00 Channel 4 News</p>	<p>7.00 Our Great Yorkshire Life Emmerdale's Dean Andrews takes co-star pal Liam Fox to York to investigate the city's Roman past, and at his 200 acre farm in Southwram, a farmer prepares to prioritise his young livestock during lambing season 5 News Update</p>
<p>7.30 EastEnders Things are tense at the Vic as Johnny and Linda argue and Cindy offers Peter the manager's job to try stop him working for Junior (AD)</p>	<p>9.30 Mock the Week With panellists Catherine Bohart, Ed Byrne, Darren Harriott, Rhys James, Dara O Briain and Felicity Ward (2/13) (r)</p>	<p>8.00 Cooking with the Stars Emma Willis and Tom Allen host as Abbey Clancy, Pasha Kovalev and Katherine Ryan cook their best date night dishes for their partners Peter Crouch, Rachel Riley and Bobby Koostra in the first three-way cooking battle of the series (3/6) (AD)</p>	<p>8.00 Worst House on the Street In Norbury, south London, a pair set out to maximise their dated terrace's full potential on a minimal budget. Brother-and-sister property developers Scarlette and Stuart Douglas offer advice (5/6) (AD)</p>	<p>8.00 The Yorkshire Vet New series. Peter Wright attempts to deliver a stuck lamb with building work going on all around him, and at Cannon Hall Farm, Rohin Aojula tries to help a poorly sheepdog puppy. Shona Searson and David Melleney operate on a cow with a twisted stomach</p>
<p>8PM</p> <p>8.00 Celebrity MasterChef New series. John Torode and Gregg Wallace host as Craig Doyle, Charlotte Crosby, Edith Bowman, Ian “H” Watkins and Snoochie Shy don the MasterChef apron as they try to prove their cooking skills. See Viewing Guide (AD)</p>	<p>10.00 The Mighty Boosh Howard and Vince are marooned on a desert island — where a diet of rancid coconuts drives them to the brink of madness (6/6) (r)</p>	<p>9.00 Vera Wealthy betting shop tycoon Alun Wilmott is shot and killed during a home invasion, leaving his wife and daughter traumatised — with large amounts of cash missing from his personal safe, it is assumed he is the unlucky victim of a burglary. Vera suspects an inside job in the shape of Alun's head of private security, Ciaran Duggan, whose history of violent crime calls his reformed character into question. Brenda Blethyn stars, with guest appearances from Karl Collins, Patrick Robinson and Katy Carmichael Last in the series (r) (AD)</p>	<p>9.00 Emergency A mum of three is rushed to St Mary's with a femur fracture and broken knee after a car crash, and a 15-year-old boy recovers from surgery to repair an artery in his leg after he kicked a glass door. London's Air Ambulance team arrive on scene after a motorcyclist collides with a car (AD)</p>	<p>9.00 Warship: Life in the Royal Navy New series. Julia Bradbury and former Royal Marine JJ Chalmers are given unprecedented access to the Royal Navy. Julia climbs aboard the biggest and most powerful ship in the fleet — the aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales. See Viewing Guide (1/3)</p>
<p>9PM</p> <p>9.00 Freddie Flintoff: Field of Dreams on Tour New series. After transforming a cricket club and the lives of the boys involved in his hometown of Preston, the former England captain takes his team on tour in India. See Viewing Guide (1/4) (AD)</p>	<p>10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Katie Razzall</p>	<p>10.50 ITV News</p>	<p>10.00 Defiance: Fighting the Far Right When the killing of Blair Peach goes unprosecuted, Asian youth movements around the country take the matter of protecting themselves into their own hands (2/3) (r)</p>	<p>10.00 A Killer Makes a Call A holiday-maker calls the police after his friend is found dead on a beach, hideously beaten and unidentifiable except for a distinctive ring he always wore (6/6)</p>
<p>10PM</p> <p>10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather</p> <p>10.40 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School New series. The Little Liars find themselves tormented by an unknown assailant. The girls start summer school and a new horror villain comes into town. Drama spin-off starring Bailee Madison (1/8)</p>	<p>11.05 The Keeper (15, 2018) The true story of Bert Trautmann, the German PoW who became a footballing legend for Manchester City, and how he and his young wife overcame prejudice, public hostility and personal tragedy in post-Second World War Britain. Biopic starring David Kross and Freya Mavor</p>	<p>11.20 Regional News</p> <p>11.35 Champions: Full Gallop Paul Nicholls and former assistant Dan Skelton go head-to-head in a series of big-money races at the iconic Cheltenham Festival, including the Gold Cup (4/6) (r) (AD)</p>	<p>11.05 Untold: The Rise and Rise of Taylor Swift The fame and impact of billionaire singer-songwriter Taylor Swift. See Viewing Guide (AD)</p> <p>11.40 Gogglebox Appraisals of The Masked Dancer, Married at First Sight UK, Nadiya's Everyday Baking, Bad Sisters, and This Is MY House (r) (AD)</p>	<p>11.05 Killer at the Crime Scene A corpse found in a ditch by a dog walker in 2013 became the first in a series of dead bodies discovered, kick-starting a police investigation to track down a serial killer (2/12) (r)</p>
<p>11PM</p> <p>11.30 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School At the advice of Dr Sullivan, the group try to make the most of their summer and Imogen forges a new identity away from her friends (2/8)</p>	<p>12.25am Sign Zone: The Travelling Auctioneers Experts discover treasures in everyday homes as they help people declutter and downsize, including wartime riches that are unearthed in a barn. With Christina Trevanion and JJ Chalmers (r) (SL) 1.40-2.25 Bridge of Lies. Quiz show hosted by Ross Kemp (r) (SL)</p>	<p>12.25am Shop on TV 3.00 Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book. The acting friends head to Dorset to explore the spectacular scenery and locations made famous by some of Britain's favourite books and films (r) (AD, SL) 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05-6.00 Cooking with the Stars (r) (AD, SL)</p>	<p>12.35am Women on Death Row (AD) 1.25 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (r) (AD) 1.30 The Rise and Fall of Boris Johnson (r) (AD) 3.30 Trump vs Harris: The Battle for America (r) (AD) 4.25 Sunday Brunch Best Bits (r) 4.45 Frasier (r) 5.35 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (r) (AD) 5.40-6.20 Countdown (r)</p>	<p>12.05am Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders A suspect drives the wrong way down the A1 (r) 1.00 PlayOJ Live Casino Show 3.00 Tyrant: Rise of Evil 4.40 House Busters (r) (SL) 5.05 House Doctor (r) (SL) 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Fireman Sam (r) (SL) 5.45-6.00 Paw Patrol (r) (SL)</p>
<p>12.25am-6.00 BBC News</p>				

