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Starmer accused of weakening support for Ukraine

Prime Minister under pressure to allow Storm Shadow missile strikes inside Russia

By Tony Diver US EDITOR and Ben Riley Smith POLITICAL EDITOR

SIR KEIR STARMER is under fresh pressure to lift restrictions on Ukraine's use of Storm Shadow missiles after Volodymyr Zelensky said British support was "slowing down".

The Ukrainian president complained that British aid to Kyiv had begun to wane as his forces continued their unprecedented incursion into Russian territory in the Kursk region.

"Unfortunately, the situation has slowed down recently," Mr Zelensky said, referring to UK military assistance.

Sir Keir has upheld a Conservative ban on using UK-made Storm Shadows to strike targets deep inside Russia, amid concern it could lead to escalation with nuclear-armed Moscow.

"We will discuss how to fix this because long-range capabilities are vital for us. The whole world sees how effective Ukrainians are - how our entire nation defends its independence."

Four former Conservative defence secretaries last night called on No10 to do more to support Ukraine, with some demanding Kyiv be allowed to use Storm Shadows in the Russian offensive.

Mr Zelensky said that it was "crucial" for Britain, France and the US to "remove barriers that hinder us from weakening Russian positions".

He added: "Long-range capabilities are the answer to the most critical strategic questions of this war."

The White House denied reports that the US was blocking a request by the UK for Ukraine to use the missiles. A Biden

administration official told *The Telegraph* that no formal request has been made for Ukraine to launch them over the Russian border, which would require the use of some US-made systems.

Ukrainian officials, including Mr Zelensky, have argued that the missiles would allow Ukraine to strike a number of key targets behind the front lines, including airfields, ammunition storage depots and Russian command posts.

Kyiv is particularly keen to prevent Russian jets firing glide-bombs at its troops as they seek to hold territory inside Kursk. The Ukrainian incursion, which began on Aug 6, is the first foreign invasion of Russian soil since the Second World War.

Mykhailo Podolyak, one of Mr Zelensky's advisers, told *The Telegraph* on Saturday that Storm Shadow missiles would also allow Ukraine to disrupt Russian supply chains because they can penetrate underground bunkers and evade radar detection.

However, a well-placed US official said 90 per cent of Russian fighter jets had been moved to airbases beyond the 155-mile range of Storm Shadows, and that long-range Ukrainian drones would be more effective against glide bombs.

Russia assumed that the US or other Western countries may eventually grant them permission to use long-range missiles in Russia, and they just made the adjustments at that point, they said. "If this were to ever happen

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Royal role models



Lilibet has "found her voice" at the age of three, the Duchess of Sussex has said. Speaking at an "Afro Women and Power" event on the last day of the couple's Colombia tour, the Duchess said she has tried to help her daughter find her voice Report: Page 5

Labour to make it easier for unions to hold strikes

By Ben Riley-Smith

TRADE unions will be free to strike even if most of their members do not vote for it under a new law the Government will propose, *The Telegraph* understands.

The move to repeal the Trade Union Act 2016, which sets legal thresholds for how much support strike ballots need, will be tabled by mid-October despite a wave of new industrial action.

Under the Act, brought in during Lord Cameron's premiership, at least half of a trade union's members must take part in strike votes for the walkout to be allowed.

The Act also insists that "important public services" such as the NHS and transport, at least 40 per cent of the

union's total members must have voted for action. Removing both thresholds, as Labour intends to do under its Employment Rights Bill championed by Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, would mean trade unions could launch industrial action with the support of far fewer members.

Labour is under increasing pressure over how to handle union pay demands and has been accused of caving to "paymasters" after handing out two above-inflation pay rises, to junior doctors and train drivers.

Despite the pay offer, train drivers on the main London to Edinburgh line are set to strike every weekend for the next three months. Meanwhile, passport staff at Heathrow will down tools on the last weekend of August. The Conserva-

tives warned that the plans to repeal the act would "open the floodgates" to more industrial action.

Kevin Hollinrake, the Tory shadow business secretary, said: "Labour must listen to businesses who are petrified, and urgently abandon their plans to scrap this act. It will be businesses and consumers who pay and growth that suffers if Labour do not."

Sir Keir Starmers' handling of union disputes came under fresh scrutiny last week as the walkouts were announced. More strikes are looming, with GPs having balloted on a range of industrial action in protest at their contracts.

Since taking office in July, Sir Keir and his ministers have sought to settle disputes by handing train drivers a 15 per cent pay rise and junior doctors a

22 per cent increase. Labour has insisted that the approach will lead to fewer strikes in the future and save the economy money.

However, just 48 hours after securing their pay rise, Aslef announced that its LNER drivers would strike over a separate dispute. It emerged over the weekend that drivers at the firm are already seeing their average wage rise to £81,000. Tory shadow transport minister Kieran Mullan said the fresh strikes came as no surprise after a "no strings attached offer to throw cash at a Labour-backing union".

More than half of Labour MPs took union cash to fund their general election campaigns, analysis by the *Daily Mail* found. Of the 404 Labour MPs, 213 took a total of £1.8million from unions

since the general election was called in May. The Trade Union Act 2016 has become a cornerstone of modern strike laws, making it harder for unions to launch legal walkouts. It was introduced following criticism that strikes were being conducted with minimal support.

Repealing of the law was not explicitly mentioned in the King's Speech briefing about the new Employment Rights Bill, but *The Telegraph* understands it will be included.

The proposed legislation will be tabled with Parliament by mid-October at the latest. If the law was repealed, more than half of people who vote in strike ballots would have to back action but there would no longer be the same requirements on turnout.

NEWS

Fear GPs could push for assisted dying

Assisting suicide could be encouraged by doctors to ease pressures on the NHS if the practice was legalised, the public fear. More than four in 10 members of the public said it could incentivise health professionals to encourage some patients to take their own lives given the pressures on the NHS. Some 37 per cent believed it would not. The public also feared, by 56 per cent to 27 per cent, that it could lead to a culture where suicide became more normalised. *Page 2*

NEWS

Misogyny law may be 'risk to free speech'

Treating misogyny as a form of extremism could threaten freedom of speech, the Government has been warned. Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, has ordered a review that will look at tackling violence against women and girls in the same way as far-Right and Islamist extremism. However, critics have argued the Government should enforce existing legislation to tackle the violence and warn that the new policy could amount to censorship. *Page 6*

NEWS

DfE inflating results to keep 'feel-good factor'

The Department for Education has been accused of keeping grade inflation embedded in the exams system for the "feel-good factor". Prof Alan Smithers, of the University of Buckingham, who forecasts exams each year, said this week's GCSE results should see a drop of up to 71,000 top grades if officials restored results to 2019 levels, when 20.8 per cent of entries were awarded a grade 7 or above - the equivalent to an A in the former system. *Page 8*

WORLD

'Cautious optimism' for Gaza ceasefire

The US secretary of state was expected to arrive in the Middle East amid "cautious optimism" a ceasefire deal could be reached to end the war in Gaza. Antony Blinken will meet the Israeli prime minister, today for ceasefire and hostage negotiations which are due to continue in Cairo this week. US officials say they believe a deal could be signed by the end of the week. "We think the package is basically there ready to be implemented," a US official said. *Page 11*

BUSINESS

Harassment law threat to office parties

A plan to crack down on workplace harassment could spell the end of the office party, lawyers have warned. A new rule forcing companies to prove they have taken steps to prevent sexual abuse of staff is being rewritten by the Government. The Worker Protection Act, which will come into force in October, was watered down last year after peers said that making employers take "all reasonable steps" to stop harassment could lead to an "almost infinite number of steps" for firms. *Page 17*



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Fear GPs could push for assisted suicides

Survey of public shows concern that doctors may encourage patients to take lives to ease NHS pressures

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

ASSISTING suicide could be encouraged by doctors to ease pressures on the NHS if the practice was legalised, the public fear.

More than four in 10 members of the public (43 per cent) said it could incentivise health professionals to encourage some patients to take their lives given the pressures on the NHS. Some 37 per cent believed it would not.

The public also feared, by 56 per cent to 27 per cent, that it could lead to a culture where suicide became more normalised. The finding emerged in a major poll of just over 2,000 adults on "assisted suicide" – where a doctor handed a patient lethal drugs so they could end their life – which found 60

per cent supported legalising it. Only 11 per cent opposed it.

But nearly half of the public (46 per cent) believed there were too many complicating factors to make it a practical and safe option to implement in Britain. A smaller proportion – 36 per cent – disagreed with the concerns, according to the poll by Whitestone Insight for the think tank Living and Dying Well.

By more than a two-to-one majority (60 per cent to 24 per cent), the public felt giving GPs the power to help patients take their own life would fun-

damentally change the doctor/patient relationship, given that the current prime responsibility of medics was to save and protect life.

A slightly smaller majority – 41 per cent to 29 per cent – feared it could risk funding for palliative care.

They overwhelmingly backed proposals by Lord Falconer, who has tabled a Bill to legalise assisted dying, that if it was introduced, doctors and hospices should have a legal right to opt out of participating in it. They supported such a move by 77 per cent to 10 per cent.

Although Sir Keir Starmer has suggested he will allow a free vote if Parliament wants it, the public agreed with him that it should not be a priority. They rated it as the 22nd out of 23 policy priorities.

Baroness Grey-Thompson, the former paralympian and chairman of Living and Dying Well, said the poll gave a "very different snapshot of ordinary peoples' attitude towards assisted suicide than the glossy picture presented by pro-assisted dying/assisted suicide

organisations". She added: "It shows that, at best, people are ambivalent about the prospect."

Danny Kruger, chairman of the Dying Well All-Party Parliamentary Group, which opposes assisted suicide, and co-chairman of the New Conservatives, said: "This poll clearly shows that introducing assisted suicide is not a priority for the public."

He added: "At a time when the NHS is already under pressure, and the standard of palliative care remains patchy in different parts of the UK, legalising assisted suicide would be misguided and put vulnerable people at risk."

Of all the public, 70 per cent said that assistance in dying in countries like Canada and the Netherlands, where young people with no terminal illness are helped to die, had gone too far.

Nearly half (48 per cent) of the public thought that intentionally ingesting poison with the intention of dying, even if given to them by someone else, ought to be described as "suicide" while 36 per cent disagreed.

NEWS BULLETIN

Old books can contain toxic dyes, study finds

Old books can be poisonous, a study has claimed.

Some that are more than 100 years old contain toxic dyes including lead and chromium up to six times above acceptable legal levels, according to scientists.

Researchers from Lipscomb University in Nashville used three techniques to assess dangerous dyes in a university collection and found some volumes may be unsafe to handle.

The findings led the Lipscomb library to seal colourful 19th-century books that have not yet been tested in plastic zip-close bags. The researchers presented their findings at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Denver, Colorado.

Boy saves mother's life after allergic reaction

An eight-year-old boy saved his mother's life after she had an allergic reaction by dialling 999 and telling operators: "Mummy can't breathe."

Ryan Reid called paramedics after noticing his mother Alicia, 27, was suffering a serious case of anaphylaxis at their home in Kidderminster, Worcs, after she had a reaction to antibiotics.

Ryan talked call-handlers through her symptoms, giving them her date of birth, address and postcode before paramedics arrived.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "If ever there was an example of why it is important to teach our children how to call for help, this is it. Ryan really is a lifesaver."

Payout for pharmacist over racial harassment

A Boots pharmacist has won £58,000 after he was branded an "aggressive black man" by his two white junior colleagues.

Samson Famojuro, an experienced pharmacist of Nigerian origin, was subjected to "open insubordination" and "highly personalised" abuse at the hands of Emma Walker, a technician, and Nicole Daley, a pharmacy assistant, at the Silva Island Way Branch in Wickford, Essex, an employment tribunal found.

After successfully suing the high street giant for racial harassment and unfair constructive dismissal, Mr Famojuro has been awarded £58,800 in compensation.

Child dies after feeling ill at trampoline park

A child has died after becoming unwell at a trampoline park.

Emergency services were called to Flip Out in Southcroft Road, Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire, just before 11am yesterday.

The child was then taken by ambulance to the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, where they were pronounced dead.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "The child's death is being treated as unexplained, although there are not thought to be any suspicious circumstances, and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal."

"The Health and Safety Executive has also been notified."

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Who's the daddy The Vasco da Gama dominates the small Cornish town of Fowey which has become a regular port of call for cruise liners from all over the world. The ship, operated by the German company Nick Cruises, can carry 1,000 passengers, causing the 2,315-strong community to swell during stopovers.

Mental health awareness not 'beneficial' when NHS can't cope already, says professor

By Dominic Penna

THE NHS should not keep increasing mental health awareness because it cannot cope with current levels of demand, one of its board members has said.

Prof Sir Simon Wessely, a non-executive NHS England director, argued growing levels of awareness are now likely to be less "beneficial" than they were in previous decades.

Sir Simon, who was president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists between 2014 and 2017, noted poor mental health is now often linked to personal and societal problems, rather than neurological conditions.

A survey carried out earlier this month found almost a quarter of Gen Z say they have long-term mental health

conditions, compared with an average of eight per cent of all adults.

Reflecting on his presidency during a conversation on Times Radio, Sir Simon said: "I went to every medical school, spoke to 40 different groups of students."

"And invariably they reported much higher rates of poor mental wellbeing and mental health problems."

"But actually, when you push them a bit, they weren't talking about the kind of disorders that we're talking about – depression, anxiety, and so on."

"They were talking about loneliness, homesickness, exam stress, academic pressure, concerns about climate change, which we probably wouldn't really classify as mental disorders because they don't really respond to the kind of psychological treatments we

give." Sir Simon called on the health service to "confront" the fact younger generations are "dramatically more likely" to talk about mental health than those before them.

"This is also driving up demand, which in fact the NHS is not set up to meet," he said.

"Therefore, continuing mental health awareness may not be [as] beneficial as it was 10, 20, 30 years ago."

Depression and anxiety diagnoses have risen sharply since 2000 and particularly since 2010, while ADHD and autism referrals have risen fivefold since the pandemic.

This has prompted fears doctors could be over diagnosing the conditions, with Sir Simon describing the increase in cases as "remarkable".

Tories urge PM to do 'more, not less' to help Ukraine

Continued from Page 1

it's not going to have the military impact that Ukraine thinks it would, or that some voices out there think it would."

Yesterday, Mr Zelensky said the purpose of the Kursk offensive was to create a "buffer zone" between Ukraine and Russia, in the first justification for the incursion he has publicly offered.

In his nightly address, he said: "It is now our primary task in defensive operations overall – to destroy as much Russian war potential as possible ... This includes creating a buffer zone on the aggressor's territory – our operation in the Kursk region."

He repeated his call for the UK to increase its support and named the US and France as other countries who could do more. Former Tory defence secretaries told *The Telegraph* Sir Keir

should do more to help. Sir Michael Fallon said: "It can't be right to let Putin hit a children's hospital with glide bombs from miles over the border, yet bar Ukraine from defending itself with long-range missiles like Storm Shadow."

Sir Ben Wallace said: "Time and time again those that want to do nothing have used the 'escalation' excuse ... The reality is it is the appeasers that use this language and all the while Ukrainians suffer." Sir Gavin Williamson and Grant Shapps respectively said the UK should do "more, not less" to help Ukraine and "redouble" support.

A government spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has been clear that UK's support for Ukraine is unwavering. Further lethal aid was also accelerated to Kyiv within hours of this government being elected."

Marvel films ruining cinema, says Brian Cox

Succession star argues the industry is in a 'very bad way' due to financial draw of superhero adaptations

By Craig Simpson

FORMER Marvel actor Brian Cox has said superhero movie franchises are ruining cinema.

The *Succession* star said that film was in a "very bad way" owing to the financial draw of comic-book adaptations.

Cox said that the glut of high-paying, high-grossing films has made it "party time" for actors who can get a big payout from such movies, but is harmful for cinema overall.

The actor, 78, has first-hand experience of the phenomenon, having dabbled in the genre in 2024 when he starred in *X2: X-Men United* with Hugh Jackman. He played Dr William Stryker, responsible for creating Wolverine.

Speaking at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Cox said: "What's happened is that television is doing what cinema used to do. 'I think cinema is in a very bad way. I think it's lost its place because of, partly, the grandiose element between Marvel, DC and all of that. And I think it's beginning to implode. You're kind of losing the plot.'"

Cox raised concerns that the financial incentives for studios and actors meant that the churn of films would continue.

He said his acting colleagues were "making a lot of money that'll make everybody happy, but in terms of the work, it becomes diluted afterwards", adding "you're getting the same-old".

Since 2008, 33 Marvel films have been released, and they have dominated the box office.

Avengers: Endgame made almost \$3 billion and became the highest-grossing film of the last 10 years. Three other Marvel films feature in the top 10. *Spider-Man*, which has been made nine times in various different ways, initially

had three instalments from 2002 to 2007 with Tobey Maguire starring.

Since that time, Spider-Man has been portrayed by Andrew Garfield in *The Amazing Spider-Man* and its sequel; and Tom Holland in *Spider-Man: Homecoming* and *Spider-Man: Far from Home*. The character was then voiced by actor Shameik Moore in the animated version of *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*.

There have, to date, been three Guardians of the Galaxy films, and Robert Downey Jr starred in three Iron Man films before his character was swept into the four Avengers crossovers, which bring together characters from different Marvel franchises. This crossover features the character of Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, who has also played the character three times in a separate trilogy.

The Hulk has been played by Eric Bana, Edward Norton and Mark Ruffalo in the character's multiple cinematic outings, while Australian star Jackman has appeared in his role as Wolverine in 10 different films, with another scheduled for release this year. This is a crossover with the character Deadpool, played by

uel L Jackson holds the record for appearances in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and has appeared as the character Nick Fury 15 times since 2008.

The production line of comic-book films has been criticised by many for lacking artistic seriousness, and Cox told an audience in Edinburgh that actors "who do this stuff" can "make a lot of money" by accepting roles in the various spin-offs. He warned, however, that "in terms of the work, it becomes diluted afterwards".

Cox is not the only actor to have accepted a Marvel job and then spoken out against the dominance of the brand, with Sir Anthony Hopkins complaining that it was "pointless" trying to act in the Thor franchise he appeared in.

Idris Elba, who had played Nelson Mandela in a prior role, said that "it ripped [his] heart out" to see himself absurdly costumed in the same Thor franchise. Ben Affleck, who played the superhero Daredevil, described what he perceived to be the studio approach

to superhero films in 2003, saying: "There was a cynical sense of 'put a red leather outfit on a guy, have him run around, hunt some bad guys and cash the cheque'."

Concerns about the Marvel product have also been shared by those making the films. Earlier this year, Disney announced that it would cut production of Marvel films and TV spin-offs to avoid interest in the franchise being exhausted. Bob Iger, the company's chief executive, said it would aim to "focus more on quality" and reduce its output of superhero fare. The films have been commercial hits, and but recent underperformance at the box office has led to some concern that the appetite for the franchise has begun to wane.