television & radio

Warship: Life in the Royal Navy
Channel 5, 9pm
Julia Bradbury is experiencing jet wash for the first time, but she's not taken the car for a hose-down — she's on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales as F35 jets blast past. Over three episodes Bradbury and JJ

Chalmers immerse themselves in naval life, which begins with Bradbury spending three days aboard this floating city, home to more than 1,000 crew, as it prepares for a Nato exercise. Former Royal Marine Chalmers is given a familiar rousing when he shadows recruits at the Marines' Commando Training Centre.

Corridors of Power: Should America Police the World?
BBC4, 10pm
The freedom that accompanied the fall of the Berlin Wall was accompanied by an outbreak of atrocities, as Yugoslavia dissolved into new republics harbouring old

animosities. The Cold War had thawed and the emergence of new conflicts provided uncharted territory for US administrations. First, a warning. There is graphic footage of systematic murder, descriptions of rape and images of slaughter in this account of how Bill Clinton's government struggled with direct involvement in Bosnia.

Untold: The Rise and Rise of Taylor Swift
Channel 4, 11.05pm
There are pop stars and then there's Taylor Swift, whose Eras tour is such an influential event that economists have measured the huge boost her shows inject into local GDPs. Should Swift ever declare independence,

her economy would be larger than that of 50 countries. That's the only time you want an economy to go pop. To discover why her fans have such a personal relationship with her, this documentary explores how Swift has used social media to establish her fanbase and meets some of the UK's biggest Swifties.

Film Old
Film4, 9pm
M Night Shyamalan's *Old*, the closest that the director has come to an out-and-out horror, is a garish yet often haunting tale of tourists trapped on a beach where they age at accelerated speed, with each half-hour equating to a year. (15, 2021)

Sky Max

6.00am DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) 7.00 SEAL Team (r) (AD) 8.00 Supergirl (r) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (r) 11.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) 12.00 Supergirl (r) 1.00pm MacGyver (r) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (r) (AD) 5.00 SEAL Team (r) (AD) 6.00 Stargate SG-1 (r) 7.00 Stargate SG-1. The team tries to help a stranded ship's crew struggling for survival (r) 8.00 A League of Their Own Road Trip: Southeast Asia. Patricia Evre, Maisie Adam and Mo Gilligan take on challenges (r) (AD) 9.00 Rob & Roshes vs K-Pop. The duo enter the world of the music phenomenon (r) (AD) 10.00 The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon. Daryl and his new allies face trouble (r) (AD) 11.10 An Idiot Abroad 2. Karl Pilkington boards the Trans-Siberian Express to China (r) (AD) 12.10am The Walking Dead (10/16) (r) 1.10 Road Wars (r) 2.05 Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK (r) (AD) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (r) (AD) 5.00 Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Fish Town (r) 8.10 Riviera (r) (AD) 10.20 Britannia (r) (AD) 12.30pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 1.45 The Sopranos (r) 3.55 Riviera (r) (AD) 5.55 Britannia (r) (AD) 7.55 Game of Thrones. Cersei and Tyrion plot their next move after Tommen's coronation, Daenerys hears worrying news about Yunkai and Astapor, and Jon and his men attack the mutineers at Craster's Keep (r) (AD) 9.00 The Staircase. In the months preceding Kathleen's death, Michael leads a double life, as the Petersons struggle financially. Starring Colin Firth and Tolu Collette (3/8) (r) (AD) 10.15 The Sopranos. A comatose Tony dreams about being a businessman on a trip marred by mistaken identities (r) (AD) 11.20 The Sopranos. Paulie and Gary DiBartolo find a vast amount of cash during a raid (r) (AD) 12.25am Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty. Kareem doubts his place on the team (r) (AD) 1.30 The Leftovers (r) (AD) 2.45 Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 4.00 Fish Town (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Story of Late Night (r) 7.00 Discovering: Sigourney Weaver (r) 8.00 The Directors (r) (AD) 8.55 The Civil War (r) 10.00 The Great Rhino Robbery (r) (AD) 11.00 Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning (r) 12.00 Quant (r) 1.50pm My Icon: Kadeen Corbin (r) (AD) 2.00 Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind (r) (AD) 4.00 The Directors (r) (AD) 5.00 Discovering: Sigourney Weaver (r) 5.55 The Civil War. Ending slavery in America (r) 7.00 The Great Rhino Robbery. Demand for rhino horn increases (r) (AD) 8.00 Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning. Boston police continue aggressively targeting black neighbourhoods (r) 9.00 David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived. A stunt double left paralysed after an accident (r) (AD) 10.50 I Am Paul Walker. A profile (r) 12.40am Jackie Stewart. The Formula 1 great (r) (AD) 2.40 Gabon: Earth's Last Chance (r) (AD) 4.30 Premier League Legends (r) (AD) 5.00 Discovering: Pleasure Weaver (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Anyone Can Sing (AD) 7.00 Re inventing the Orchestra with Charles Hazlewood 8.00 The Joy of Painting (AD) 9.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 11.00 Discovering: Octavia Spencer 12.00 The Joy of Painting (AD) 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 2.00 The Art of the Garden 3.00 Classic Literature & Cinema (AD) 4.00 Discovering: Fredric March 5.00 Watercolour Challenge 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Double bill 8.00 Arcimboldo, Portrait of an Audacious Man 9.15 Backstage with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Following the string players 10.15 JRR Tolkien: Designer of Worlds 11.30 Classic Movies: The Story of Brief Encounter. David Lean's romantic tragedy (AD) 12.30am Discovering Romance on Film (AD) 2.00 Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman (AD) 3.10 Sky Arts Book Club 4.05 Cheltenham Literature Festival 5.05 The Art of Architecture

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News 7.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 8.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 9.00 Good Morning Transfers 10.00 The Football Show 11.00 The Football Show 12.00 Transfer Talk 1.00pm Lunchtime Live 2.00 Spencer Desk 2.30 Live The Hundred: Northern Superchargers Women v London Spirit Women (Start-time 3.00). Coverage from Headingly 6.00 Sky Sports News at 6 7.00 EFL Cup Build-Up. Taking a look ahead to the Carabao cup action 7.40 Gillette Labs Soccer Special 10.15 Gillette Labs Soccer Special 10.30 Live Tennis: The Cincinnati Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 1000 and ATP 1000 event, a hard court tournament that takes place at Lindner Family Tennis Centre in Ohio 12.00 Live Tennis: The Cincinnati Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 1000 and ATP 1000 event, a hard court tournament that takes place at Lindner Family Tennis Centre in Mason, Ohio 4.00am-6.00 Sky Sports News

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Bikes! Armoyn Road Races. Highlights from County Antrim 11.20 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School. New series. Drama spin-off starring Bailee Madison 12.10am Pretty Little Liars: Summer School. The group try to make the most of their summer 1.00-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 7.00pm-7.30 River City. Eddie seizes an opportunity for revenge (r)

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Dark Land: Hunting the Killers. Reinvestigating some of the country's most shocking unsolved murders (r) 11.35 Pretty Little Liars: Summer School. New series. Drama spin-off starring Bailee Madison 12.25am Pretty Little Liars: Summer School. The group try to make the most of their summer 1.15-6.00 BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 Barra's Wild Days Out. Meeting the people of Belfast (r)

STV
As ITV1 except: 11.20pm-11.35 STV News 12.25am-3.00 Shop on TV 3.50-6.00 Unwind with STV. Daily escape designed to calm the mind and encourage relaxation and reflection