However, more films are in the works, with two more Avengers films set to be released in 2026 and 2027, respectively, and an entirely new branch of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the Fantastic Four, is set to be launched in 2025.

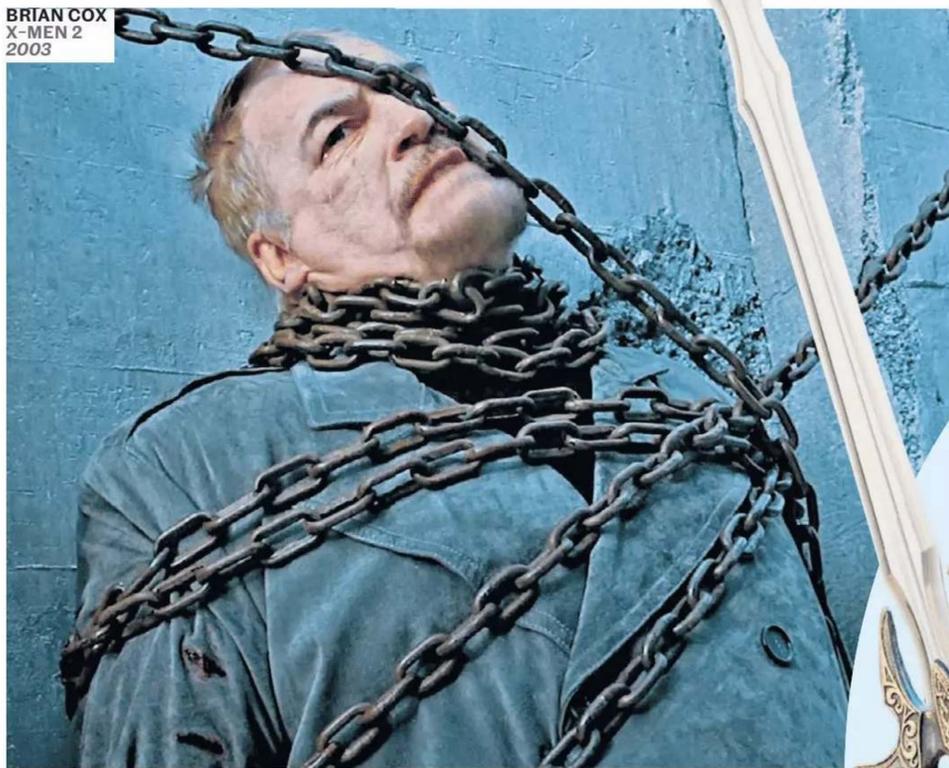
\$3 billion

The total box office gains of *Avengers: Endgame*, making it the highest-grossing film of the last 10 years

Ryan Reynolds, who has already appeared in two films in the franchise.

Hollywood star Chris Evans has played the character of Captain America in 11 different films, and the character is set for another franchise instalment this year, with Anthony Mackie taking over as the shield-bearing superhero. Sam-

BRIAN COX
X-MEN 2
2003



SIR ANTHONY HOPKINS
THOR
2011



IDRIS ELBA
THOR RAGNAROK
2017



'Ripped my heart out'
The actors who criticise Marvel

Brian Cox
What's happened is that television is doing what cinema used to do. I think cinema is in a very bad way. I think it's lost its place because of, partly, the grandiose element between Marvel, DC and all of that. And I think it's beginning to implode. You're kind of losing the plot.

Idris Elba
In between takes I was stuck there, fake hair stuck on to my head with glue, this f--ing helmet, while they reset. And I'm thinking: '24 hours ago, I was Mandela' ... Then there I was, in this stupid harness, with this wig and this sword and these contact lenses. It ripped my heart out.

Anthony Hopkins
They put me in armour; they shoved a beard on me. Sit on the throne; shout a bit. If you're sitting in front of a green screen, it's pointless acting it.

Ben Affleck
The only movie I actually regret. There was a cynical sense of 'put a red leather outfit on a guy, have him run around, hunt some bad guys and cash the cheque'.

Less is more
The Marvel films that have far too many sequels

Spider-Man (nine films in past 25 years, including three by Marvel Studios) There have been nine Spider-Man movies in different incarnations this century as film studios have gone out of their way to make the most of arguably Marvel's most popular character, right.

Since the resurgence of Marvel Studios in the 2010s, there have been three stand-alone Spider-Man movies starring British actor Tom Holland - *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017) and *Spider-Man: Far from Home* (2019) and *Spider-Man: No Way Home*

(2021). They were global hits, no doubt fuelled by the chemistry between Holland and Zendaya, who became a couple in real life.



Avengers (four films, so far) The 2012 Avengers movie was responsible for kicking off Marvel-mania. An action film stuffed with all the big characters (Iron Man, The Hulk) starring Hollywood stars (Robert Downey Jr, Scarlett Johanson, Mark Ruffalo etc).

Marvel went back to the filmmaking well three more times in Avengers: *Age of Ultron* (2015), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) before an epic farewell in *Avengers: Endgame* in 2019. The final movie was so long and convoluted about intergalactic warlord Thanos's

attempt to destroy the universe (apart from the emotional pull of Iron Man's death), moviegoers were almost relieved it was all over. Or is it? Marvel has slated *Avengers: Secret Wars* for 2027, which is expected to be starring Downey Jr. God help us.

Ant-Man (three films) Comedian Paul Rudd starred in the first stand-alone Ant-Man film in 2015. It grossed \$519 million at the box office. The character, right, returned for a sequel (*Ant-Man and the Wasp*) in 2018, which was even a bigger hit (\$622 million). But,

like a lot of other Marvel-based films, things started to go off the rails, and the long, confusing *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*



(2023) was a box-office disappointment and was the start of the backlash against Marvel films.

Doctor Strange (two films) British actor Benedict Cumberbatch's dry wit was the perfect fit for the Dr Strange character

who featured in a string of Avenger movies. He starred in his own self-titled Marvel film in 2016, which reaped more than \$600 million at the box office and even received an Academy Award nomination for best visual effects. While a 2022 sequel, *Dr Strange in the Multiverse of*

Madness was a box office hit (\$955 in takings), it summed up what was wrong with the Marvel film "more-is-less" approach to filmmaking. Why worry about popular characters dying off when they can be resurrected by being found living in another "multiverse"?

Would ewe believe what's got on to our roof? Shop door chime went off 58 times in hour

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

IT WAS not the usual wake-up alarm call for Kirsten Jackson when she found a flock of sheep walking around on her roof.

Ms Jackson, 28, discovered the four farm animals trotting about on top of her four-bed property on Thursday morning. She had been in bed with her partner, Daniel Payne, 33, when they heard a loud noise echoing through their home, in Whitworth, Lancashire, at about 8am.

And fearing a burglar had crept on to the top of their detached home, Ms Jackson rushed outside to see what was making the commotion. But she realised that a small herd of sheep was

walking up and down the roof. The marketing executive said: "I heard the noises and thought, what is that? It surely can't be a bird. Is it a cat or something else? It sounded a lot bigger."

"So I was like, 'I need to go and see what's on the roof: You think the roof - is someone on the house? Is someone breaking in?'"

"I quickly jumped out of bed and went out of the back door, and I went to the back garden area and looked up. And I was like, 'Oh my God, there are sheep on the roof: I just burst out laughing because it was kind of hilarious.'"

She added: "I ran inside and grabbed my phone and basically said to my partner, 'You need to come out and see this.' "He came out and turned around and

was just shocked. He just started laughing at the fact that we had four sheep on the house, and they were just staring back at us."

Ms Jackson explained that their home, which they moved into just over a year ago and is currently under renovation, is partially submerged into a hillside. And this had allowed the curious livestock to clamber on to the roof after they sneaked through a fence earlier in the morning.

She added that she would be reinforcing the boundaries of the property to make sure no more animals ventured on top of the home.

She added: "In the future, we'll definitely be making a change to the fence to make sure it doesn't happen again."

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A CORNER shop is being investigated over a chime neighbours claim once went off 58 times in one hour.

People living near the Premier in Totland, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, said the sound is like an unwanted alarm as it wakes them up as early as 6am.

Others say the "intrusive sound" is affecting their daily lives to the point where some are considering moving houses to get away from the shop.

Ashley Yeo, 64, who lives nearby, said: "We understand commercial sounds have to happen. What we are complaining about is the intrusive sound which affects our daily lives, between 6am and 10pm. What we want

is for that sound to be kept within the shop so we don't have to hear it."

Phil Yates, 64, said he was asked by the council to make note of how many times it goes off. On one day, he said it sounded 58 times in an hour. He said: "It

'It's like somebody playing the drums in the garden at 2am in the morning - you go stir crazy'

wasn't a flow of people going in and out, it was just the door opening and closing. That's like somebody playing the drums in the back garden at 2am in the morning - you go stir crazy." Mr Yates, who

has tinnitus, said it has driven him so crazy, he had even considered moving.

Angela Critoph, 62, said: "The worst bit for me is first thing in the morning and last thing at night. I don't know why they need to have an alert for such a small shop but that's their choice."

A spokesman for the shop said he has already turned it down and he can't "do any more than that". The chime lets staff in the back store room know when there are customers in the shop.

The neighbours say they acknowledge it has been turned down but it's still "too loud". They say an Environmental Health officer from the council has been down to the site with recording equipment. The council confirmed the team has received complaints.

Police cannot make arrests if jails full of rioters, says union

No 10 will have to impose limits within days to avoid overflowing, claims Prison Officers' Association chief

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

POLICE will be unable to make arrests if prisons are full up with rioters, it has been suggested. The Prison Officers' Association

(POA) predicts that ministers will be forced to impose new bottlenecks within days to avoid prisons filling up.

That would require triggering Operation Early Dawn, which prevents inmates being taken from police cells to court unless a prison space is available.

Mark Fairhurst, the national chairman of the POA, predicted an announcement could come as early as this morning. He warned that such a move would put increased pressure on police forces and compel officers to limit the number of arrests they make in order to

free up cell space. "Last week we had the biggest influx of new receptions I've seen for quite some time. We had 397 new receptions. As of Friday we only had 340 spaces left in the adult closed male estate."

"I wouldn't be surprised if at some point [this] morning the Ministry of Justice would announce that Operation Early Dawn kicks into play at some point next week, probably [tomorrow] onwards," he told BBC Radio 4's *Broadcasting House* programme yesterday. You're now clogging up police cells, so



Mark Fairhurst, the national chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said bottlenecks may be imposed to prevent jails from filling up

they haven't got the power to arrest people and put them away in a police cell. It has a massive knock-on effect on the entire criminal justice system." Sources told *The Telegraph* that

prison governors have been told to expect Operation Early Dawn to be implemented this morning. "That means one in, one out and that will have a knock-on effect on the ability of police to make arrests as police cells will soon fill up," said the source. "This crisis will continue until the Government grasps the nettle of investing in a prison building programme and the public accepts that if they want to see criminals out in prison it costs money."

More than 1,000 people have been arrested so far for their part in the recent riots which gripped towns and cities in England and Northern Ireland. Some 480 have been charged and at least 99 sentences handed down as cases continue to be brought to court.

Around 90 adults have been sentenced. Of these, eight have received custodial sentences of three years or more, while three-quarters of them have got more than a year of jail time.

The severity of sentences ranges from community orders and fines at the lower end, to the longest term so far of

six years, handed to David Wilkinson, 48, for his role in the Hull disorder.

Wilkinson was a prominent member of the "baying mob" which forced three terrified Romanian men from their car.

Mr Fairhurst described the pressure on the prison system as "really, really tight", warning that offenders in the most pressured regions would face sentences far from home. "The pinch points at the moment are the North East and North West, so it's likely that if you commit an offence in those areas you will be carted 100, 200 miles away from home to serve your sentence," he said.

Operation Early Dawn has not yet been triggered. The public would be informed if it had, the Ministry of Justice previously said.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman said: "This Government will always make sure we have the prison places we need, and we have taken decisive action to see criminals who break the law swiftly brought to justice."

"We will update on operational decisions in the normal way."



By the seaside Anti-immigration protesters gather near Bournemouth town hall on Sunday. The congregation was met by a counter-protest that was billed by organisers as a 'Stop the Far Right' rally.

Riots thought to be more about migration than Southport killings

By Dominic Penna
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE people think the recent riots were about migration than the Southport killings, polling shows.

Six days of unrest swept British towns and cities after three young girls were fatally stabbed in the Merseyside town.

It followed false online rumours that the suspect was an asylum seeker who arrived in the UK by boat last year.

A survey of 2,237 people carried out by Savanta found that almost two thirds (64 per cent) of responders said the UK's immigration policy had been responsible for the riots, compared to 59 per cent who cited the stabbings in Southport. The public were most likely to blame those taking part in the civil unrest (82 per cent), followed by far-

right groups (75 per cent) and social media companies (73 per cent).

More than half (53 per cent) said the previous Conservative government was responsible, 51 per cent news organisations and 46 per cent immigrants and asylum seekers. Forty-four per cent said the riots were the fault of the current Government while 33 per cent said football fans were partly responsible.

A slim majority of respondents (52 per cent) believed Sir Keir had handled his first major crisis in office well, although 38 per cent said he had done badly. Voters were more split on what they made of the wider Government response to the disorder, with 49 per cent saying it did well in general and 43 per cent that it did badly.

Reform UK voters were most likely to believe Sir Keir had done a bad job, with

almost three-quarters of those surveyed criticising his response.

Nigel Farage was criticised for his response to the Southport killings after questioning if the truth was being "withheld" amid rumours about the suspect's identity. The Reform leader was at least to some extent "responsible" for violent protests, said 51 per cent of people polled, with 40 per cent saying the same about Sir Keir.

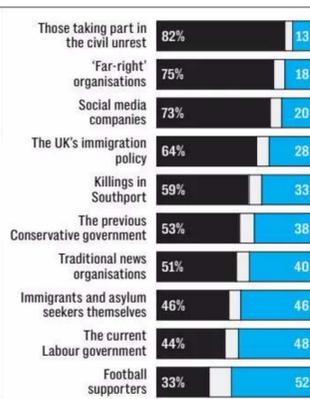
Chris Hopkins, political research director at Savanta, said: "The country is broadly more likely to say Sir Keir did well in managing the situation than not. Our research probably makes grimmer reading for Nigel Farage, who is only behind EDL former leader Tommy Robinson in being seen as 'responsible' for the violent protests. The public think that swift justice for violent protesters is

More people think riots were about migration than Southport killings

To what extent do you think that each of the following is, or is not, responsible for the civil unrest seen in the UK over recent weeks

■ Responsible
■ Not responsible

SOURCE: SAVANTA



'We're not anti-protest, we're anti-crime. Policing will deal with stuff where it's unlawful, where it's violent'

the best way to stop them from happening again. The next thing they think needs to happen is public concerns about immigration being addressed."

Almost two-thirds of people (64 per cent) said the police had dealt with the riots well despite recent criticisms of "two-tier policing". It has been claimed that Right-wing protesters were dealt with more harshly than Left-wing demonstrators, with Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of X labelling the Prime Minister "two-tier Keir".

BJ Harrington, the National Police Chiefs' Council's lead on public order. Mr Harrington, chief constable of Essex Police, dismissed these arguments.

He told *The Observer*: "We're not anti-protest, we're anti-crime. Policing will deal with stuff where it's unlawful, where it's violent."

Weekly Channel crossings at highest level since Starmer came to power, data show

By Patrick Sawyer and Dominic Penna

WEEKLY small boat crossings have reached their highest level since Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister, new figures show.

Some 1,427 people crossed the Channel in small boats in the past seven days, according to Home Office data.

Last Sunday (Aug 11) saw the highest number of crossings in a day since the Labour leader entered No 10, with 703 people making the journey.

The figures showed that 492 people made the crossing in nine boats on Saturday Aug 17 - the second highest daily number since Labour took power. Some 107 arrived on Wednesday and 125 on Monday.

The third highest daily number came on July 15, within a week of Labour taking power, with 427 people crossing in nine boats. The total crossing in the past seven days takes the provisional total for the year so far to 19,066.

Since Labour took office there have been a total 5,491 crossings in small boats. The highest number of arrivals recorded in a single day so far this year

was 882 on June 18, with the second highest of 711 on May 1 - both under the previous Conservative government.

The Government has indicated that it expects to see more crossings as traffickers take advantage of the summer's good weather over the Channel.

The Conservatives have condemned Labour's decision to ditch the previous government's plan to deport migrants

5,491

The number of crossings made by migrants since Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister on July 5

to Rwanda, which they claimed would deter Channel crossings.

James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary and a Tory leadership candidate, said: "When Labour ditched our deterrent they sent a dangerous signal to the people smugglers that they were not willing to take the tough action necessary to control our borders, and the



Arsenal fan Sir Keir Starmer enjoyed a kick about this weekend in North London

smugglers are reaping the benefits. And over a month later, they still have not appointed anyone to run their phantom Border Command.

"This new Government must urgently take action to get a grip on these ever rising crossing numbers."

Mel Stride, another Tory leadership hopeful, said: "An effective illegal migration policy has to involve a strong deterrent. We are seeing small boat crossings increase significantly after just a few weeks of a Labour government, showing that going soft on deterrence does not work."

Labour promised ahead of the election to "smash the gangs" bringing migrants across the Channel by creating a new Border Security Command.

Officers will be granted powers under the Counter Terrorism Act to conduct stop and searches at the border and issue search and seizure warrants targeting organised immigration crime.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The new Government is taking steps to boost our border security ... to smash the criminal smuggling gangs making millions in profit."

Police apologise for silent prayer arrest

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A CHRISTIAN charity volunteer has received a £13,000 payout and apology from police after she claimed her arrest for praying silently outside an abortion clinic was unjust and breached her human rights.

Campaigners including Lord Frost have hailed it as a major victory against censorship but warned that suggestions the Government may ban silent prayer outside abortion clinics would represent an attack on not only free speech but also free thought.

Isabel Vaughan-Spruce issued a claim against West Midlands Police for two wrongful arrests and false imprisonments, for assault and battery in relation to an intrusive search and for a breach of her human rights.

She was first arrested in November 2022 for silently praying in a "buffer zone" in streets imposed by local authorities around an abortion clinic in the Kings Norton area of Birmingham.

The Public Spaces Protection Order banned all expressions of "approval or

disapproval with respect to issues related to abortion services, by any means" within a vicinity of the clinic.

In February 2023, Ms Vaughan-Spruce was acquitted of all charges at Birmingham magistrates' court after the prosecution were unable to offer evidence to support the charge. ADF UK, a faith-based legal advocacy, supported her legal defence.

Weeks later, she was arrested for silently praying on a public street within the "buffer zone". One police officer said: "You've said you're engaging in prayer, which is the offence."

A six-month long police investigation ended in charges being dropped and an apology being issued from police regarding the lengthy process. The case was closed shortly after Suella Braverman, the then home secretary, confirmed in an open letter to police that silent prayer is "not unlawful".