BBC Scotland
7.00pm The Seven 7.30 Live SportsScene — European Play Off: Rangers v Dynamo Kyiv (Kick-off 7.45). All the action from the UEFA Champions League third qualifying-round second-leg tie at Hampden Park. 10.00 Rip It Up. The evolution of the Scottish music industry. Last in the series (r) 11.00-12.00 Darren McGarvey's Class Wars. Darren examines the power imbalance, which lies at the heart of social class (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today 5.00pm AH-AH/No-No (r) 5.10 Abadas (r) 5.20 Oscar & Ealasaid 5.35 Beathaichean a' Bòcaidh a' bhreac is Seillean (r) 5.55 Stòiridh (r) 6.00 An Saoghal Droil ag Pòl Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud 6.10 Geamaichean Gorach (r) 6.15 An Teaghlach Rìoghail an Ath-dhoras (The Royals Next Door) (r) 6.40 Clann Na Cruinne (r) (7.00) Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (r) 7.30 SpeakGaelic (r) 8.00 An Là News (r) 8.30 Bothag Phrùdhaig 9.00 Plàigh air Bord (r) 10.00 Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) 11.00 Machair (r) 11.25 Fraochy Bay (r) 11.30 Allualla! (Spiritual Music & Verse) (r) 12.00-6.00am Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cwyl: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) 6.10 Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) 6.25 Abadas (r) 6.40 Sali Mali (r) 6.45 Fferm Fach (r) 7.00 Cymlyubachyn (r) 7.10 Sam Tan (r) 7.20 Crads Bach y Traeth (r) 7.25 Pablo (r) 7.40 Aho! (r) 8.00 Bing (r) 8.10 Caru Canu a Stori (r) 8.20 Gwddihw (r) 8.35 Octonots (r) 8.45 Sbarc (r) 9.00 Brethyn a Ffluff (r) 9.05 Sion y Chef (r) 9.20 Byd Tad-Cu (r) 9.30 Pentre Papur Pop (r) 9.45 Delian a Loll (r) 10.00 Og y Draenog Hapus (r) 10.10 Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) 10.25 Abadas (r) 10.30 Sali Mali (r) 10.45 Fferm Fach (r) 11.00 Cymlyubachyn (r) 11.10 Sam Tan (r) 11.20 Crads Bach y Traeth (r) 11.25 Pablo (r) 11.40 Aho! (r) 12.00 News; Weather 12.05pm Cwypwrdd Eithis (r) (AD) 12.30 Heno 1.00 Y Sioe 2024 (r) 2.00 News; Weather 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 News; Weather 3.05 Hyn Byd Newydd (r) (AD) 4.00 Awr Fawr: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) 4.10 Sali Mali (r) 4.15 Fferm Fach (r) 4.30 Pentre Papur Pop (r) 5.05 Cath-od (r) 5.20 Lego DREAMZZ (r) 5.40 Gwriadh y Rhybion (r) (AD) 6.00 Ffasiwn Drefn (r) 6.30 Sgorio (r) 7.00 Heno 7.30 News; Weather 8.00 Pobol y Cwm. Griffiths tries to find out if he has blood relations in Cwmderf (AD) 8.25 Pobol y Cwm: Y Cymierad. Andrew Tello tells all about Hywel Ilywelyn 8.55 News; Weather 9.00 Gwddihw Iechyd Mewn Pandemig. Documentary following Welsh Health Minister Eluned Morgan (r) 10.00 Y Sgubor Ffodau. Expert florists create arrangements for special occasions (r) 11.00-11.35 Bwyd Eithis Chris (r)

pushers

Listen for free via the QR code, on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts



THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

BBC3

7.00pm Top Gear. The trio create a street circuit in Spain. With guest Benedict Cumberbatch (AD) 8.00 Shark Tank: Dragons' Den US. An entrepreneur from New Orleans presents a solution to disposing of cooking oil 8.45 Press X to Continue. Steffan Powell chats about touring franchises 9.00 Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over. Stacey visits a wealthy family in their manor house in the Warwickshire countryside (6/6) (AD) 9.45 Zara McDermott: Revenge Porn. A look at the rise of sharing explicit or sexual images or videos without consent (AD) 10.10 This Country. Kerry and Kurtan hold the fort while the vicar is away (AD) 11.05 This Country. The annual harvest festival brings the whole village together (AD) 11.40 Drugs Map of Britain. Users and dealers in south Wales share their experiences of crack, now being labelled as 'the new cocaine' (4/4) 12.10am Top Gear. The trio create a street circuit in Spain (AD) 1.10 This Country. Spooof documentary (AD) 2.10 Drugs Map of Britain 2.40 My Mate's a Bad Date 3.00-3.55 Zara McDermott: Revenge Porn (AD, SL)