Ms Vaughan-Spruce said: "Nobody should be arrested for the thoughts they have in their heads. I am concerned that this violation could be repeated. Our culture is shifting towards a clampdown on viewpoint diversity."



The role of men in allowing women to know that their voices are heard from a young age is key'

The Sussexes at the Afro-Descendant Women and Power: Voice of Equity event at the Teatro Municipal in Cali, Colombia

Lilibet has 'found her voice at age of three'

Duchess of Sussex tells women on quasi royal tour of Colombia that her daughter was 'empowered'

By Susie Coen
US CORRESPONDENT in Cali

PRINCESS LILIBET has "finally found her voice" at the age of three, the Duchess of Sussex has said.

Speaking on a panel at an "Afro Women and Power" event on the last day of the couple's Colombia tour, the Duchess said she has tried to help her daughter find her voice and is "so proud" she has.

She said: "So I think part of the role modelling that I certainly try to do as a mother is to encourage our daughter, who at three, has found her voice."

She added: "We're so proud of that, because that is how we, as I was saying, create the conditions in which there's a ripple effect of young girls and young

women knowing that if someone else is encouraging them to use their voice and be heard."

The 43-year-old also said men should help empower women like Prince Harry.

She told the audience in Cali that her role as a parent was to make sure young girls feel their voices are being heard and "also that young boys are being raised to listen".

"The same goes for adult women and men - this isn't something that can be solely responsible and in the hands of just women", she added.

"Yes, we work incredibly well together as a team, but as my husband is great testament, to the role of men in this, of empowering women, of allowing them to know that their voices are heard, starting at a young age all the way through adulthood, is key."

Earlier during her remarks, the Duchess said she finds "inspiration in so many of the strong women that are around me", adding: "Of course, my mother being one of them." The Duch-

ess also said she had managed to unwind on the couple's four-day trip to Colombia.

"My husband and I were talking about this this morning, I'm just really relaxed on this trip."

She added: "That's probably because it's Colombia, and you all know how to have fun."

The Duchess started delivering her remarks in Spanish and said she and Harry could "feel the embrace from Colombia".

"Sorry if my Spanish is not perfect because I learned 20 years ago in Argentina, but I'm trying because here I can feel this community and this feeling which is the best in the world," she said.

She also thanked Francia Márquez, Colombia's vice president, who she described as "my friend".

Ms Márquez's remarks were briefly interrupted by a heckler who spoke about the lack of inclusion of trans women.

Before the panel discussion began, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were

seen in the front row clapping and enthusiastically nodding their heads to musical performances.

Yesterday afternoon they were expected to join 500,000 people at the final day of the Petronio Alvarez music festival, the largest Afro-Colombian celebration in the country.

Yesterday Ms Márquez heralded the Duke and Duchess as being "a symbol of

'I find inspiration in so many of the strong women that are around me - my mother being one of them'

resistance" ahead of the final day of their quasi royal tour.

On Saturday the couple visited Escuela Taller Tambobres de Cabildo, in the coastal city of Cartagena, where they took part in a drumming lesson and heard about the community's efforts to preserve its heritage.

Delivering remarks at the event, Ms

Márquez thanked Prince Harry and his wife for visiting Colombia.

"We are grateful that both of them are here, because for me they are also a symbol of resistance, of rebellion", she said.

She added: "we do not remain silent in the face of injustice, that we do not keep silent and we raise our voices from wherever we are."

The country's first black, female vice-president revealed earlier on the trip she had been moved to invite the couple to Colombia after watching their six-part Netflix series.

The couple's decision to visit Colombia, on what has been dubbed a DIY royal tour, has raised eyebrows in light of Prince Harry's previous comments about security concerns in the UK.

The Foreign Office advises against travel to some parts of the country.

The couple started their four-day trip in Bogota, the country's capital, where Prince Harry delivered remarks on online harm which appeared to make a thinly veiled swipe at Elon Musk, the

owner of the social media platform X.

They also visited a school in the city's Santa Fe region, where Prince Harry practiced his Spanish by speaking to the pupils.

On Saturday the couple travelled to San Basilio de Palenque, a walled town about 30 miles south of Cartagena which was founded by runaway slaves.

They held hands as they were shown around what is believed to be South America's first "free town" and is seen as an important part of African heritage and resistance.

During their visit they were treated to musical performances and shown the statue of Benkos Biohó, the town's founder.

The trip has been tightly controlled with limited press access and an intense security operation.

Cali, along with Cartagena, are the two cities with the largest proportion of Colombians with African descent, according to the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Late Queen was like a real actor, says Jubilee scriptwriter

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

ANYONE who had ever watched her address the nation was aware that Queen Elizabeth II knew how to work a camera.

But on one occasion her ability to deliver a line on screen that would capture and enthrall the audience took even the professionals by surprise. Her Majesty had agreed to play herself having afternoon tea with Paddington Bear in Buckingham Palace during her Platinum Jubilee celebrations. She would be required to address a blank space in front of her as Paddington was only later projected on to the screen.

But such was her ease and ability, she delivered her lines with an authenticity that might have fooled anyone into thinking she was a professional actor. "She did it brilliantly and with evident enjoyment," said the man who helped write the script, Frank Cottrell-Boyce. "Wasn't she good? I mean really,

really good," Dame Judi Dench told Craig Brown in his forthcoming biography of Queen Elizabeth II: *A Voyage Around the Queen*.

Dame Judi adds: "Her timing was perfect. Every look, every line was just right. It was completely on the money."

Of course, this wasn't the first time the Queen had played up to the cameras as a fictionalised version of herself.

A decade earlier, Her Majesty had taken everyone by surprise in agreeing to appear in a short film of her greeting James Bond at the Palace before the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics.

Visiting Buckingham Palace, Danny Boyle, the ceremony's director, had been expecting to talk to her dresser for advice on what a lookalike Queen might wear. To his surprise, the Queen agreed to play the part, and also chose the short film's killer line.

"She was very amused by the idea and agreed immediately," said Angela Kelly, the late Queen's dresser. "I asked



The late Queen appears alongside Paddington Bear in a performance Dame Judi Dench says was 'perfect' and 'right on the money'

if she would like a speaking part. Without hesitation, Her Majesty replied, 'Of course I must say something. After all, he is coming to rescue me.'

Ms Kelly adds: "I think he [Boyle] almost fell off his chair when I said the Queen's only stipulation was she deliver the iconic line, 'Good evening, Mr Bond!'"

Jump forward a decade when, in the final year of her long life, she played herself once again, this time with that bear from darkest Peru. For Mr Cottrell-Boyce the sequence had particular resonance. "Paddington is an evacuee, a refugee, a one-time prisoner. Here he is

'He nearly fell off his chair when I said the Queen's only stipulation was to say, "Good evening, Mr Bond"'

being welcomed with tea and good manners," he says.

"The most emotional moment in that encounter with Paddington is when the bear says 'Thank you, Ma'am. For everything.'"

Paying tribute to her unique role Mr Cottrell-Boyce adds: "I'm thankful for the way she used the peculiar power of her archaic role to allow us to glimpse, however fleetingly, we share something good and we need to defend that."

A Voyage Around the Queen, by Craig Brown, is published by Fourth Estate on Aug 29 and serialised in the Daily Mail

King to lay off Duke of York's home security team in Royal Lodge eviction row

By Victoria Ward
DEPUTY ROYAL EDITOR

THE King has heaped further pressure on the Duke of York by axing his ten-strong private security team, it has emerged.

It means that Prince Andrew will be forced to find millions of pounds to fund future security operations at Royal Lodge, his Windsor home, if he wants to avoid eviction. The security guards

have been told their services will no longer be required from the autumn, according to reports.

A source told *The Sun on Sunday*: "Everyone is speculating this means the Duke will have to leave the Royal Lodge because what other reason could there be to take his security away?"

"They are all working the final weeks of their contract till the end of October. It's not thought anyone is being lined up to replace them. It isn't a secret that

the King wants him out." *The Telegraph* revealed in January that the King was prepared to withdraw the private funding he ploughs into the security operation in what has become an increasingly bitter standoff over the future of Royal Lodge.

However, at the time, the Duke did not believe his brother would be so unkind, it is understood.

His determination to remain at the home, which he shares with his ex-wife,

has proved an increasing bone of contention. Having been stripped of his patronages and duties as a working member of the Royal family, it is considered too vast a property for someone befitting his new status.

Attempts to relocate him to the much smaller Frogmore Cottage, the Windsor property that until recently the Duke and Duchess of Sussex called home, have so far proved unsuccessful.

The Duke is said to be determined to

bequeath the lease on Royal Lodge to his daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

But by insisting he pay for his own security, Buckingham Palace courtiers know they may force his hand.

In May, one palace source warned: "As things stand, life at Royal Lodge is set to become increasingly cold and uncomfortable for the Duke."

Weeks later, a source said the move could either be accomplished "with

grace and dignity or it can be forced upon him".

The latest salvo will all but force the Duke out of the vast, 30-room property unless he can conjure up a small fortune. He has no discernible income and the house is in need of extensive repairs.

The Duke's lease gives him the right to live in the Grade II-listed property until 2078. But the contract includes a clause that he must maintain it to an appropriate standard.

Labour misogyny law 'may risk free speech'

Government should enforce existing legislation to tackle violence against women, critics say

By Dominic Penna
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TREATING misogyny as a form of extremism could threaten freedom of speech, the Government has been warned.

Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, has ordered a review that will look at tackling violence against women and girls in the same way as far-Right and Islamist extremism. Ms Cooper said

growing numbers of young people were being radicalised online by misogynistic influencers and the problem had remained unaddressed for "too long".

However, critics have argued the Government should enforce existing legislation to tackle violence against women and girls and warn that the new policy could amount to censorship.

A senior female Conservative MP said: "There should be no place for misogyny but Labour's latest policy announcement feels very rushed and is deeply concerning on so many levels, not least, what does it mean for free speech?"

"We have to tackle misogyny. It's endemic in some workplaces and I think lots of women have faced it. But

what is misogyny to one person is not necessarily to another."

Ann Widdecombe, Reform's home affairs spokesman, said Ms Cooper's plan was not necessary. She said: "If you commit violence against women and girls, that's already a crime. If you preach misogyny, that's already a crime. What exactly isn't a crime? They should enforce the existing laws and stop looking to create crimes, which is what they're doing."

But Jess Phillips, the safeguarding minister, told LBC the move was necessary to "prevent" misogyny, rather than "criminalising people who are showing signs". Challenged on whether the plans could jeopardise free speech, Ms Phillips said: "You just use exactly the same

test you would with far-Right extremism and Islamism, wouldn't you? People can hold views about women all they like, but it's not OK any more to ignore the massive growing threat caused by

'It's not OK any more to ignore the growing threat caused by online hatred towards women'

online hatred towards women and for us to ignore it because we're worried about the line, rather than making sure the line is in the right place, as we would do with any other extremist ideology."

There is already an extremism cate-

gory for "incel" – short for "involuntary celibate" – which is ranked by the Home Office as an area of concern.

It refers to a male subculture that includes feelings of violence towards women as a result of feeling rejected.

Officials are concerned that this does not go far enough in capturing other forms of extreme misogyny.

Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has called for the epidemic of violence against women and girls to be treated as a national security threat.

A report published by the National Police Chiefs Council in July found that more than a million violent crimes against women and children were recorded in the year to March 2023.

This is the equivalent to almost 3,000 crimes a day in England and Wales, while child sexual and exploitation offences have increased more than five-fold in the past decade.

Violent crimes against women and girls have risen by 37 per cent in four years.

Police chiefs have also accused online influencers including Andrew Tate of radicalising boys into extreme misogyny.

The controversial British-American, a self-proclaimed misogynist, is awaiting trial in Romania over rape and human trafficking allegations, which he denies.

Editorial Comment: Page 15

Lord Clarke backs Tom Tugendhat to be Tory leader

By Dominic Penna

LORD CLARKE is backing Tom Tugendhat to become the next Conservative Party leader.

The Tory peer, who as Kenneth Clarke served as justice secretary and chancellor, said he was minded to vote for Mr Tugendhat because of his charisma and views on defence.

The shadow security minister, who has called for military spending to rise to three per cent of GDP, is one of six candidates hoping to replace Rishi Sunak as party leader in November.

Asked about how engaged he was with the contest, Lord Clarke told Times Radio: "I follow it closely. I will have a vote as a paid-up member of the Conservative Party when we get down to the final two. I haven't completely made my mind up yet but it will probably be for Tom Tugendhat if he gets to the final two, which I very much hope he does."

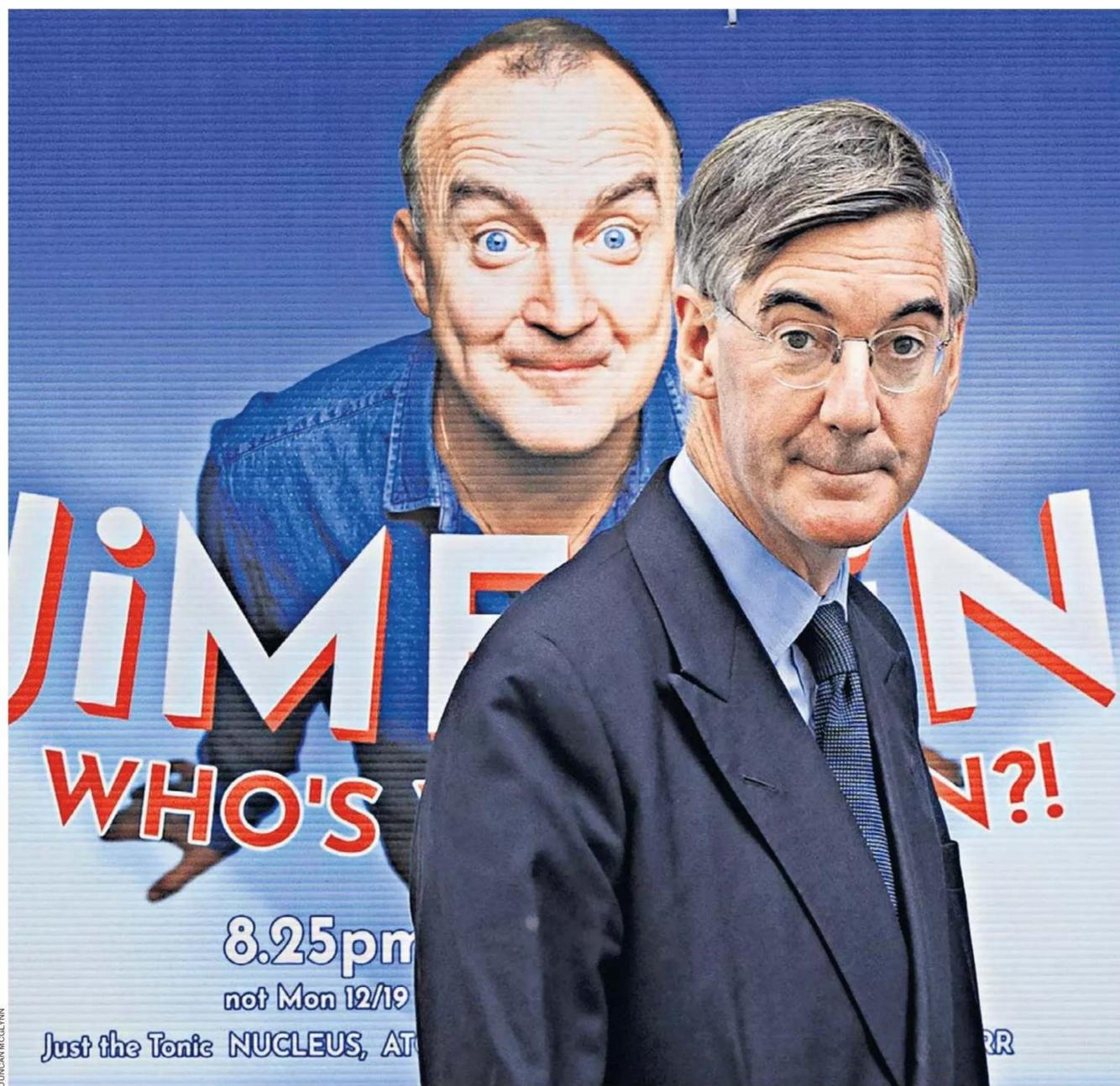
'Of all our political leaders at the moment, he's one of the nearest to having an element of charisma'

"I think of all our political leaders at the moment, he's one of the nearest to having an element of charisma. He's very good and strong at presenting his views. He does have sensible, intelligent views based on genuine knowledge of what he's talking about."

The shortlist will be reduced from six to four in time for them to address party activists at the annual Tory conference in October, before members are given a say on the final two.

The current bookmakers' favourites are Kemi Badenoch, the shadow housing secretary, and Robert Jenrick, who quit as immigration minister last year over Mr Sunak's Rwanda plan.

Lord Clarke also warned of the dangers of "a crazy American-type election" that descended into personal attacks. Of Mr Tugendhat he added: "I happen to think that his broad approach to a society that is based on free markets for the social conscience, and he's got very good, clear expertise on defence and security, which we've neglected."



Mogg's next stand

Jacob Rees-Mogg leaves McEwan Hall in Edinburgh after taking part in the The Political Party with Matt Forde Fringe show yesterday. The former MP for North East Somerset, who has been making a reality TV show about his family, was seen with his daughter and a film crew. But he told the audience: "I love politics and I love being in Parliament. So I am thinking very strongly about standing again."

'Bankruptcy' of UK's biggest council caused by its botched IT installation, report finds

By Henry Bodkin

THE effective bankruptcy of Britain's biggest local council was likely to have been caused mainly by the botched adoption of a new IT system, experts have claimed.

It had been thought that the Labour-run council's decision to declare a bankruptcy notice last September was forced by the prospect of having to pay approximately £760 million in compensation to female workers who had historically been paid less than male counterparts.

However, a new report by the Audit Reform Lab at Sheffield University, found that the "most likely explanation of Birmingham's problems" was the council's alleged mishandling of installation of a new IT platform.

It argued that if this had been prop-

erly identified, the draconian package of cuts, asset sales and tax rises overseen by central government could have been less severe.

The council's adoption of Oracle Cloud Fusion was supposed to integrate finance, payroll, HR, procurement, supply-chain management and other services under a single platform.

Expected to generate significant savings, it went live in April 2022.

However, it was allegedly launched before the council conducted a dummy run or parallel testing, according to the Audit Reform Lab report, which was commissioned by three trade unions and based on publicly available information.

Consequently, "this made it impossible to effectively monitor budgets or collect overdue debt" over two financial

years, the experts found. It meant "tens of thousands" of cash transactions were unable to be traced, the report said.

It is understood that Oracle's software is not to blame, but rather the council's handling and implementation.

Birmingham has enacted around £300 million in budget cuts.

The Sheffield researchers say that the £760 million in equal pay liability cited by Michael Gove last year was in fact a "misdiagnosis" of the problem and has criticised Grant Thornton, the council's independent auditors.