BBC4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo visits Cornwall's county town, Truro (AD) 7.30 Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure. Gareth and Maureen get a castle to themselves for a night — marking their 49th anniversary 8.00 Keeping Up Appearances. Hyacinth feels harassed, and Daddy gets engaged 8.30 Butterflies. Ria joins an exercise class, but immediately regrets her decision 9.00 The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story. Gillian Pachter re-examines the case of the last woman to be hanged in Britain (1/3) 10.00 Corridors of Power: Should America Police the World? Documentary exploring how the incoming president Bill Clinton approached the Bosnian war. See *Viewing Guide* (2/8) (AD) 11.00 Watergate. Richard Nixon's efforts to cover his tracks following the break-in (2/5) 11.50 Watergate. Documentary looking at Richard Nixon's downfall (3/5) 12.40am Inside America's Treasure House: The Met. The museum's closure during Covid 1.40 Great British Railway Journeys (AD) 2.10 Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure 2.40-3.40 The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am What's On PTV with Noel 6.10 FILM: The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (PG, 1941) (b/w) 7.30 FILM: Captain Scarlett (U, 1953) 9.05 FILM: Shadows on the Stairs (PG, 1941) (b/w) 10.10 FILM: Bailout at 43,000 (U, 1957) 12.00 FILM: 12.00 Wozzel Gummidge. 12.35pm FILM: Meet Simon Cherry (PG, 1949) Murder mystery (b/w) 1.55 Glimpses 2.15 Ruth Ellis and the Mystery 9.00 The Ruth Ellis Files: (U, 1971) Comedy 5.55 The Beverly Hillbillies (b/w) 6.30 Stotland Yard 7.05 Batman 7.35 Dangerous Assignment (b/w) 8.05 Rumpole of the Bailey (4/6) 9.10 FILM: King Kong Lives (PG, 1987) Fantasy adventure sequel with Linda Hamilton 11.15 Cellular Club with Caroline Munro 11.20 FILM: Visiting Hours (18, 1982) Horror starring Michael Ironside 1.30am Cellular Club with Caroline Munro 1.35 FILM: The Power (18, 1984) Horror 3.20 Cellular Club with Caroline Munro 3.25 FILM: The Shakedown (12, 1960) (b/w) 5.15 Look at Life 5.25 For the Love of Ada

Film4

11.00am Playing with Fire (PG, 2019) Comedy starring John Cena 12.55pm Jingle All the Way (PG, 1996) Comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger (AD) 2.40 Turner & Hooch (PG, 1989) Family canine comedy starring Tom Hanks (AD) 4.40 Hue and Cry (U, 1947) Ealing comedy starring Alastair Sim (b/w) 6.20 Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (12, 2017) Two special operatives race to identify a menace threatening the future of the universe. Sci-fi adventure starring Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne (AD) 9.00 Old (15, 2021) A vacationing family finds the secluded beach where they are relaxing is somehow causing them to age rapidly. M Night Shyamalan's horror. See *Viewing Guide* (AD) 11.10 Glass (15, 2019) Three men with superhuman abilities end up in a psychiatric hospital, where a doctor has sinister plans. Fantasy thriller with James McAvoy, Bruce Willis and Samuel L Jackson (AD) 1.45am-3.40 eHorror (18, 2015) Six pre-adolescent girls face a night of terror when an online social media game goes horrifyingly wrong. Crime horror starring Emma Adler

More4

8.55am Food Unwrapped (AD) 9.30 A Place in the Sun 10.25 A New Life in the Sun 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flop It 12.30pm Come Dine with Me (AD) 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Château DIY (AD) 6.55 Car SOS. Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw secretly restore a Japanese off-roader (AD) 7.55 Grand Designs. A project to convert a derelict water tower in central London into a luxury home, complete with a room at the top offering spectacular 360-degree views (AD) 9.00 Country House Auction. New series. Charting the stories of antiques as they are restored for sale at Castle Durrus (1/4) (AD) 10.00 Millionaire Hunters. Experts sift through homes crammed with potential treasure to unearth prized items that could raise life-changing sums of cash (1/3) (AD) 11.05 24 Hours in A&E. Cameras follow a junior doctor who for the first time in his career carries out a needle aspiration on a patient brought into A&E with a collapsed lung. A woman who is 17 weeks pregnant falls down the stairs (1/6) (AD) 12.10am Country House Auction (AD) 1.15 Millionaire Hoarders (AD) 2.20 24 Hours in A&E (AD) 3.25-3.55 Food Unwrapped (AD)