"Grant Thornton claim they never audited or confirmed that figure, despite taking over £1 million in audit fees from the council," they said.

Grant Thornton strongly denied any deficiencies and said that the Audit Reform Lab report did not accurately

reflect its work for Birmingham City Council.

Councillor John Cotton, leader of Birmingham City Council, previously said: "I have been clear from the start that we must take responsibility for the failings that have contributed to our current difficulties, but the mistakes made in Birmingham have not occurred in a vacuum."

A spokesman for Grant Thornton said: "We do not believe this report, which was commissioned by the three trade unions representing many of the council's employees in the equal pay litigation, presents an accurate reflection of our work for the council or that there are any concerns about our independence."

He added: "Any words in this report relating to numbers having been 'confirmed', 'completed', 'assessed' or similar before our audit work is complete are factually inaccurate; an audit remains ongoing until all the work is complete and the audit report has been signed, as any informed reader will understand."

'Sue Gray to blame for cronyism row,' Tories claim

By Dominic Penna

THE Tories have told the Civil Service watchdog that Sue Gray, Sir Keir Starmer's chief of staff, is to blame for the growing Labour cronyism row by allegedly blocking appointments.

The party wrote to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) last night to demand an investigation into the appointments of at least four mandarins who have worked for Labour.

John Glen, the shadow paymaster general, wrote that Ms Gray "has personally blocked a number of special adviser appointments". Labour has faced criticism over the appointment of Ian Corfield, who advised the party on business and donated to Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, as a Treasury director. Oliver Newton, who has joined the

Treasury, was previously an adviser to Ms Reeves. Haydon Etherington, a senior adviser in the Ministry of Housing, was a Labour adviser whose parliamentary pass was sponsored by Angela Rayner, the Housing Secretary.

Another appointment under scrutiny is that of Emily Middleton, a director general at the Department for Science and Technology whose firm donated £67,000 to the party.

The Government has previously said the roles were filled in line with Civil Service recruitment rules. A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "These claims are untrue. There are clear rules governing recruitment and appointment of Civil Service roles which are regulated by the Civil Service Commission. We do not comment on individual staffing matters." Labour declined to comment.

'Blair Babes' didn't want prime minister in photo, Harman reveals

By Dominic Penna

THE "Blair Babes" did not want Sir Tony Blair to appear in their photograph, Harriet Harman has revealed.

The former prime minister famously posed with the record-breaking intake of Labour women elected in 1997, on the day after the party's landslide election victory. A total of 101 female Labour MPs were elected to the Commons on May 1 that year, and Sir Tony joined all but five of them for a picture on the steps of Church House in Westminster.

But speaking to BBC Radio 4's *The Reunion* programme, Ms Harman, who had just been appointed as the first ever Minister for Women, said their leader was an uninvited guest.

She said: "I organised a photograph of the hundred women and obviously notified No 10 that we were going to do that. And we were horrified that Tony decided he was going to join us. We

wanted it to be 101 strong women there representing women in the country and in Parliament. We didn't want a man – any man in the situation.

"To be fair, Tony was the prime minister, he'd got a stonking majority, he'd supported all-women shortlists. So the women were very supportive of him. But I think what was not understood to that we needed to show we were there on our own terms."

Ms Harman added that Sir Tony's presence was reminiscent of Yul Brynner's titular character in *The King and I*, who is constantly surrounded by his many wives.

"It looked like ... a flock of sheep and he the only ram. We all looked like supporting act."

Ms Harman will enter the House of Lords later this year after she was nominated by Labour for a peerage in the dissolution honours list. First elected to the Commons in 1982, she stood down



Sir Tony Blair had the picture taken with the record-breaking intake of 101 Labour women elected in 1997

'We wanted it to be 101 strong women there ... We didn't want a man – any man in the situation'

at last month's election having held a number of cabinet roles and served twice as acting Labour leader.

Sir Keir Starmer averted the criticism in a photograph of the 2024 intake of Labour women, which consists of 190 MPs. The picture, unveiled by Labour on July 17, was fronted by Cabinet ministers including Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor.

Thirteen Labour MPs then made it into the September issue of *Vogue*, which hailed them as "women MPs determined to change Britain for the better".

These included Louise Haigh, the Transport Secretary and at the age of 37 the youngest member of the Cabinet. Zarah Sultana, who is among the MPs that have been suspended by Sir Keir for six months for rebelling over the two-child benefit cap, also made the list.

Smoke from US wildfires may 'enhance' UK sunsets

Harmless smoke particles blown in from across the Atlantic will 'redden' the skies at dawn and dusk

By Mark Ludlow

BRITAIN is expected to experience rare "red" sunrises and sunsets over the next few days because of smoke from wildfires in North America.

While warm summer weather and mostly blue skies are expected to continue in the UK this week, the conditions are not as clear as they normally are at this time of year.

Wildfires – which have burned more than 2.2 million acres of land in the northern United States and Canada – have contributed to hazy and smoky skies across Europe, including the UK.

Smoke particles in the atmosphere absorb shorter wavelengths, which normally reflect colours such as blue, leaving longer wavelengths on the light spectrum, for colours such as red, to reach our eyes.

The end result will be more visibly red sunrises and sunsets over the start of the week, according to meteorolo-

gists. "Luckily, because the smoke particles are so high up in our atmosphere, they won't have an impact on our health, but they could enhance our sunsets and sunrises this weekend," Kirsty McCabe, a Sky News meteorologist, said.

"Unfortunately, these events are becoming more common, as climate change is linked to heatwaves and droughts, leading to earlier, longer, and more intense wildfire seasons."

The US National Interagency Fire Centre said yesterday that there were 65 large active wildfires burning across the country which were being fought by 522 crew members using 1,065 fire engines and 124 helicopters.

Firefighting crews from Australia and New Zealand have been brought in to help fight the fires, which cover 2,220,714 acres.

The Met Office has forecast up to 150mm of rain in a day to hit parts of Scotland from Wednesday as downgraded Hurricane Ernesto moves across the Atlantic.

Hurricane Ernesto has battered parts of Puerto Rico and Bermuda – with winds of 85mph leaving thousands of people without power. But it has now been downgraded to a tropical storm

Sunrise in the New Forest near Lyndhurst in Hampshire

which will still bring lots of rain and winds of up to 60mph to Scotland, the Met Office said.

Forecasters said there could be delays on public transport owing to floods as well as potential power cuts for homes and businesses.

There is also a small chance that the spring tide will generate large waves

that could result in injuries and a danger to life in coastal areas on Wednesday and Thursday.

Craig Snell, a Met Office forecaster, said even though Hurricane Ernesto was being downgraded its effects will still be felt in the northern parts of the United Kingdom.

"Because the tropical systems just

'As the smoke particles are so high up they won't affect health'

have so much warmth and a lot of moisture in them, remnants of the warmth and remnants of the moisture will be still there in that weather system on Wednesday and Thursday, so it will enhance the rainfall," he said.

Weather: Page 24

Almost half of strip-searched children have no adults with them

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

CHILDREN who are being strip-searched do not have an adult present in almost half of all cases, research by the children's commissioner has found.

The study commissioned by Rachel de Souza found that one child had been strip-searched every 14 hours in England and Wales, according to the data she obtained covering the period 2018 to June 2023. In the year to June 2023,

Ms de Souza found that police could not confirm an appropriate adult such as parent, guardian or social worker had been present when the child was strip-searched in almost half (45 per cent) of the cases.

Ms de Souza said this was a 7 per cent improvement on the previous year but was still too high and took place despite previous calls for this safeguard to be met. The presence of an adult is part of guidance issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984. It is the

third report by the children's commissioner since the Child Q scandal, where a 15-year-old girl was wrongly accused of having drugs and strip-searched on her period, with no appropriate adult present, in Hackney, in December 2020.

Ms de Souza said that despite "green shoots" of improvements, too many strip-searches of children were "unnecessary, unsafe and under-reported".

"A much higher threshold should be met before a child is subjected to a

humiliating and traumatising intimate search," she said. "This summer we have seen the vital importance of responsive, trusted policing in our communities.

"We need a culture of trust to be built between children and the police, so it's vital that improvements continue at pace, with fewer searches carried out, better data recording when they do and for the good and improving practice seen in some forces to be modelled everywhere." Between July 2022 and

June 2023, the majority of searches – 88 per cent – were conducted on suspicion of drugs, with just 6 per cent on suspicion of carrying weapons or blades.

Ms de Souza said strip-searches should only be carried out on children where there is a clear and immediate risk of harm to themselves or to others.

Andrew Mariner, the lead on stop and search for the National Police Chiefs' Council, said: "We will conduct a full review of our authorised professional practice in respect of stop and search.

This review will seek to examine all aspects of stop and search, including strip-searches, and make any necessary changes to policy and practices.

"Two years on from the shocking case of Child Q, we are seeing progress. I welcome this shift.

"I am cautiously optimistic about the potential to overcome challenges, but there is still urgent work to be done: too many strip-searches carried out are unnecessary, unsafe and under-reported."

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Government 'keeping exam results high for feel-good factor'

Department for Education accused of maintaining grade inflation as drop in top marks fails to appear

By Poppy Wood EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Department for Education (DfE) has been accused of keeping grade inflation embedded in the exams system for the "feel-good factor" of top results.

Prof Alan Smithers, the director of education at the University of Buckingham, who forecasts exams each year, said this week's GCSE results should see a drop of up to 71,000 top grades.

He said this would be the case if officials made good on their promise to restore GCSE results to their 2019 levels, when 20.8 per cent of entries were awarded a grade 7 or above – the equivalent to an A in the former system.

However, Prof Smithers said the promised drop in top grades might not happen in reality since "the DfE is currently giving the impression of wanting 'feel-good' results".

It comes after a predicted decline in top A-level grades failed to materialise last week, with school leavers defying expectations as they achieved the best set of results in any non-pandemic year.

The share of A*s and As rose to 27.8 per cent, despite expectations that they would decline by 16,000.

It marked a record, excluding the three years of disruption during the pandemic, when exams were temporarily ditched for more generous teacher assessments.

In a report ahead of GCSE results day on Thursday, Prof Smithers said: "We do not know why this happened. It could have been a change in the political mood. It could have been to smooth the passage into higher education at a time when there is a surfeit of places."

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, he suggested there was political impetus not to see the share of top results slump this year after a two-year effort to stamp out pandemic-era grade inflation.

He said: "The trouble with exams is that if they are doing their job, there are candidates who fail or do not get the grades they desperately want."

"They become emotional and vociferous. The politicians complain to their officials and say why are you upsetting the electorate in this way, we've got enough on our plate as it is."

"Rising grades are popular, securing standards isn't, so without someone who really cares about standards at the

helm they are not going to be enforced." His comments come before pupils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland receive their GCSE results on Thursday, as well as results for many vocational and technical qualifications.

While traditional A* to G grades are used in Northern Ireland and Wales, these have been replaced in England with a 9-1 system, where 9 is the highest.

Wales and Northern Ireland made 2024 their target for returning GCSE grades to pre-pandemic normality.

England aimed to return to normal last year but still fell short, despite a tumble in top grades.

Ofqual, the exams regulator in England, insisted last week that it finished the job of weeding out grade inflation last year and that bumper A-level results were the sign of a smart year group.

Sir Ian Bauckham, the head of Ofqual, said: "There is no grade inflation this year. Standards have been maintained from 2023 and any change is largely due to the ability of the cohort."

It could mean that this year's GCSE results remain similar to last year's, when 22 per cent of entries were awarded grade 7 or above and 68.2 per cent were awarded pass grades – around 53,000 passes above the 2019 level.

Prof Smithers also called for an urgent review of the "demoralising" and "soul-destroying" compulsory GCSE resit model for pupils who do not achieve a standard pass in English or maths.

Pupils who score lower than a grade 4 in either of the mandatory subjects are required to retake them until they either pass or turn 18.

Last year, 18 per cent of students aged 17 or over who were made to resit their maths GCSE went on to pass, while just over a quarter did in English.

Labour is currently scrutinising the assessment system as part of its review of the national curriculum.

Sources told *The Telegraph* no changes would be made to the world-leading GCSE and A-levels exams, but that other assessments will be considered.

A DfE spokesman said: "We know there are still inequalities embedded in the education system which is why we are conducting a review of the curriculum to ensure young people get the opportunity to study a broader range of subjects while also gaining the crucial skills that will give them the foundations to succeed in the workplace and throughout their lives, particularly those with SEND or from disadvantaged backgrounds."

It could have been to smooth the passage into higher education when there is a surfeit of places'



Rare ride A convoy of buses take passengers on the annual trip to the 'ghost village' of Imber which was abandoned in 1943 when the military requisitioned the land for its firing range on Salisbury Plain.

Raise tuition fees to stop some universities from going bust, says new education chief

By Poppy Wood

UNIVERSITY tuition fees should be raised to prevent institutions from going bust, a new education chief has said.

Sir David Behan, who was appointed as interim chairman of the Office for Students (OfS) last month, said the "golden age of higher education" could be over as universities face crippling financial pressures.

He suggested that all options should be considered to prevent one or more institutions from buckling, including increasing tuition fees and lifting visa restrictions on international students.

"I think the resilience of the sector overall has been tested by a number of different forces... the global pandemic, the impact of leaving the European Union," Sir David told *The Sunday Times*. "We've had industrial action, the cost of living crisis, the increasing cost of pensions and decreasing number of

international students, and then, finally, domestic undergraduate fees remaining frozen since 2012... and what it's meant is that the fiscal deficit for some organisations is significant."

Asked if the Government should raise tuition fees or reverse a ban on student dependants, Sir David said that all options "should be on the table as... we approach the Budget in October".

His warning came after two ministers refused to rule out raising tuition fees. Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, and Jacqui Smith, the universities minister, failed to answer the question directly but said the Government would consider reform of the current university funding model.

Speaking on A-level results day on Thursday, Ms Phillipson said raising university tuition fees would be a "really unpalatable thing to be considering", but refused to rule it out.

Cross-government talks are under way amid fears that one or more univer-

sities could go bust in the coming months after a drop in overseas students, which have largely been subsidising higher education for British students, whose tuition fees are frozen at £9,250.

Analysis by the Russell Group of leading research universities suggests institutions are now losing an average of £2,500 on every domestic student.

Vivienne Stern, the chief executive of Universities UK, told *The Telegraph* earlier this week that Labour must now immediately raise tuition fees and set out long-term plans to heal university finances.

At least 40 per cent of universities in England are expected to run budget deficits this year, according to the OfS.

"We need to halt the deterioration of a whole set of things that are important to national life. Universities are one of those, and I think we have to step in and stop that happening," Ms Stern told *The Telegraph*.

Parents may not get first-choice nursery place for their child, warns Phillipson

By Poppy Wood

PARENTS still may not get their first choice of nursery by September 2025, the Education Secretary has said.

Bridget Phillipson vowed not to "sugarcoat" the state of the childcare sector as she set out to manage expectations over the Government's plans.

Experts have warned of a chronic shortage of childcare places across the country. Just 35 per cent of local authorities in England have enough spaces for children under two, down from 50 per cent last year, according to a recent survey by nursery provider Coram Family and Childcare.

The Education Secretary reiterated that Labour would commit to the previous government's expanded childcare roll-out, the first stage of which came into effect in April. It means working parents of two-year-olds are now eligible for 15 hours of government-funded childcare each week during term time.

This will be extended to working parents of all children older than nine months from September, before the full roll-out of 30 hours a week to all eligible families a year later. However, she said it would require ministers to "triple capacity" in some parts of the country as the sector grapples with "a big short-

'Parents should be in no doubt who is to blame – the irresponsible Conservative government'

age of staff and places". "The roll-out won't be the sunlit uplands promised by the Tories. While some parents may receive the hours promised, they might not get their first choice of nursery," she wrote in *The Sun* yesterday.

"It's not what parents want to hear. But this Government will always be honest... Parents should be in no doubt

who is to blame if they don't get their first choice – the irresponsible Conservative government which didn't plan for this expansion."

Labour's election manifesto set out plans to create an additional 3,000 nurseries to aid the expanded childcare roll-out by "upgrading space" in existing primary schools. It will form part of a wider package of reforms aimed at the childcare sector, with ministers accusing their predecessors of pouring money into the system without a proper plan to cope with demand.

The previous government estimated that the extension would require 85,000 more childcare places and 40,000 more staff by September 2025.

Ms Phillipson said: "My promise to parents is that I will do everything I possibly can to bridge these gaps as we reform the childcare system, so that all families – wherever they live – have equal access to brilliant early education."

Sarah Everard inquiry lawyer in running to be Oxford chancellor

By Poppy Wood

LADY ANGIOLINI has confirmed she will run to become Oxford University's next chancellor.

The prominent Scottish lawyer, who led the inquiry into the rape, abduction and murder of Sarah Everard, told *The Telegraph* she has submitted an application to take over from Lord Patten of Barnes, who will retire this year after two decades in post.

It makes her the only prominent female candidate in the race to become Oxford's chancellor as the deadline for applications closed last night.

Her success would result in the first woman in the role's 800-year history. She will go head to head with Lord Hague, the former Conservative leader who confirmed to *The Telegraph* on Friday that he has also submitted a bid.

Lord Mandelson, the Labour peer who was a minister during Sir Tony Blair's premiership, is understood to join him on the list of potential candidates. Representatives for Imran Khan,

the former Pakistani prime minister and cricket star, told *The Telegraph* he has also submitted a bid to become Oxford chancellor.

The four are understood to be the main contenders in the leadership race, alongside a handful of other fringe candidates. More than 250,000 Oxford alumni are set to vote in an online ballot later this year. The successful candidate will serve a 10-year term as the university's figurehead, supporting Prof Irene Tracey, the current vice-chancellor.

Lady Angiolini, the principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford, led the inquiry into the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard by serving police officer Wayne Couzens.

The Angiolini Inquiry, which reported its findings in February, concluded that Couzens should never have been a police officer and opportunities to stop him were missed.

She has also led a series of other high-profile inquiries, including a report into deaths in custody in the UK and a report into how the Crown Prosecution Service and Metropolitan Police Service investigate London rape cases.

A lawyer, politicians and a cricketer Oxford's runners and riders



Lady Elish Angiolini
Lawyer, 64
Education: Law at the University of Strathclyde
Achievements: Sarah Everard inquiry, Pro-vice-chancellor of Oxford. Appointed by the late Queen to the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.



Lord William Hague
Politician, 63
Education: PPE at Magdalen College, Oxford
Achievements: Leader of the Conservative Party for four years until 2001. Foreign secretary in coalition years. Awarded life peerage by David Cameron in 2015.



Lord Peter Mandelson
Politician, 70
Education: PPE at St Catherine's College, Oxford
Achievements: One of the key architects of New Labour project. Held a number of Cabinet roles under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Made a life peer in 2008.



Imran Khan
Politician and cricketer, 71
Education: PPE at Keble College, Oxford
Achievements: Captain of the Pakistani cricket team. Founded own political party in 1996 and became PM in 2018. Sentenced to 10 years in jail for corruption.

institution's governing body. It is unclear what would happen if Mr Khan were to win, since the ex-Pakistani prime minister is currently serving a 10-year jail sentence. The former cricket star has been in prison since last August over allegations he stoked protests against the all-powerful Pakistani military. Mr Khan has faced dozens of charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets, which he has condemned as politically motivated.

It is thought Mr Khan's campaign could help raise awareness of his current situation among a British audience.

The election will be held online for the first time and will take place in the Michaelmas term at the start of the next academic year. During the last election in 2003, voting was held in person at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre, and more than 8,000 academics and former students took part.

Previous Oxford chancellors include Harold Macmillan, the former Conservative prime minister, and Oliver Cromwell, the 17th-century statesman.

Physician associate role is a mystery to most patients

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

MOST people don't know what a physician associate does or have never heard of them, a poll has found.

Leading GPs said it was important people have more information on physician associates (PAs) and stressed that it should be made clear to patients being treated by them that they are not doctors. The British Medical Association also warned that "efforts to cut waiting lists must not come at the cost of patient safety".

The poll of 1,127 people over 16, conducted by Ipsos, found 57 per cent had either never heard of PAs or had heard of the role but knew nothing about it.

Three per cent said they knew a great deal about PAs while 15 per cent said they knew a fair amount. About one in five knew a little. After being given a brief description of the role, 40 per cent of those surveyed said the NHS should use funding to recruit and train more PAs to support GPs, so the wait for an appointment is shorter, even if a patient is less likely to see a family doctor.

Medical associate professions roles, which include PAs and anaesthesia associates (AAs), were introduced in the early 2000s to bolster access to care.

The NHS plans to employ 10,000 PAs by 2036/37. From December 2024, PAs and AAs will be regulated by the General Medical Council.

An NHS spokesman said: "The NHS has always been clear about the role PAs play in supporting clinical teams to provide high-quality care for patients. They are not replacements for doctors but support with specific tasks they are trained to do, under supervision."



Sealed with a kiss
Channing Tatum, star of the new thriller *Blink Twice*, attends a photo-call for the film with actress Zoë Kravitz, his fiancée, in London.

Allow anxiety dogs in classes, parents plead

Couple launch legal battle after Scottish council rejects request for girl's pet to be allowed in classroom

By Simon Johnson

THE parents of a schoolgirl with anxiety are battling for her therapy dog to be allowed in the classroom.

The couple, from Moray in the north

of Scotland, have launched a legal battle against their daughter's school arguing that the golden retriever should be allowed to accompany their daughter to lessons.

It is understood that they have paid thousands of pounds for specialist training for the dog to support their daughter in the classroom.

But the *Scottish Mail on Sunday* reported that education bosses at Moray council and the school have rejected their request, prompting the legal bat-

tle. The matter was taken to an education tribunal earlier this year, it was reported, with both sides now awaiting the outcome.

Sources believed it could be a test case for similar requests made by parents across Scotland.

It is understood the council has challenged the case on the grounds that "reasonable adjustments" could be made to deal with the girl's issues, short of having her dog in the classroom.

In a statement, the local authority

said: "Any requests for assistance animals are considered on a case-by-case basis to take into consideration the full circumstances of the request."

"Each school has a different ability to support such requests and the pupil's own circumstances are considered as part of the individual risk assessment."

"Further guidance created to support all assistance dog requests remains in draft while we await national guidance."

The tribunal is understood to have

heard evidence from key witnesses, including teachers, council bosses and animal experts.

Assistance or therapy dogs have been shown to reduce stress levels, with supporters arguing this could help pupils focus better on their class work.

However, there are concerns about the impact on pupils with canine allergies or a fear of dogs.

Councils are also thought to have concerns that they could be sued if a dog bit a child. Education Scotland said

it had received several requests from schools and councils about "the benefit of dog visits to schools and what they should be considering in practical terms if they want to introduce them".

A spokesman added: "It is the responsibility of local authorities to meet individual pupil needs."

The *Scottish Mail on Sunday* contacted the family in the Moray case but reported that they were not willing to discuss it further.

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BBC 'speaks to' Kenny over luxury clothes sponsorship

Corporation bosses remind cyclist of rules after she allegedly wore fashion brands during Olympics

By Craig Simpson

DAME LAURA KENNY has been spoken to by the BBC after appearing to promote luxury brands she wore on air during the Olympics.

The former track and road cyclist fronted the corporation's coverage of the games from Paris, and posted photographs on social media from her time in the studio. Dame Laura mentioned fashion brands in these posts, and also appeared on air wearing a £2,000 watch by Breitling, a brand which has named her as an "ambassador".

Now BBC bosses have spoken to Dame Laura to remind her of the rules around promoting products on air, and it is understood that the former cyclist, Britain's second most successful female athlete, has removed mention of brands from her social media posts.

Several posts featuring photographs of Dame Laura in a dress tagged the fashion brand Reiss, although insiders have said that the former athlete has no commercial ties to the company. BBC rules state that: "No on-air talent should promote products, goods, services or clothing they use on air."

"On-air talent, in any genre, engaged by the BBC must not accept clothing or products free, or at considerably reduced cost, in exchange for wearing or using them on air."

"Nor should they appear on air wearing clothes or using products, goods or services which they have agreed, or been contracted, to promote or in which they have any financial interest." It is

unclear if Dame Laura purchased the items or was given them as gifts.

The BBC has indicated that it regularly reminds presenters - who provide their own wardrobe - to adhere to regulations. In June, Gary Lineker stopped wearing clothing from his own Next range to present the Euros after at first appearing to flout the guidelines.

The *Match of the Day* host, who signed a deal with the clothing brand in 2023, led coverage of England vs Serbia in a pale green knitted T-shirt which appeared to be from his Next collection.

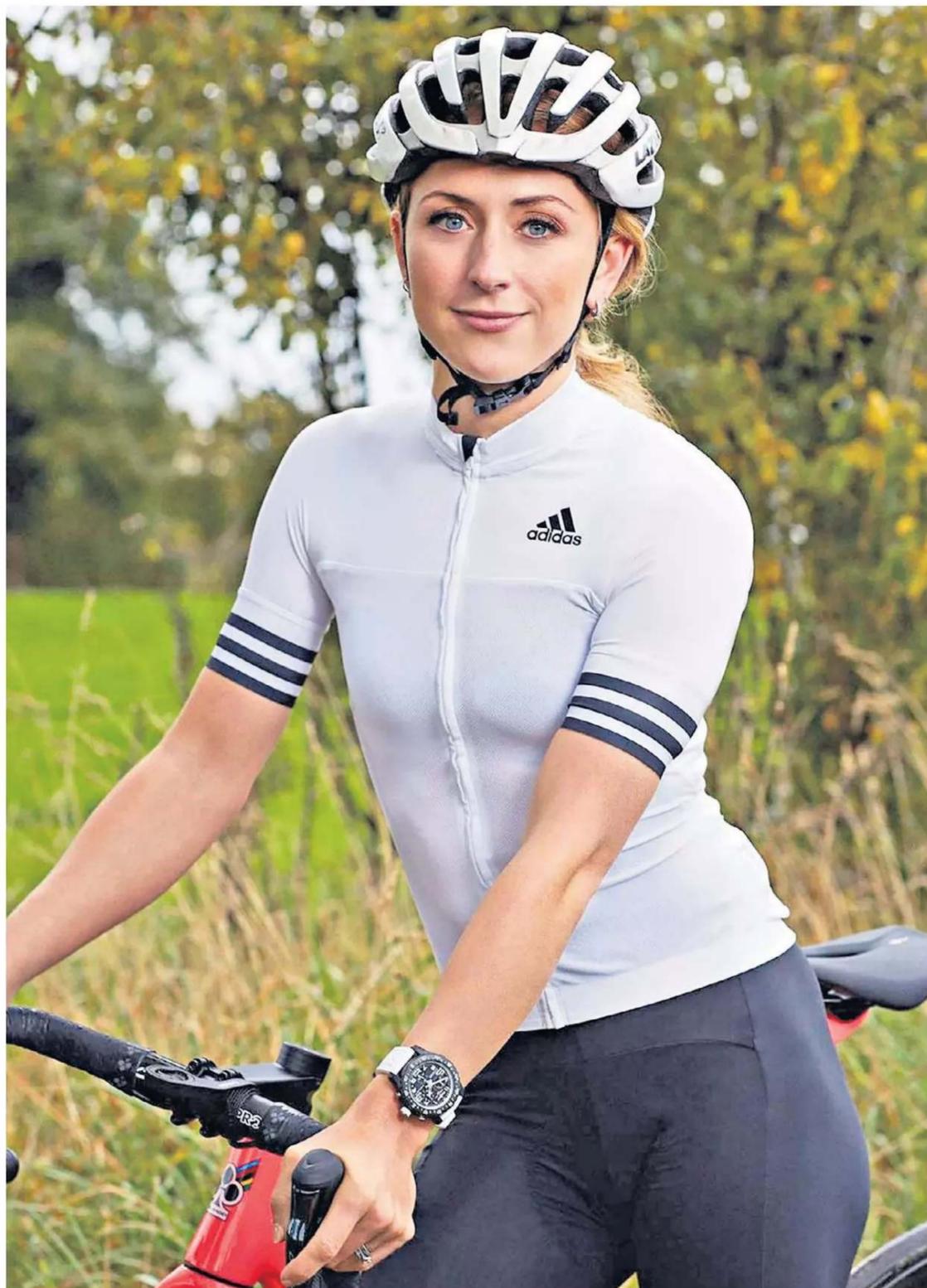
In 2018, the BBC said Lineker had made a "genuine mistake" when he breached guidelines by promoting a TM Lewin shirt on Instagram after signing a deal with the brand.

Alex Scott, the footballer turned pundit, was reminded of the rules during the 2022 World Cup after she posted a selfie on Instagram, taken in the BBC studio, wearing a suit from Reiss, for whom she was an ambassador.

The BBC had further issues with brand exposure and sports coverage in 2022, when Chemmy Alcott and Graham Bell, the *Ski Sunday* presenters, posted online about their brand of choice, Snow Finel, and wore the products while on air.

A BBC spokesman at the time said that they too were "reminded of the BBC's guidelines in relation to commercial conflicts of interest". Concerns about presenters plugging brands go back a number of years, and in 2013 the BBC was forced to defend Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury, the presenters of *Countryfile*, after they both wore branded Rab coats on the show.

The BBC said that outdoor clothing was needed for the presenters, and sometimes the brand logo of the clothing provided would inevitably be visible.



'No on-air talent should promote products, goods, services or clothing they use on air'

Dame Laura Kenny, left and inset, fronted the BBC's coverage of the Olympic cycling events

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Migrant Tube pusher appealed against deportation for assault

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A MIGRANT who was convicted for pushing a postman in front of a Tube train is appealing against an attempt to deport him for a string of crimes.

Brwa Shorsh, 24, shoved Tadeusz Potoczek, 61, into the path of an oncoming Tube train at Oxford Circus station, in central London, on Feb 3.

He denied trying to kill him, but admitted he did it for "revenge" because the postman gave him a "dirty look".

It has now emerged that Shorsh had a number of convictions for assault and indecent acts, but stalled a bid by the Home Office to deport him by lodging an appeal with the immigration tribunal service. Shorsh had been sleeping rough and had committed several offences since his arrival in 2019.

A previous immigration tribunal hearing heard he had shown a "pattern of regular serious offending" and had 12 convictions for 21 offences, including assaults, anti-social behaviour and outraging public decency". His appeal against deportation was still ongoing when he pushed Mr Potoczek in front of the southbound Victoria Line train.

Another passenger responded immediately, pulling Mr Potoczek back onto the platform with seconds to spare and the postman avoided any serious injuries. Robert Walker, the driver, spotted Mr Potoczek and hit the emergency brake.

Shorsh left the station and he was



Brwa Shorsh shoved Tadeusz Potoczek in front of an oncoming Tube train on Feb 3

arrested by an officer, who recognised him from the CCTV images collected, hours later at Warren Street station at around 10.30pm. The Kurdish migrant denied attempted murder, but was convicted on July 31. He is due to be sentenced on Sept 26.

The Home Secretary has a legal duty to deport foreign criminals. This applies to non-British and non-Irish nationals sentenced to at least 12 months imprisonment for a criminal offence in the UK.

There is also ministerial discretion to deport foreign nationals if it is considered "conducive to the public good". A

House of Commons Library report showed that in 2023, just under 4,000 foreign offenders were deported.

Shorsh told his trial he was "angry" after three women allegedly laughed at him for being homeless and he felt Mr Potoczek had given him a dirty look and had been "very disrespectful to me".

The immigration tribunal will decide if Shorsh is to be deported for his previous offences.

The Home Office said it would not comment on individual cases and that it would be inappropriate to comment on ongoing legal proceedings.

Drones 'put air ambulance crews in danger'

By Mark Ludlow

AN AIR ambulance pilot has warned amateur drone pilots flying over accidents they are putting emergency workers in danger.

Emergency services said near misses with drones were on the rise and were becoming a major safety concern.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance pilots said in a recent incident in Bath, a helicopter narrowly avoided a drone as they were coming in to land.

"When you hit one of those drones doing 150 miles per hour, they will come through the windscreen and they can injure the crew. If you injure the pilot, we all see where that would end," chief pilot Matt Wilcock said.

"When we come into landing sites, often what's happening is there's com-

motion on the ground, there's lights and people want to pop a drone up and have a look at what is going on.

"We come in and, while drones are at 400 feet and most aviation traffic is 500 feet, the exception is when we come in to land. This hasn't happened too often,

"They're flying to a time-critical, maybe life-critical incident and it could have an impact on that"

but the trend is on the up." Gemma Alcock, founder and chief executive of SkyBound Rescuer who uses drones for public safety, said most amateur drone pilots don't realise it's a heavily regulated industry. "Of course, being in the

drone industry, you hear these stories all the time. Air ambulances, coastguards and police helicopters. I'm aware of the problem," she said.

"A near-miss that doesn't lead to an impact can still be a very stressful experience for that helicopter pilot.

"They're flying to a time-critical, maybe life-critical incident and it could have an impact on that."

In the UK, it is against the law to fly a drone above 400 feet or within a kilometre of an airport. Fines for non-compliance are £2500.

If your drone has a camera or weighs more than 250g you have to register it with the Civil Aviation Authority and then pass a flying test to get a permit.

Amateur drone pilots can face a five year jail sentence, or unlimited fine, if found to have endangered an aircraft.

Growing optimism over Gaza ceasefire deal

US secretary of state expected in Middle East for 'endgame' talks to avoid a greater regional conflict

By Paul Nuki GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY EDITOR in Tel Aviv

THE US secretary of state, was expected to arrive in the Middle East last night amid "cautious optimism" a ceasefire deal could be reached to end the war in Gaza and avert a wider regional conflict. Antony Blinken will meet Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, at 11am today for ceasefire and hostage negotiations which are due to continue in Cairo this week. US officials say they believe a deal could be signed by the end of the week. "We think the package is basically

there ready to be implemented," a US official told the Axios news website. "This process is now in the endgame." Mr Netanyahu's office "expressed cautious optimism regarding the possibility of advancing a deal" ahead of Mr Blinken's visit, although representatives of Hamas accused the US and Israel of being "deceptive" in order to hold off threatened Iranian strikes. "Everyone understands Netanyahu and his government are not willing to reach a ceasefire deal," Osama Hamdan, a Hamas spokesman, told Al Jazeera yesterday. A bridging proposal, which builds on the three-stage agreement outlined by Joe Biden in a public address on May 31, was passed to Israeli and Hamas officials over the weekend for consideration. Late yesterday, Hamas issued a statement saying it had rejected the bridging proposal and claiming "Netanyahu con-

tinues to place obstacles in front of an agreement". The proposal had sought to make progress on the outstanding areas of disagreement, notably security arrangements along the Gaza-Egyptian border and the transition from a "sustainable calm" in phase one of the deal to a "permanent ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces... and the reconstruction of Gaza" in the second and third phases. Hamas fears Israel will continue the war once a second tranche of hostages are released. Israel fears Hamas will reorganise and rearm if left to its own devices. Yesterday, the Israeli press reported that two of Mr Netanyahu's demands had not been fully met - control over the Gaza-Egypt border and a mechanism to stop Hamas fighters returning north - but that there was a deal to be done if Hamas wanted it.

"We must hope that the heavy pressure on Hamas from the United States and the mediators leads to the removal of its opposition," Mr Netanyahu's office said. Israeli concerns appear to have been calmed by clauses in the bridging agreement which would allow for some

'The ceasefire talks may provide Iran and Hezbollah with a ladder to climb down'

continued Israeli "oversight" at the border and an ability to "monitor" Palestinians returning to the north of Gaza, the Saudi-owned Asharq news outlet reported. Avi Melamed, a former Israeli intelligence official and author, said there was cause for cautious optimism. He said that while the recent clash

with Iran had complicated matters and threatened a regional war, it could also "facilitate movement and hope." "The talks may provide Iran and Hezbollah with a ladder to climb down," he said. Iran said last week it would hold off striking Israel in retaliation for the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran after linking its planned revenge to the ceasefire talks. The Islamic Republic has been kept closely in the loop ever since, with Qatari and Egyptian mediators "continuing to talk to Iran and Hezbollah and encouraging them not to escalate the situation", Kan, the Israeli public broadcaster reported yesterday. Thousands marched in Israel at the weekend in support of a deal and public opinion now overwhelmingly supports the proposed ceasefire and hostage exchange.

A snap Channel 12 TV poll published on Friday found 63 per cent of Israelis back the agreement while 12 per cent oppose it. If a deal does go ahead, it is thought that 30 Israelis will be freed in the first six weeks - most likely women, the elderly and the sick. It is understood men and military hostages will be freed in the second phase. It is thought that 111 of the 251 hostages abducted by Hamas during the Oct 7 attack remain in Gaza. Nevertheless, hope of peace remains fragile. Israeli missile strikes were reported to have killed at least 21 people, including six children, in the central town of Deir Al-Balah yesterday, the Palestinian health authorities said. The Israeli military said it destroyed rocket launchers in Khan Younis, the scene of fighting in recent weeks, and killed 20 Palestinian fighters.