ITV2

6.00am CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos 9.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 10.00 Love Bites (AD, SL) 12.00 Dress to Impress 1.00pm In for a Penny (AD) 2.00 Supermarket Sweep 3.00 Charmed 4.00 Dawson's Creek 5.00 Dress to Impress 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) 7.00 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win. A mother and daughter try to climb the money ladder (AD) 9.30 Bob's Burgers. Louise suspects sinister machinations at a local apple orchard 8.30 Bob's Burgers. Gene's decision to spend all his savings on trying a new VR gaming arcade 9.00 Family Guy. Meg convinces Brian to take her SATs for her (AD) 9.30 Family Guy. Meg is recruited as a model — but not everything is as it seems (AD) 10.00 Family Guy (AD) 10.30 Family Guy (AD) 11.00 Family Guy (AD) 11.30 American Dad! (AD) 12.00 American Dad! (AD) 12.30am Bob's Burgers: 1.30 Deal or No Deal (SL) 2.30 Unwind with ITV 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale (AD) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 8.05 Wild at Heart 10.25 The Royal (AD) 11.25 Heartbeat (AD) 1.35pm Classic Emmerdale (AD) 2.40 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 3.50 A Touch of Frost. A student is attacked on campus (AD) 6.00 Heartbeat. Mason and Dawson investigate the son of a roadhouse owner (AD) 7.00 Heartbeat. A young troublemaker steals the gun of a teacher who put him in hospital and vows revenge, leaving Mason with little time to avert a tragedy at Ashfordly School (AD) 8.00 Midsomer Murders. The annual Scarecrow Festival takes a grisly turn as bodies begin appearing on poles displayed alongside their straw creations. Neil Dudgeon stars (AD) 10.00 Cracker. Part three of three. Fitz vows to nail Kenneth Tranter and his family, but finds himself unable to pierce the wall of silence they have built around themselves (6/9) (AD) 11.00 Cracker. Part one of three. Fitz investigates a series of rapes (7/9) (AD) 12.00 Wild at Heart 1.40am Bress This House 2.05 Unwind with ITV 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) 7.05 The Professionals (AD, SL) 8.00 Robin of Sherwood 9.15 The Champions 10.15 Kojak 11.20 BattleBots 12.20pm Robin of Sherwood 1.30 The Champions 2.35 Kojak 3.40 Minder (AD) 4.50 The Professionals (AD) 5.55 BattleBots 6.55 The Chase Celebrity Special. With Melvin Odoom, Carl Fogarty and Bonnie Langford 8.00 Ant & Dec's Superbike Highlights. Action from the seventh round of the season, held at Autodromo Internacional do Algarve in Portugal 9.00 Beat the Chasers. Contestants from across the UK take on knowledgeable Chasers 10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action with many of AEW's biggest stars, presented by Jim Ross, Excalibur and Tony Schiavone 11.05 FILM: Alien Resurrection (18, 1997) A clone of Ripley protects a smuggling crew from a new breed of the extraterrestrial monsters. Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder and Ron Perlman 1.10am Auto Mundial 1.35 Motorsport Mundial 2.05 Minder (AD, SL) 3.00 Teleshopping

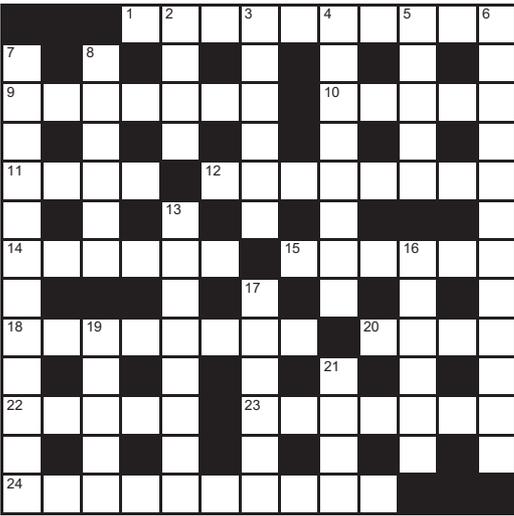
U&Drama

6.00am Teleshopping 7.10 London's Burning 8.00 Doctors 9.10 Classic Holly City 10.35 Classic Casualty 11.40 The Bill 12.40pm Classic EastEnders 2.00 London's Burning 3.00 Born and Bred 4.10 Howards' Way 5.20 Birds of a Feather. Tracy reluctantly visits Daryl 6.05 Desmond's. Sean is in love with Veronica 6.40 Are You Being Served? Mrs Slocombe woos confirmed bachelor Mr Humphries 7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Barry tries of golf and looks for a new hobby 8.00 Mrs Sidhu Investigates. The crime-solving caterer has a gig at a major boxing championship match when a boxer is kidnapped (4/4) (AD) 10.00 New Tricks. The discovery of a bloodstained pair of hot pants results in the 1971 disappearance of a mother and son (6/7) (AD) 11.20 Silent Witness. A head teacher confronts the dealers playing on his community as the team deal with the consequences of a surge in drug-related crime. With Colin Salmon 1.35am Footballers' Wives. A charity auction 2.40 Classic Holly City 3.00 Teleshopping