Israelis march with the families of hostages in Tel Aviv demanding that Benjamin Netanyahu, the country's prime minister, brings them home and reaches a ceasefire deal with Hamas after the war in Gaza has raged for 10 months

Get serious on policy or you could lose election, Republicans warn Trump

By Tony Diver US EDITOR

DONALD TRUMP may lose the US election if he continues to act as a "provocateur" and a "showman", a senior Republican has warned, amid calls for him to "reset" his campaign. Lindsey Graham, a Republican senator who regularly plays golf with Trump, said he should focus on the "policy debate" with Kamala Harris, rather than launch personal attacks. Trump's campaign is now under pressure from some of its staunchest defenders to make major changes in the last 80 days of the campaign. The 78 year-old has been criticised for calling Ms Harris "stupid" and claiming she had used her ethnicity as a campaigning tool. Yesterday, Mr Graham

joined Vivek Ramaswamy, who ran for the Republican nomination, and former advisers in pushing for a focus on policy. "President Trump can win this election. His policies are good for America, and if you have a policy debate for president, he wins," Mr Graham told NBC. "Donald Trump the provocateur, the showman, may not win this election." He added: "I'm looking for president Trump to show up in the last 80 days." The latest national polls show Ms Harris has pulled ahead of Trump by around two points, reversing the lead he held over Joe Biden before the president's decision to drop out of the race on July 21. Mr Biden's electoral strategy involved winning the midwestern

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swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. But the latest surveys show Ms Harris also winning in some key "sun belt" swing states, which could offer her a different path to a 270 electoral college delegates required to win the White House. She is ahead of Trump in North Carolina, which he won in 2020, and Arizona, where she is picking up support from Latino voters. Trump strategists are also reportedly concerned about a fall in support from black voters and women. A poll conducted by USA Today and Suffolk University released yesterday found Ms Harris had shored up support among black voters in Michigan and Pennsylvania. It comes after Trump suggested Ms Harris had previously downplayed her

black heritage, and inflated it to win support when she became a politician. The vice-president's father is Jamaican-American, while her mother is Indian. "I didn't know she was black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn black and now she wants to be known as black," Trump said last month. "So, I don't know, is she Indian or is she black?" On Saturday, Trump doubled down on personal attacks, referring to her as "Comrade Kamala" and claiming her father was a "Marxist economics professor". While some Republicans have called on their candidate to focus more on inflation, hard-right influencers have said he should be more aggressive on immigration and crime. Laura Loomer, a hard-right journalist, said "weak" surrogates were destroying the campaign, and warned Trump "needs to change fast

because we can't talk about a stolen election for another four years". Candace Owens, another influencer, said a "MAGA civil war" had broken out, telling Trump: "I'm just not sure who is driving the MAGA bus any more."

This week, Democratic delegates will meet in Chicago for the party's national convention, where they will hear speeches from Ms Harris, Mr Biden, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. Ms Harris will face opposition from up to 100,000 pro-Palestine protesters who will hold mass demonstrations in the city against the Biden administration's support for Israel. Police said it will not be a repeat of the 1968 party convention in Chicago, which was derailed by Vietnam War protesters. Trump will campaign in Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina during the convention.



Giant awakes
Ash is thrown three miles into the air, prompting an alert to aircraft, after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake triggered the Shiveluch volcano to explode at 7.10am yesterday in Kamchatka, Russia.



Man sues hospital for losing part of his skull

By Iona Cleave

A MAN in the US is suing a hospital for losing part of his skull after it was removed during surgery. Fernando Cluster suffered a brain bleed in September 2022 and a portion of his skull was removed by staff at Emory Healthcare hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. However, when the 12-by-15 centimetre bone flap was due to be replaced several weeks later in a second surgery, staff allegedly could not identify which fragment belonged to Mr Cluster. "When Emory's personnel went to retrieve the bone flap, 'there were several bone flaps with incomplete or missing patient identification' and therefore, Emory 'could not be certain which, if any, of these belonged to Mr Cluster', the complaint, which was

filed on Aug 8, said. Mr Cluster and his wife, Melinda, are suing the hospital and unnamed staff for negligence, claiming the loss of the skull portion led to "extensive damages, including ongoing physical and emotional pain

\$146,800
The reported total of Fernando Cluster's medical expenses, including more than \$19,000 for a synthetic skull implant

and suffering, and unnecessary medical bills". According to the complaint, hospital staff told Mr Cluster in early November 2022 as he was being prepped for a cranioplasty that his bone flap could not

be found and his surgery would be cancelled until a synthetic implant could be made. In late November 2022, the artificial flap was implanted and he was charged for both its cost and the extra time spent in hospital, the complaint said. It then alleged that Mr Cluster suffered an infection in the synthetic flap that required another surgery. His medical expenses reportedly totalled \$146,800 (£113,410), which includes more than \$19,000 for the synthetic skull implant. The couple said Mr Cluster "suffered permanent injuries" and hasn't been able to work as "a result of Emory's negligence". The complaint does not state the amount the couple is seeking. Emory Healthcare has been contacted for comment.



Civilians evacuated from the border region get help at the railway station in Kursk

'Shelling and deaths have been going on for two years so this is no surprise. We knew this was coming'

Russians in Kursk city 'ready to evacuate' at a moment's notice amid Ukraine advance

Kyiv is tight-lipped about its intentions – whether it aims to establish a foothold or retreat back to country

By Verity Bowman

RUSSIANS in Kursk city are ready to evacuate at a "moment's notice" and already have escape plans in place should Ukrainian forces reach the city.

Locals told *The Telegraph* they fear Ukraine will penetrate deep into Russian territory amid its ongoing invasion of the southern border regions of Kursk and Belgorod.

They spoke of being forced to continue their daily lives as usual despite fighting edging closer to the city, just 57 miles from the border.

Ukraine's cross-border assault entered its 13th day yesterday, with Russia redeploying "several thousand" troops from occupied areas to roll back the unprecedented advance.

President Volodymyr Zelensky's troops have made steady gains, armed with Nato weapons that hold the potential to turn the tide of the war.

Maksim, a shop worker in Kursk city, described the windows of his supermarket shaking amid Ukrainian attacks but said that he and his colleagues had nowhere to shelter.

He said: "We continued to work

during attacks. There is no shelter in Kursk, it's not the United States. The officials here do not like ordinary people. We have nowhere to go."

Maksim voiced his support for the US, whose High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, known as HIMARS, have been critical in the advance.

He said: "I'm only for Ukraine or the United States to free us from this circus with clowns. It's incredibly impossible for us to fight for justice in Russia."

He claimed countless individuals who have fled areas now under Ukrainian control, including the strategically significant town of Sudzha, have been left without adequate shelter.

Russian media reported that 20 evacuation centres had been set up but these have swelled to capacity.

Maksim said: "People have lost their homes and property and have nowhere to spend the night. For that the president promises everyone \$100. Isn't it a mockery?"

On Thursday Mr Zelensky said his forces had taken full control of Sudzha, the administrative centre of Sudzhansky District.

Kyiv claims to have taken over more than 80 settlements and, according to authorities, more than 120,000 residents in the Kursk region have already been moved.

Locals sprang into action in the dead of night, scrambling as many vehicles together as possible to evacuate those



Moment of respite as a Ukrainian soldier takes a break from fighting to play with a dog

trapped as the invasion began on Aug 6. Ukraine had crossed the border with pinpoint precision, and Russia was on the back foot.

Vadim Stukalov, 23, woke to the sounds of drone attacks, some 50 miles east of Kursk city. He recounted navigating back roads in the dark as he drove into the war-zone to rescue those stranded in villages with no means of escape. Locals, shocked by the chaos of Ukraine's advance, banded together to

gather any working cars and minibuses they could find to make sure no one was left behind.

Vadim said: "There was a sense of solidarity among people who were in trouble. I felt so much fear that we wouldn't be able to get people out."

A lack of phone connections made the escape difficult to coordinate. Cars would often depart half-empty, leaving desperate people behind.

"People were moving out so quickly

and we couldn't wait around for them to get in touch," Vadim explained.

Sasha Bychkova, 28, recounted greeting her family in Kursk city after they had fled their homes barely 10 miles from the border.

"Ukrainian tanks entered the village. They were running in a car under fire," she said. "There were grandparents, uncles and aunts. I was worried about their life and health."

Although she and her parents live away from the front lines, they remain on edge. When she spoke to *The Telegraph* yesterday, three air raid alarms had already sounded that morning.

Sasha and her parents have already prepared an escape plan, ready to be executed at a moment's notice, should Ukraine seize control of Kursk.

She said: "It's hard to talk about the possibility of Ukraine entering the city. I would like to stay here to help the wounded, but my parents would be sent to a safe place. We have a safe place ready and can go at a moment's notice. Our escape plan is already made."

A 26-year-old, who chose to remain anonymous for safety reasons, also fled from Ukrainian advances on Aug 6 from the village of Glushkovo, around a one-hour drive north-west of Sudzha.

"I came home from vacation to shelling at my home. I read the news, packed my things, took my parents and my cat and left there," he said, recounting his escape to Kursk city. Neither he nor his

parents were shocked by the Ukrainian advance. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, they have grown accustomed to constant tension, and the news of the front lines shifting closer felt almost inevitable.

"Life with shelling and deaths of civilians has been going on for more than two years, so this situation does not surprise me," he said.

"My parents, just like me, had always expected it. Besides, we have hope that everything will end and we will return. Only the cat was scared. We've known this was coming."

Ukraine has driven deep into the region in several directions, facing little resistance and sowing chaos and panic.

Kyiv is tight-lipped about its intentions, neither confirming whether it plans to establish a foothold in the Kursk region nor indicating if it will retreat into Ukrainian territory.

Ukrainian soldiers believe the high-stakes gamble Ukraine is making by taking the war into Russia is paying off.

An anonymous soldier said via social media: "There are good guys here and everything is perfectly planned."

But some Russians just want the violence to stop. One, Bogdan, said: "I was born here, grew up here, spent the best years here, studied and worked. I love Russia, this is my home. But I don't hate Ukraine and other countries."

"Everyone has suffered from this war and there is no winner."

Idyllic fake fishing village votes to reject total ban on tourism

By Nick Squires

THE inhabitants of an idyllic village on the Spanish island of Menorca have rejected a total ban on tourists after voting in a referendum.

A majority of the 200 residents of Binibeca Vell on the coast of the Balearic island opted instead to slightly extend the hours during which tourists are allowed to visit, in a vote at an annual meeting on Friday night.

Instead of being open to tourists from 11am to 8pm, as was the arrangement since May, the hamlet of narrow alleyways and whitewashed houses will now be open from 10am to 10pm.

About a third of the residents had voted for a blanket ban on visitors, complaining that tourists routinely pose for photos on private staircases, balconies and terraces, with some even entering private homes to have a look around.

The decision will please the bars, restaurants and shops clustered at the entrance to the village, which rely on the tourist crowds for their livelihoods.

The picturesque hamlet may look like a traditional Mediterranean fishing village, but there is a catch. It is in fact a private estate that was built in the 1960s, with the architects inspired by



Binibeca Vell, nicknamed the Spanish Mykonos, at dusk

the kind of sugar cube communities that are scattered across the Cyclades in Greece, gaining it the nickname the Spanish Mykonos.

Its population is tiny, but it attracts about 800,000 visitors a year, with many of them snapping photos of themselves and their friends which they upload to social media platforms such as Instagram.

Pau Cardona de la Camara, administrator of the residents' association, con-

Macron faces 'guerrilla warfare' between migrants and police

By Vivian Song in Paris

A FRENCH mayor has appealed for help from Emmanuel Macron's government after a series of violent clashes between police and migrants.

Around 50 migrants were blocked from boarding an inflatable boat on Tuesday last week, prompting a skirmish with authorities that moved from the beach of Grand-Fort-Philippe onto residential streets.

The incident followed a similar incident the night before, when migrants pelted stones at parked cars after being blocked from boarding a boat to take them across the Channel to Britain.

Mayor Sony Clinquart described the scene as "urban guerrilla warfare" and appealed to Gerard Darmanin, the interior minister, for assistance, warning that the unrest is getting out of hand.

"Now, the escalation is going as far as collateral damage with urban equipment, homes, vehicles, the population," Mr Clinquart told French news channel BFM TV. "So the population is exasperated, and is legitimately afraid."

Patrice Vergriete, the transport minister and former mayor of nearby Dunkirk, expressed support for Mr Clinquart and pledged to resolve the

crisis with British help. "With Sony Clinquart, I am also working to ensure that the residents of Grand-Fort-Philippe affected by these events can obtain compensation for the damage in the best possible conditions."

"We are committed to this and we will be at their side in this area as well. The elected representatives of the Urban Community are ready to play their full part in the solutions that can be found, in the longer term, in resolving this migration crisis in conjunction

with our British counterparts." Migrant aid associations also report that police response has escalated, with the use of tear gas, batons and stun grenades, towards migrants and their volunteers.

"The baton blows, the tear gas attacks, the punctured boats ... This is nothing new," Salomé Bahri, coordinator of the Utopia 56 association in Grande-Synthe told France 3. "What is new is the intensity of the violence."

Two volunteers with Utopia56 have filed a complaint after they were allegedly attacked, held at gunpoint, and verbally abused by police in the area, despite being in a car marked with the association's logo and wearing vests identifying them as volunteers.

Since the beginning of the year, 25 migrants have died trying to cross the Channel, double the number of deaths in all of last year.

Local resident Pierre-Marie, told France3 that screaming, yelling and explosions had become regular occurrences in the middle of the night.

"It stresses us out, we're afraid it'll get out of hand," he said. "It's normal for these people to become aggressive. We're stopping them from living, from doing what they want, so they're bound to become meaner and meaner."



Migrant police in France prepare to tackle further attempts at crossing the Channel

French far-Left threaten to impeach Macron

President under pressure to select a member of France Unbowed as prime minister to break deadlock

By Vivian Song

FRANCE'S far-Left party is threatening to launch legal action against Emmanuel Macron if he fails to select their candidate for prime minister.

Senior members of France Unbowed (LFI) said they had a "solemn warning" for the president that their patience is running thin and they are ready to pull the trigger on impeachment proceedings.

Article 68 of the constitution allows the French parliament to dismiss the president for "failure to fulfil his duties manifestly incompatible with the exercise of the mandate."

Six weeks after the legislative

elections, in which the New Popular Front coalition of Leftist parties won the most seats but fell short of the 289 seats needed to form an absolute majority, the country is still without a prime minister and government.

Mr Macron called for a political truce during the Paris Olympics but has faced criticism for dragging his feet now that the Games are over.

Last month, Mr Macron dismissed the Leftist alliance's candidate for prime minister, Lucie Castets. He argued that the senior civil servant and former economic adviser to Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, would not be able to create consensus within parliament.

Ms Castets has pledged to undo Mr Macron's pension reforms taking the age of retirement from 62 to 65.

LFI has called Mr Macron's refusal to select Ms Castets an "institutional coup against democracy".

The party wrote in an opinion piece in *La Tribune Dimanche*: "It is obvious



President Macron yesterday issued appeal for unity

that the refusal to acknowledge a legislative election and the decision to ignore it constitute a reprehensible failure to meet the basic requirements of the presidential mandate."

But in a sign that the Leftist coalition,

which is made up of Greens, Socialists and France Unbowed, is cracking, Socialist leader Olivier Faure said his party does not support the LFI's threats of legal action. He said: "This article is signed only by the leaders of LFI. It commits only their movement."

He also said that impeachment is "impractical" as it requires two-thirds support in both lower and upper assemblies.

Mr Macron will meet leaders of political and parliamentary groups, including Ms Castets, with a view to naming a prime minister on Friday.

But observers have called the invitation to Ms Castets a mere formality, saying the odds of her being given the post are slim.

Along with raising the minimum wage to €1,600 (£1,360) a month, her plan for government would include squashing Mr Macron's contentious retirement reforms by decree.

"Everyone knows it's dead, but we

'Let us remain capable of reversing inevitability of destiny, this nation in solidarity with all those who want to remain free'

have to keep up the pressure on Emmanuel Macron since we came out on top," one unnamed socialist MP told *Le Figaro*.

It is expected that the future prime minister will be a figure from a coalition between Macronists and the Right. A few other names that have been circulating include Xavier Bertrand, Republican president of the Hauts-de-France region, and Bernard Cazeneuve, the former Socialist prime minister.

Yesterday, during a speech to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the south-eastern town of Bormes-les-Mimosas, Mr Macron appealed for unity in the same spirit of those who participated in the Provence landings, which included many from French overseas colonies in Africa.

"Let us not give into division. Let us remain this people always capable of reversing the inevitability of destiny, this nation in solidarity with all those who want to remain free," he said.

Ferris fear

Around 30 people have been injured after a ferris wheel at a music festival in Germany caught fire. Flames and smoke could be seen billowing from the ride at Highfield Festival at Stormthaler Lake, near Leipzig, on Saturday evening. Two gondolas on the ferris wheel were ablaze at around 9pm, according to the festival. Four people suffered injured from burns and one suffered injuries from a fall. Others, including first responders and at least four police officers, taken to hospital for treatment of possible smoke inhalation. The cause of the blaze is being investigated. "Those affected are receiving treatment and are doing well considering the circumstances," a statement from the festival said.



STR/AVALON

How Indian women tricked into sex with promises of marriage are seeking justice

Special report

By George Johnson in New Delhi

ON A cold night in January, Akanksha Mehta's phone pinged with a text message that would change her life.

A romantic couplet from a popular Bollywood song, *Sunn Raha Hai Na Tui (Are You Listening?)*, appeared in her Instagram inbox, followed by a friendship request.

The sender was Abhishek Jandial, also known as Lucky, 27, from Jaipur city in the north Indian state of Rajasthan.

Drawn in, Ms Mehta, a 23-year-old college student, accepted the request. Their online conversations quickly blossomed into a real-world romance, with dates at local restaurants and walks in the park.

"He promised to treat me like a princess," Ms Mehta recalls, her voice heavy with regret.

"But I ended up feeling like a sex slave." Mr Jandial, who claimed to come from a wealthy family, promised

her marriage. "I believed him and after one year of dating, I had consensual sex with him and became pregnant," said Ms Mehta.

But when she shared the news of the pregnancy, her lover's facade crumbled and he abruptly ended the relationship.

"I was deceived. He was a married man all along, with no intention of marrying me. He lured me into pre-marital sex," Ms Mehta told *The Telegraph*.

In most countries, this would be an unfortunate story with little opportunity for the victim to seek justice.

But under new Indian legislation on rape, men who lure women into sex with the promise of marriage face 10 years in prison.

In July, India's government updated its colonial era laws on rape, introducing rules around relationships engaged in on false pretences in Section 69 of the reform.

Ms Mehta has told her lawyer to press Section 69 of the new criminal

code against Jandial and seek the maximum punishment. "I was apprehensive that he would come out clean based on consensual sex between two adults but the new law has given me a new lease of life," she said.

"There should be capital punishment for men who lure women with false promises of marriage and after sex back off.

"I wish he would rot in jail forever because he destroyed my life."

Ms Mehta discovered the extent of her betrayal when she reminded Mr Jandial about his promise of marriage.

On April 30, after several furious rows, he came to her home and promised that he would later bring his parents to arrange a marriage. But he soon fled again and cut off all contact.

Only after Ms Mehta filed a complaint against him with Rajasthan police was he found, living in the city with his wife, and arrested.

Some experts fear that India's expanded new rape law could be misused against men. Sagina Walyat, a

constitutional and human rights lawyer at the Punjab and Haryana high court, said women who feel wronged in a relationship could easily use it to seek revenge.

"The law draws from a woman's presumptions (about a relationship). In such cases the burden of proof shifts on to the accused," she said.

"It is very convenient for women to go and say this thing (sexual abuse) happened, and we have already had many cases to this effect."

Soon after the new code was implemented, a court in the Indian state of Kerala acquitted a man who had similarly been accused by a woman of entering into a sexual relationship with her under false pretences.

"If the materials would show that the relationship is purely consensual without an element of misconception of fact, the same is not rape," its July 9 verdict read.

The key question being examined by the court was "whether at the very inception there is mutual consent to have sexual intercourse or the same is under a misconception of fact, on the promise of marriage or otherwise."

The court found no evidence to indicate in this case that the complainant's consent was based on a misunderstanding.

The conservative nature of Indian society may mean that few women

choose to avail themselves of the new legislation, said Satwinder Satti, the president of Abb Nahi, an organisation that helps abandoned women.

"The fact is that girls in India who are deceived by men generally don't want to go to court as it impacts the future prospects of their marriage," she said. Parents never allow it as they fear it could bring shame to the family.

"Another issue is that once a case is reported, it endlessly drags on in courts, which acts as a dampener for the victims who might otherwise seek a legal redress."

Audrey Dmello, the director of Majlis Law, a women's rights group in India, was more hopeful for the reform.

"Earlier, lots of 'promise to marry cases' were registered but they were registered as rape. This created total confusion," she told *The Telegraph*.

"People will say that this is not rape, or that it is not against her consent."

"But now, the government has culled it out and made it a separate section," she said. "So one will actually be able to more clearly see how big this problem is. Otherwise it was getting hidden among rape cases."

"The number of rape cases was expanding and we were not able to address both the issues separately. This will change now."

Some names have been changed in this story

I was deceived. He was a married man all along, with no intention of marrying me'

'There should be capital punishment for men who lure women with false promises of marriage'

Comment

The summer's must-have item probably lives in your dusty loft

JANE SHILLING



Unpacking after a house move is a strange exercise in social archaeology. Emerging from their boxes, as bewildering as the grave goods of some ancient burial site, once familiar possessions offer disconcerting insights into the recent past.

Sifting through the eras, the question that comes to mind is, "Why did I keep that?" A baby mobile with a quintet of stuffed animals, solemnly rotating to a tinkly rendition of Pachelbel's Canon? A collection of my grandmother's lace-edged tray-cloths? Or the latest prize from my cardboard sepulchres: a point-and-shoot camera and a dozen rolls of undeveloped film.

I haven't used an analogue camera since the late 1990s when my son was small, so moments of his childhood must be captured on these films. But the technology has surely been obsolete for decades. There is, I imagine, no further use for the old point-and-shoot.

But along with the fashions of the time, 1990s tech is making a comeback. Some 130 years after Gilbert and Sullivan's last Savoy opera, *Utopia, Limited*, satirised George Eastman's slogan for Kodak's first point-and-shoot camera – "You Press the Button, We Do the Rest" – celebrities are embracing the humble analogue camera. The American soccer star Megan Rapinoe was seen wielding one at the Paris Olympics. The "proto-influencer" Alexa Chung posted an Instagram image of herself holding another, captioned "Just another Millennial with a dependency on Snappy Snaps". All it needs is Madonna to join in for its fleeting moment of coolness to wither.

Of the reasons cited for the newfound popularity of analogue cameras, "coolness" comes high on the list. Across Europe, music festivals are introducing no-phone policies, encouraging audiences to experience the moment directly, rather than watching a livestream on their phones. In the southern German city of Konstanz this May, the indie-pop band Juli demanded that the audience stop filming its 2004 hit *Perfekte Welle* – a song about living in the moment. In the same month, the tenor Ian Bostridge paused his performance of Britten's *Les Illuminations* with the CBSO to ask the audience to stop filming on their phones – whose illuminations, though sanctioned (unknown to Bostridge) by the CBSO

management, were proving intolerably distracting.

Nothing is more perishable than coolness, so if the resurgence of analogue cameras relied solely on fashion, its decline would be inevitable. But there is a poignant aesthetic about physical photos. Before my move, I used to frequent a south London auction house specialising in house clearances. Among the commodes and broken violins, albums of family photographs would often turn up – infinitely touching in their faded records of long-dead dogs and well-tended dahlias.

Looking back over my own albums of analogue photos, the sensations of past decades come rushing back. By contrast, my later phone images seem fragile: seldom looked at, easily deleted and strangely devoid of emotional charge.

That insufferable slogan, "making memories", has been responsible for a swarm of ills, from unsustainable tourism to numerous deaths of badly-equipped people in pursuit of dramatic social media images. So Gen A's newfound enthusiasm for the deferred gratification of waiting for their analogue photos to return from the developer incompetently cropped, out of focus, touchingly imperfect, is oddly admirable – for as long as it lasts.

◆ "Don't Let's Be Beastly To The Germans", sang Noel Coward in 1943, earning a BBC ban for his satirical ditty. These days our engagement with Germany and its culture has all but vanished from our curriculums. There were just over 2,000 A-level candidates in German this year, a decline of more than 50 per cent over the last decade.

And while it is noticeable that footballers joining UK clubs from abroad invariably speak serviceable English, the reverse is often true. Last year, trying to protest a penalty against his new club, Bayern Munich, the England striker Harry Kane suddenly "remembered that he couldn't speak German".

A joint initiative by the British-based Goethe Institute and the Department of Education aims to encourage the learning of German in primary and secondary schools. The *alleinstellungsmerkmal*, or unique selling point, of competence in a foreign language, effortlessly mastered by our incoming footballers, is a long-overdue rebalancing of the cultural and economic value of fluency in other languages.



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This Labour Government is mean, dishonest, and downright dangerous

It has been appalling to see first-hand in the Commons the untruths and terrible policies of these socialists

NICK TIMOTHY



New leaders and governments seek to define themselves within their first hundred days: making changes, launching policies, conveying their values to the country while the public still has an open mind. Not even 50 days into this new Government, Labour has shown us its priorities and values, and what we have seen is very ugly indeed.

We know it is lying about the economy, to excuse its broken promises about tax from the election campaign. While many journalists are reluctant to call this dishonesty what it is, not one credible economist has repeated the claim by Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves that Labour's economic inheritance is the worst since the War. The shock feigned by the Chancellor is a shameful attempt to justify the tax rises she will announce in the Budget this autumn. But the idea that there is a fiscal hole left by the Conservatives has been completely discredited. The £22 billion gap she pretends to have identified consists of normal in-year spending pressures – something the Treasury always manages – and her own decisions on public sector pay.

Labour's decisions on public sector pay reveal the truth. Starmer and Reeves do not face the worst inheritance since the war, and there is

no fiscal hole. There are, however, departmental spending settlements, which many in the public sector believe are too tight. It was a choice by Labour to say before the election that it would respect Tory spending plans, and it is a choice now to tear them up.

Ministers did not have to hand the junior doctors a 22 per cent pay rise, backdated to when they were on strike. They did not have to offer the train drivers – represented by Aslef, a union that bankrolls the Labour Party – a 15 per cent pay rise. They did not have to break their election commitment to pensioners and abolish the winter fuel allowance for those with incomes above £11,000 or so.

It was a choice to take from pensioners and give to the unions. And it was a choice to hand over billions in new public sector pay settlements without linking them to improvements in productivity. Not only has Labour risked losing control of public sector pay – with other unions now demanding more and threatening strike action – this is a missed opportunity for reform.

The Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, has talked a good game about reforming the NHS, yet his first action in office was to hand over huge pay rises without linking them to change. The same is true with the railways, where rostering policies lead to over-staffing, exaggerated "walking allowances" between trains and mess rooms cost millions, and rules that let workers restart their breaks if a manager says as much as "hello" to them.

Public service productivity is not only important in its own right, but with state spending now accounting for 45 per cent of GDP, improving it is a vital plank of economic reform. Yet the Government has no plan for doing

so. Its response to pressures in the prison estate, for example, was to introduce a mass early-release programme, saying it had no other choice. Yet before the programme started, and when the riots began, ministers did what they previously claimed was impossible. They created an extra 567 prison places from within the existing estate. In other words, circumstances forced them to strive harder to increase capacity, but without that pressure they preferred to simply release criminals.

Education is another example. Following Conservative reforms, English schools are now among the best in the world. Primary school children are the best readers in the West, and for 15-year-olds, English schools are 11th in the world in maths (up from 27th in 2009), 13th in science (up from 16th), and 13th in reading (up from 25th). Yet many of the reforms behind the success – freedoms for headteachers, strict discipline policies, a clear inspection framework, and a demanding and knowledge-rich curriculum – will now be scrapped.

And it is not only with education that Labour assumes the state – or ministers themselves – know best. Despite claiming a fiscal hole, Labour is spending billions on Great British Energy and a National Wealth Fund, which will use borrowed money to give guaranteed returns to businesses for investments in technologies the market will not back. With house-building, Whitehall targets have been reinstated – asking less of cities where demand is high, and more of rural areas.

Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, talks about "home-grown" energy. But he refuses to issue licences for oil drilling in the North Sea, and has

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Not even 50 days into the job, Labour has shown us its priorities and values, and what we have seen is very ugly indeed

imposed instead a series of giant solar farms on high-quality agricultural land. In the case of Sunnica, in my constituency, he ignored not only local residents and councils but the expert examining authority. His answers in Parliament suggest he has put green ideology before due process.

Labour ministers are proving themselves to be dividers, not unifiers. Watching them in the House of Commons, they have misinterpreted their election victory, displaying an arrogance unworthy of the vote share they won. They have stopped implementation of the new law guaranteeing free speech on university campuses, and torn up the guidance for schools banning lessons on gender ideology.

During the riots, Jess Phillips, the Home Office minister, justified violent vigilantism by gangs of Muslim men while condemning other law-breaking. Since the riots, the Home Secretary has vowed to "crack down" on those with "harmful and hateful beliefs". This is unlikely to apply to Labour activists who bully gender-critical feminists, the Islamist organisations with which Labour MPs share platforms, the deputy prime minister who called Tories "scum", or John McDonnell, the MP who praised rioters in 2011 for "kicking the s---" out of Conservative HQ and encouraged activists to "lynch" Esther McVey – or as he called her, "the b----".

From giving civil service jobs to party donors to its anti-business new labour laws, there is more to criticise. But Labour has shown us what its ministers are: dishonest, divisive, unconstructed socialists. They are destroyers, not creators; takers, not makers. My party will need to come to terms with its defeat fast, for this is a mean and dangerous Government.

Rachel Reeves is right to prioritise public sector workers

State productivity is worse than in 1996. We cannot solve the staff shortages without higher, fairer pay

KAMAL AHMED



The financial crash of 2007 had one cohort of victims not much spoken about – the public sector worker. We saw plenty of photographs of redundant bankers leaving shiny offices with their desk possessions in a cardboard box. Fewer of classroom teachers considering their less-than-appealing monthly paycheck.

The events of 17 years ago and the recent announcements by the new Labour Government of a raft of pay deals with doctors, nurses, the armed forces and the much loved train drivers are linked. I think Rachel Reeves knows this and has taken a calculated risk. Let me explain why I believe it is the right one – and one significant hurdle she will need to overcome.

First, a bit of history. Printing money and borrowing to save the economy from financial calamity saw the UK's national debt rise to levels not seen since the 1960s, when we were still paying off the bills of the Second World War.

David Cameron's government of 2010 was elected on a pledge to "fix the economy" and make a better fist of paying our way. Liam Byrne's "there is no money left" note epitomised everything many voters believed about Labour. That in the end it ran out of "other people's money".

The chosen method of Cameron and his chancellor, George Osborne, was austerity. They targeted bringing down the deficit and (though we have yet to get there) ultimately paying back some of that accumulated debt, which is costing the government £110 billion a year to service – more than we spend on education.

In his attempts to fix the roof while it was still raining, Osborne went further than many economists believed he needed to, depressing growth at a time when counter-cyclical measures such as increasing borrowing and spending could have had the opposite effect. During the Second World War the UK's debt rose to 250 per cent of the value of our whole economy, more than double the level now.

One of Osborne's main levers was his demand for pay restraint from those workers over whom he had a degree of control. And they all worked in the public sector.

By that measure he was successful. Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies published in May revealed that overall pay in the public sector is still 1 per cent lower now than it was 17 years ago, once inflation has been accounted for. Nurses' pay fell 7 per cent between 2010 and 2019, doctors' by 10 and teachers' by 13.

If teachers can be paid more working in private consultancy or Pret, a lot of them will decide to do so

Productivity in the public sector rose, as departments and front-line services worked out how to do more for less. This seems appealing – so why hasn't Labour simply stuck to the hard line, demanded "something for something" pay deals that include reform of outdated working practices and faced down union demands for more money? I have an inkling that is what Tony Blair would have done. The superficial answers have been well-rehearsed. Keir Starmer is a Lefty,

evidenced by his willingness to support Jeremy Corbyn in the past. This is the start of our journey to a stagnant, socialist state that pays little heed to the needs of a vibrant market economy. The Left always thinks paying public sector workers more is a good thing to do – whatever the cost. Who on the Left wants a fight with the unions? Not Starmer, nor Reeves for that matter.

You can agree or disagree with the above, and each may contain an element of truth. The major reason, though, that paying public sector workers more is right is that the present position was simply unsustainable.

Let us first consider what is known as the Baumol Cost Disease, after the US economist William Baumol. If pay is low in certain sectors, it generally increases – even if there are no associated productivity gains – to maintain attractiveness. If teachers can be paid more working in private consultancy or Pret a Manger, then a lot of them will decide to do so.

The UK has a shortage of teachers, a shortage of nurses and even a shortage of train drivers – such a shortage that the previous government announced that teenagers would be able to apply to train for a chance to sit up front in the cab.

We cannot solve the shortage – and retention problem – without higher pay.

Second, there are the hard costs associated with strikes, which Reeves wants to rid herself of as each has a depressive effect on growth. The teachers' strikes cost £300 million a day because of lost working hours. Industrial action in the NHS has cost £1.7 billion in total to the taxpayer.

Even getting the beloved and very well-paid train drivers back to work is worth it. The Conservative transport secretary, Huw Merriman, admitted in 2022 that the strikes on the railways "actually ended up costing more than would have been the case if it was just settled". A cost of £25 million for every weekday strike soon builds up.

The economic cost argument has won. It has won so big in Labour's mind that it is willing to sacrifice benefits for pensioners – such as the winter fuel allowance – to achieve it. If politics is about choices, and it is, we have just seen the first major one this Government has taken – in a battle between those over 65 and public sector workers, the workers are going to win.

The argument now shifts and becomes much more interesting, for the Conservatives and all those who want to hold this Government

to account. This is the significant hurdle Reeves faces.

No longer can ministers rely on the "everyone's on strike" argument when asked why productivity in the public sector is still below where it was in 1996 – an errant failure that should make every public sector manager blush. If a generous offer has been made to the train drivers, why is there still industrial action ahead? (There is.) Why aren't the trains running on time? (They aren't.)

If the British Medical Association is serious about working with the NHS

Getting train drivers back to work is worth it. A cost of £25m for every weekday strike soon builds up

and the Government on providing a better service, why is it already talking about "going into dispute" over future pay deals for doctors? (It is.)

It is to be hoped that each government minister has had the forethought to demand no further strike action following generous pay deals. And that a better service for the public is the outcome of the recent pay decisions. Starmer and Reeves have made a big bet – they now have one fewer place left to hide.

Letters to the Editor



ESTABLISHED 1855

Pitfalls in emblematic, knee-jerk lawmaking

The Home Secretary has told *The Telegraph* that she wants to see “extreme misogyny” treated on a par with terrorism. Yvette Cooper has ordered a review of the UK’s counter-extremism strategy to determine how best to tackle threats posed by harmful ideologies.

There is more than an element of grandstanding here. A review of this strategy was carried out under the Conservatives by Sir William Shawcross who concluded not enough attention was being paid to Islamist extremism that has been behind terror attacks in the past. Instead, there was disproportionate emphasis on Right-wing groups and others who are said to pose a similar ideological threat to the state. They include an especially pernicious movement known as incels – involuntary celibates – who spread a dogmatic hatred of women.

Given that these are already covered by extremist definitions it is hard to see what Ms Cooper is aiming to do with another expansion of the term, risking its diminution in seriousness. The review will look at the rise of Islamist and far-Right extremism in the UK, as well as wider ideological trends, including extreme misogyny or beliefs which fit into broader categories, such as violence. Officials are said to believe that current definitions do not cover some forms of extreme misogyny, or women hatred, without spelling out what they might be.

Ms Cooper spoke of her concern about violence against women and girls but this is against the law in any case. She said there had been a rise in extremism “both online and on our streets” that “frays the very fabric of our communities and our democracy”. Certainly the recent riots were triggered by some on the far-Right seeking a backlash against immigrants. But many of those taking part had little or no ideological rationale for doing so, merely a feckless willingness to get involved in violent affray for which many are now paying a deserved penalty.

The inevitable conclusion from announcements like these is that they are intended to flag a particular concern by proposing legislation that then gets used for other purposes and is not applied equally. For instance, will hatred of women mean the criminalisation of trans-activists who target those seeking safe spaces for women, denigrating them with abusive terms? Will some ethnic groups in which women are subject to male dominance be targeted?

It is easy to see the pitfalls inherent in such emblematic lawmaking. Ms Cooper may want to make a mark with another review of counter-extremism strategy, but we should be wary of the motives.

Crisis in Venezuela

By any measure Venezuela should be one of the wealthiest countries in Latin America. Its huge oil reserves were sufficient to guarantee wealth for its population on a continent where poverty is endemic. Yet Venezuela is poor, corrupt and strife-ridden. Its president Nicolas Maduro has driven his country deeper into the mire into which it was immured by his mentor Hugo Chavez. In elections last month, the electoral commission said Maduro had been returned to office by a narrow margin, though without releasing details of the results. Few believe this to have been the case and international observers say the process “lacked transparency”. Neighbouring countries, including Brazil and Colombia, have called for another poll.

Thousands have taken to the streets to protest in the name of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. She was banned from taking part in the election and is currently in hiding. The opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez is also at an unidentified location and says he won the contest. The protesters have been growing in number in recent weeks but face a fearsome crackdown by police and army forces loyal to the current regime.

It should never be forgotten that this appalling state of affairs is the direct result of the socialisation of Venezuela, underpinned by years of feckless mismanagement and rampant corruption exacerbated by falling oil prices. Astonishingly, Left-wingers in the Labour party – including the former leader and now independent MP Jeremy Corbyn – saw Venezuela as a model of a utopian future, only one not implemented especially well.

For Venezuela’s people the search for a socialist nirvana has become a nightmare. The rigged elections that have returned president Maduro to office twice already are just the democratic figleaf of an autocrat.