U&Yesterday

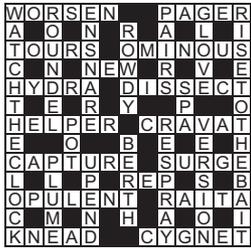
6.10am Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made 8.00 Abandoned Engineering (AD) 10.00 WW2 — Frontlines (AD) 11.00 Nazi Hunters 12.00 Find It, Fix It, Flop It (AD) 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (AD) 4.00 WW2 — Frontlines (AD) 5.00 Nazi Hunters 6.00 Antiques Roadshow 7.00 Find It, Fix It, Flop It. The boys visit Norfolk to assist a retired engineer (AD) 8.00 Secrets of the London Underground. Tim Dunn and Sidly Holloway explore the maintenance depot at Northumberland Park in north London (7/10) (AD) 9.00 Bangers & Cash: Paul and Charlie pick up a trio of iconic Austin Healeys (2/6) (AD) 10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team fly the flag for King and country purchasing a 1981 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit (AD) 11.00 Abandoned Engineering (11/12) (AD) 12.00 Great American Railroad Journeys. From New York City to Albany 1.00am A Year on the Yorkshire Steam Railway 2.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard 3.00 Teleshopping

times2 Crossword No 9608



- Across**
- 1 Underwater swimmer using an aqualung (5,5)
 - 9 Least distant (7)
 - 10 Large-size book format (5)
 - 11 Carbon-rich bog deposit (4)
 - 12 Canine guardian (8)
 - 14 Causing death (6)
 - 15 Combat implement (6)
- Down**
- 18 Waterproof overshoes (A, not O) (8)
 - 20 Catholic celebration of the Eucharist (4)
 - 22 Unspoken but understood (5)
 - 23 Cruelly devoid of feeling (7)
 - 24 Awkward to carry (10)

Solution to Crossword 9607



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

You wouldn't want to be in 6NT on today's deal from match 27 (of 29) at the 56th European Team Championships in Denmark. But it did have one important thing going for it: it made.

The deal was a blow for the England open team. We had just nudged past Italy into the bronze medal position (for the one and only time). However, in Italy v Spain, Italy bid the slam while Spain didn't, and in England v Turkey, Turkey bid the slam while England didn't. No podium finish for our sextet but a relatively comfortable top-eight finish and a berth in the world championships next year: main mission accomplished.

Here's how the Turkish declarer Oguz Sakrak made 6NT against David Gold and me. Gold, West, led a deceptive ten of diamonds, declarer winning dummy's queen (costing him his fourth diamond trick) and led the jack of hearts. I did not cover (which would have given him a fourth heart trick) and he then led a heart to the queen and cashed the ace, West discarding a club.

Declarer needed West to have the king of spades so, at trick five, led a spade towards the queen. West rose with the king and exited with a spade. Declarer won dummy's king then came to his queen of clubs to cash the ace of spades (see ending across).

West was squeezed in the minors. A club would promote dummy's ♠AK9 while a diamond would promote declarer's ♦AK4. Slam made — nicely played.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

♠ Q9
 ♥ J972
 ♦ Q96
 ♣ AK98

♠ J10764
 ♥ K643
 ♦ 53
 ♣ 43

♠ K3
 ♥ 85
 ♦ J1087
 ♣ J7652

♠ A852
 ♥ AQ10
 ♦ AK42
 ♣ Q10

S	W	N	E
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(2)	Pass
3♠	Pass	6NT(3)	End

- (1) My experience of opening a 19-count 2NT is not great, so I'm glad I wasn't sitting South — no chance of getting to slam after a One- opener and a 2NT rebid.
- (2) Asking for four-card majors.
- (3) Optimistic/precipitate. I prefer a quantitative 4NT (note, not ace-asking); or, if forcing to slam, 5NT (pick a slam), enabling you to reach a 4-4 fit 6♣.

Contract: 6NT, Opening Lead: ♦10

♠ -
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 96
 ♣ AK9

♠ J107
 ♥ K
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 4

♠ A8 (A led)
 ♥ -
 ♦ AK4
 ♣ 10

Norway took gold with 3971, Switzerland silver with 386.8, Italy bronze with 368.3, while England were 4th with 353.1. We'd amassed only 30.6 out of 120 against the top six teams but had lost to only three of the remaining 23 teams.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 32 + 9 x 2 - 12 90% OF IT - 8 x 2 - 8 5/6 OF IT + 9

MEDIUM 55 + 1/5 OF IT x 4 + 28 25% OF IT + 76 x 3 + 99 + 1/2 OF IT - 76

HARDER 134 + 478 + 1/6 OF IT + 738 + 1/2 OF IT + 818 x 2 7/8 OF IT - 573 80% OF IT

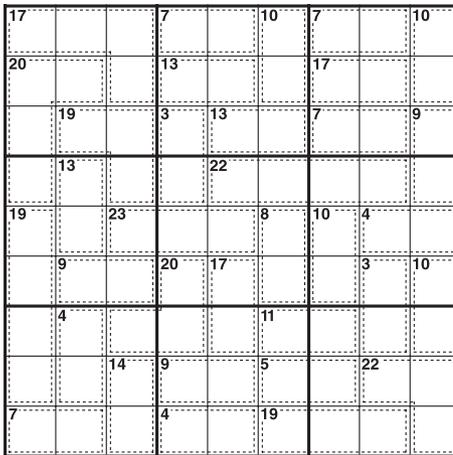
Polygon



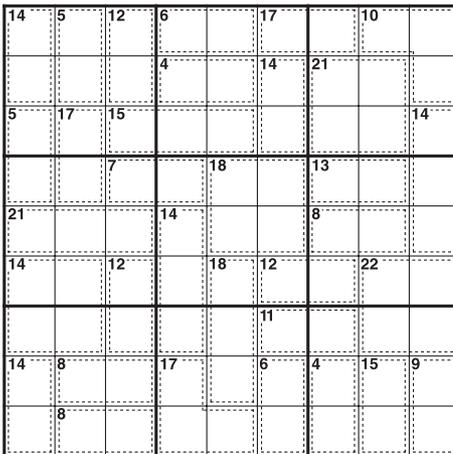
From these letters, make words of three or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. How you rate 16 words, average; 22, good; 27, very good; 32, excellent

Yesterday's answers ask, back, basic, bask, bay, bias, cab, cask, cay, kai, sac, sack, saki, say, scab, sickbay, sika, ska, yack, yak

Killer Moderate No 9622



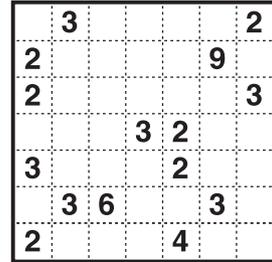
Killer Tough No 9623



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 5175



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3794

6 x - = 10

x x + = 2

- - - =

- x 5 = 10

= 50 = 19 = 4

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

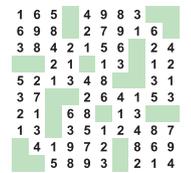
Quick Cryptic 252



Codeword 5291



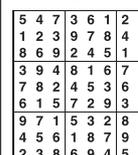
Kakuro 3790



Sudoku 15,141



Sudoku 15,142



Sudoku 15,143



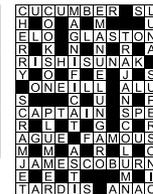
Killer 9620



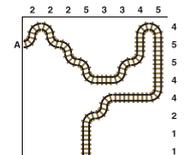
Killer 9621



FK Crossword 246



Train Tracks 2319



Cell Blocks 5174



Set Square 3793

6 + 4 x - =

+ x x - =

7 ÷ 1 x 2 =

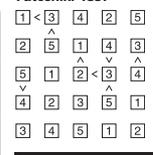
+ - - + =

5 x 3 - 8 =

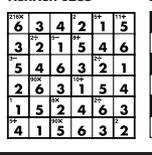
Lexica 7589



Futoshiki 4831



KenKen 6283



Lexica 7590



Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram

- 1 Ludo
- 2 Jockey
- 3 Dennis
- 4 Handbell
- 5 Slimming

Cryptic Quintagram

- 1 Count
- 2 Prude
- 3 Shopper
- 4 Council
- 5 Omnivore

Suko 4193

Brain Trainer

- Easy 94
- Medium 743
- Harder 3,736

Word watch

Theic (a) A person who drinks too much tea (Chambers)

Condign (b) (Of a punishment) fitting (Collins)

Mobbie (b) Apple and peach brandy (OED)

Chess - Winning Move

1 Qxf6! is overwhelming as 1... gxf6 2 Rd8+ Ke7 3 Ba3+ Qd6 4 R8xd6! leads to total carnage.

Quiz

- 1 Captain Hook 2 Wales
- 3 Pencil 4 St Peter's Basilica
- 5 Take Me Out 6 Russia
- 7 M40 8 New Zealand
- 9 Edna O'Brien
- 10 The Price II Blitz Club
- 12 Poitiers 13 Martin Kippenberger 14 Australia
- 15 Withnail and I