Joking aside

The one-line joke is alive, kicking and tickling the funny bones of Edinburgh Fringe habitués. Over the years the amusing (or not) story has become de rigueur for right-on comedians and the traditional wisecrack has fallen out of favour. This year’s winner of the Edinburgh Fringe funniest joke contest is Mark Simmons with: “I was going to sail around the globe in the world’s smallest ship but I bottled it.” The joke was voted on by a panel whose members attended hundreds of Fringe shows listening out for something that made them laugh. Simmons is currently on a 200-date tour of the country. That’s one joke he will have to drop from his repertoire as “I’ve heard it before” is the last reaction a comic wants.



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Give courageous Ukrainians the freedom they need to repel Russia

SIR – The sheer courage and audacity of Ukraine’s unexpected incursion into Russia have surprised us all (“Ukraine pleads: Let us use Storm Shadows in Russia”, report, August 18). The outcome is uncertain, but the hope is that Russia will be forced to the negotiating table and that a just peace may be achieved.

Volodymyr Zelensky and his armed forces have won the admiration of the free world. Yet military support from the West since the start of the war has been marred by delay, inadequacy and an excess of caution. Ukrainian forces are now in the lion’s den and desperately require full control of the long-range missiles provided to them, but our Western leaders remain reluctant to grant this. When will they match the courage of Ukraine, whose sacrifice is for our freedoms, too?

David Platts Newark, Nottinghamshire

timidity in the face of Russian aggression. Since its illegal invasion, Russia has resorted to the same vile tactics that it used in Syria, deliberately targeting schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructure to break the morale of the population.

Russia couldn’t care less that high-cost defensive missiles are being given to Ukraine, as they don’t impact Russia’s civilian population, but if more high-grade targets within Russian borders were destroyed it would be a different matter.

The only way to shorten this war and save lives – Russian and Ukrainian – is for Ukraine to be given authority to hit Russian forces wherever they are, so these murderous hordes can be blasted back to where they came from.

Nato and The West need to step up to the mark and help President Zelensky. BJ Colby Bristol

successfully employing combined arms tactics against the Russians, especially as we are informed that these tactics have been taught them by British Army instructors, and indeed have involved some of the British Challenger 2 tanks sent to Ukraine (report, August 16).

It is an under-appreciated fact that these tactics were first devised and employed by the British Army in late 1918 to slice through and roll up the Hindenburg Line, the most heavily defended sector of the German lines, for the loss of less than 3,500 men.

As a result, the British attacking forces were completely intact and ready to advance immediately on Berlin, with no German forces able to oppose them. The German generals therefore had no choice but to sue for peace, or at least seek an armistice.

Arguably this was the greatest feat of arms by any army in the 20th century. William Beckett Andover, Hampshire

SIR – To supply weapons to Ukraine but then limit their use shows Nato’s

SIR – It is fascinating to read that the Ukrainian armed forces are

Football regulation

SIR – The Premier League (Sport, August 18) attracts the best players, is watched all round the world, and provides thrilling entertainment.

The Government plans to introduce a football regulator, and such state intervention – involving stringent financial controls – could sap the league’s competitiveness. With the recent exceptions of Bury FC and Macclesfield Town FC, which were incompetently managed, clubs in the top divisions have survived and remain competitive. Profitability and sustainability rules are already there to prevent profligate spending.

The Government’s wish to meddle with the league that is the footballing envy of the world is deeply saddening. Henry Bateson Whittingham, Northumberland

Protecting landscapes

SIR – Your report (August 15), says that Natural England is “accelerating efforts to classify large tracts of English countryside as national landscapes” to prevent the building of energy infrastructure and housing.

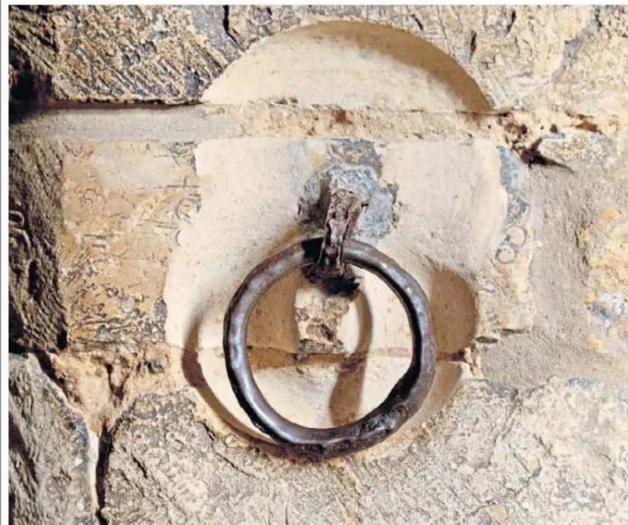
However, the designation of national landscapes follows an established route, including a period of consultation, as set out in legislation, and there has been no acceleration of this process. Further, designations are used to protect areas of value to people and nature, not as a tool to prevent development.

Sustainable development and nature recovery must go hand-in-hand – whether in housing or infrastructure projects – to reverse the historic declines in species and habitat loss.

We work closely with developers and local authorities to achieve sustainable development and restore our natural world. Doing so ensures that we fulfil our legal duty to help the Government reach its environmental and climate goals. Marian Spain Chief executive, Natural England London SW1

Female fiction greats

SIR – I enjoyed the article on children’s books (“Roald Dahl, out! JK Rowling, in!” Review, August 17), but I noted that two great female children’s writers were not mentioned: Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rosemary Sutcliff. I only read Sutcliff’s *The Eagle of the Ninth* series after seeing the film, *The Eagle*, as an adult, and really enjoyed it. *The Lantern Bearers* especially is a very moving and complex book. Heather Norburn Chelmsford, Essex



Link with the past: a manacle in the dungeon at Lincoln Castle, completed in 1068

A chance to be immersed in English history

SIR – Regarding Dia Chakravarty’s recent article (“We have stopped teaching children to love Britain”, Comment, August 15), I recommend immersion in history by visit.

Two Sundays ago, two of my great-granddaughters and their parents were at Lincoln Castle for an exhibition of medieval jousting. Later they toured the castle, which gave them a quick run-through of English history.

Following the ruin of the original Roman fortress, Lincoln Castle was built by William the Conqueror to control possible insurgents in the North. One of only four remaining

original copies of Magna Carta is conserved at nearby Lincoln Cathedral, and a new project allows distant viewing. The castle survived an earthquake, battles and sieges, and in the Second World War one of its towers was used by volunteers with binoculars to scan the skies for enemy aircraft approaching operational airfields.

Two small girls left with wooden swords as souvenirs of their day out and a true appreciation of the history of the country in which they were fortunate to be born. Dr Daphne Pearson Redbrook, Gloucestershire

The cost of Labour’s concessions to the unions

SIR – The Prime Minister came to power claiming to lead a “government of service”. It has quickly become apparent that this will be service to trades union paymasters and other militant bodies (“Labour has been ‘played by union paymasters’”, report, August 17).

Labour has failed to understand the basic principles of negotiation, whereby a mutually acceptable position is reached. Instead, it concedes to demands and seeks little or nothing in return.

No one should be surprised, given the ready source of funding – namely the disgraceful attack on the winter fuel allowance and the likely raid on private pension funds.

This will be of little concern to

doctors and train drivers on final-salary pension schemes, who will see significant increases in their pensions as a result of the pay rises. Lisa Dumbavand London SW18

SIR – Maybe those who voted for “anyone but the Tories” are beginning to realise their incredible error in light of the inflationary actions of the new administration.

As someone who cut his managerial teeth in the 1970s, I feel deeply sorry for those who will be negotiating with rampant unions in the coming years, because, believe me, they ain’t seen nothing yet. Gordon Davis Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Kamala’s coronation is a blow for US democracy

Democrats tell us she is the new Lincoln, when only months ago she was ‘inept’. Both can’t be true

TIM STANLEY



This week, the Democratic Party will nominate for president a woman who hasn’t won a single primary. I’ve elected not to attend the convention in Chicago. Since Joe Biden pulled out, it’s become a toothless coronation – and if there are protests, I can’t report on them. To do that, one needs pre-approved press credentials from the terrifying Chicago Police Department, which seems to regard half a dozen kids with placards and a camera as a nascent riot.

The diminution of American democracy continues. Three months ago, we were told Joe was fit and well: anyone who said otherwise was a liar. Then he bombed at the debate. The elite realised Trump might win, so now we were told Biden was gravely ill – and horribly selfish for refusing to stand aside. A coalition of hacks and politicians humiliated the poor man off the ticket, a surrender they quickly labelled “historic” and “brave”.

It was Kamala Harris’s turn for a makeover. Yesterday, she was an idiot;

today she is the second coming of Lincoln, with quirks that once made her absurd – that crazy laugh, her random use of unrelated words – rebranded as a breath of fresh air. And it seems to be working. She’s climbing fast through the polls. If Trump was crafted by Twitter, Harris has been remade by TikTok – a living meme whose every slap-down and side-eye is greeted by the press with “oh no, she didn’t!”

Of course, one thing she absolutely will not do is talk to reporters. There’s been no formal press conference since she stole Joe’s mantle, not a single sit-down interview. She declined even to speak with *Time* magazine, despite it comparing the candidate to Obama and putting a pencil portrait of Kamala on the cover that Trump admitted made her look “beautiful”.

The message is that Kamala is “normal” while her opponents are “weird”, an impression reinforced by tapping Governor Tim Walz for vice-president. He served in the military. He taught in a school. Tim – a name that evokes decency and trust – has been crowned “America’s dad”, albeit a dad who takes a weirdo position on trans rights, abortion and illegal immigration.

The one interesting task Biden gave Kamala was reducing people-flow to the border via Central America. Today, the border is a mess; conservatives call her a failed “border czar”. Democrats insist the term never applied to her because it doesn’t exist, and by implication is a Right-wing smear. Yet contributors to CNN, CBS and ABC called her a “border

czar”, or near enough, in the past, and NBC’s Lester Holt famously put it to her that “You haven’t been to the border”, as if it were part of her job. She replied with characteristic absurdity: “And I haven’t been to Europe.”

It’s rumoured that Harris worried that her brief was being mischaracterised; some speculated at the time that she was being set up by Biden’s staff to take the rap for an impossible task. The “border czar” controversy is a reminder that until very recently, she was regarded by the people now promoting her as the weak link in a frail administration.

At least her name was familiar. With Biden apparently so sick he can’t run for re-election, the US media ought to be asking: “Who is running this country?” – and the list of potential answers is very short.

A fun game to play in the car is “name a member of the Biden cabinet”. I bet you can get Harris, maybe Antony Blinken, but that’s it. Yet, think back to George W Bush and the names trip off the tongue – Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, Rice – because US politics used to be dominated by substantial, accomplished people (a few of them, contra the myth about Republicans, female and black).

Today, if the Republicans are held hostage by their base, the Democrats are run by a dwindling, ageing elite – and Kamala, who at 59 is older than you think, was granted her nomination not because she’s a “diversity hire” but because they didn’t want an open contest and she was next in line.

Southern sewage

SIR – How sad to see first-hand yesterday all the dead and rotting fish in Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, after a sewage spill by Southern Water. We’ve been advised not to swim in the sea as it is not safe for bathers or dogs.

This must never be allowed to happen again, and those company executives responsible should hang their heads in shame. Deborah Castle Little Kingshill, Buckinghamshire

SIR – Doubling compensation payable by water companies to customers receiving an inadequate service (report, August 12) isn’t the consumer-friendly policy it might seem.

What customers want is a good service, not a compensation payment when things go wrong. And anyway, the sums are small and will do little to incentivise companies to improve services. Ultimately, it will be customers who end up funding these payments through their bills, as Ofwat will inevitably have to take them into account when reviewing the next round of price increases. Chris Whitehouse London SE11

Cigar-box violin

SIR – Liz Newson (Letters, August 17) asks about the destiny of Churchill’s cigar boxes. A few years ago the Royal Air Force Club in London was given a violin made from these boxes, and it is proudly displayed in the club’s Churchill Bar near a portrait of the great man in RAF uniform.

The instrument came with comprehensive provenance and is kept in good condition, being played regularly by a member of the RAF’s Salon Orchestra. Dr Michael A Fopp Soubury, Buckinghamshire

SIR – My Australian grandfather, Major Alex Sanderson DSO MC and bar, who had been a tunneller on the Western Front, worked as an engineer consultant on the Cabinet War Rooms and was in charge of wartime bomb repair to the London Underground, based in South Kensington.

After a chat about his experiences in the First World War, Churchill presented Alex with a box of his cigars. His daughter, Janet, recalled recently that she used the empty cigar box to store her drawing crayons. Robin Sanderson Oxford

SIR – I’m at a loss to understand why some failed to acquire a Churchill autograph (Letters, August 15).

When asked by my mother to add his signature to a collection, Lady Churchill said he was very pleased to do so. Mind you, the others included Montgomery, Mountbatten and Menzies. Eddie Pugh Ryton, Co Durham

Downstairs upstairs

SIR – Ten years ago, as we were both approaching 60, my husband and I moved into an upside-down house (“‘Bungalow legs’ and other surprising things that are ageing you more quickly”, Saturday, August 17).

The kitchen, living room, television, and an amazing view of the Tamar Valley are all upstairs. Downstairs, we have bedrooms, bathrooms and the washing machine. And, of course, the front door. Therefore we run up and down the stairs, all day, every day.

This has helped us to maintain our fitness and energy. We think nothing of popping upstairs to put the kettle on. It seems a very satisfactory arrangement. Anne Hanley Gunnislake, Cornwall

America, after years of messing about, has reverted to monarchy. Welcome home, cousins.

♦ Tory HQ asked each of the leadership contenders for their “number one political hero”. All the answers were 20th century; half the candidates named an American. Patel and Jenrick went with Margaret Thatcher; Kemi with Airey Neave (a roundabout way of saying “Margaret Thatcher”). James Cleverly chose Reagan and Tugendhat preferred Eisenhower, which is intriguing. Mel Stride named Jack Kennedy, probably because neither man is a conservative.

It’s a paradox that Tory politicians, who venerate the past, act as if history began in 1945 and is dominated by America – a revolutionary experiment that went out of its way to end our empire. Where is the candidate of Disraeli, Wellington, Bismarck or Charlemagne? Boris, I suspect, would’ve answered “Cato the Younger!” Or “Nero”. Depends on his mood.

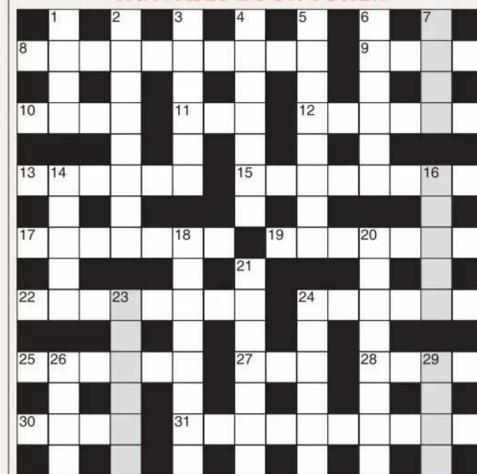
A lack of sympathy for anything older than Disney World might be explained by the worryingly high number of candidates who, when asked to choose between “tradition or progress”, replied “progress”. At this point, Charles I picked up his head and shook it sadly.

The question they all flunked was: “If you could have one superpower, what would it be?” “To calm people down,” said Priti. “To need very little sleep,” said Mel. Wrong, wrong, wrong! The correct answer is: “The Austro-Hungarian Empire.”

Puzzles, Mind Games & Herculis

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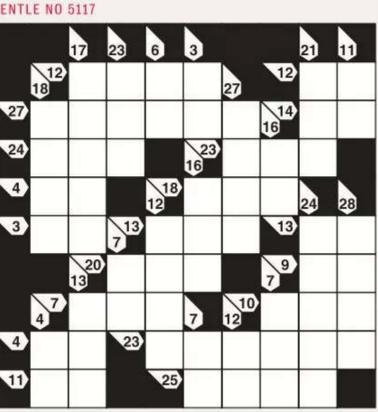
ACROSS
8 Poet who wrote about a blacksmith, an Ojibwe warrior named Hiawatha and the wreck of the Hesperus (10)
9 Latin-derived word meaning "grandfatherly" or "grandpaternal" (4)
10 An audible exhalation expressing exasperation, relief, weariness, yearning etc; or, a gentle sound of the breeze, reminiscent of said breath (4)
11 From "servant, valet, youth", word primarily for a boy or young man but also a dashing high-spirited chap; a stableman/woman; or, a workmate (3)
12 Sum that is one less than a dozen, represented as XI in Roman numerals and referred to as "legs" in bingo (6)
13 Word for buoyant; riding high in the water; or, airy, diaphanous and light, as in chiffon, gossamer or a dress (6)
15 Word for an oracular answer; a verse answering a versicle; a rejoinder or reply generally; or, an emotional reaction to a stimulus (8)
17 Act of following a fleeing suspect, hobby, occupation, race bike etc (7)
19 Dialect word for a bridlepath (7)
22 Place for the display of carpets, cars, fashion collections, furniture, kitchens or other products for sale (8)
24 Word for the roof of the mouth, thus for the sense of taste (6)
25 A day trip, field day, jaunt, picnic or other alfresco excursion (6)
27 With "mens", Latin for "guilty mind", used in law settings to refer to criminal intent or malice aforethought (3)
28 One of the nine goddesses of the arts, thus a usually female source of inspiration for an artist or poet (4)
30 An insect, such as a "clothes" tinoid, with buff or drab wings (4)
31 Australian myrtaecous evergreen eaten by the folivorous koalas (10)

DOWN
1 Fast antelope whose allies include bontebok, hartebeest and tsessebe; or, a pith helmet or sola hat (4)
2 An informal epithet, alluding to the pates often associated with age and wisdom, for boffins, bookworms, brainboxes or brainiacs (8)
3 Casual top with a buttoned placket in the traditional style of the rowers of a regatta hosted in/near a town of the same name on the Thames (6)
4 Flying phalangers, sailplanes or other animals/things that coast, drift, soar or volplane; or, in the US, swinging seats for porches (7)
5 A custard/sugar apple; or, the tropical tree on which it grows (8)
6 A belvedere or summerhouse from which to stare or wonder at the view (6)
7 A white horse or other undulation; or, poetically, the ocean or sea (4)
8 An act of cachinnation, aka a cackle, chortle or crow; or, a card or comic, likely to evoke such a chuckle (5)
9 With "alec", name for a know-all (5)
16 The achromatic hue of freshly cut or broken "ferrous"; or, a horse with a coat of this colour (4-4)
20 Herring fillets wrapped around gherkins/onions and pickled in brine (8)
21 A hug or other class in the arms; or, an act of receiving gladly (7)
23 Measure of heaviness needed in the calculation of BMI; or, something hefty, such as a dumb-bell or shot (6)
24 London costermonger whose name refers to the lustrous nacreous buttons decorating their costume (6)
26 Japanese wheat noodles often served in the "yaki" manner (4)
29 Broth, such as the "alphabet" variety synonymous with a confusing motley of words or things (4)

To enter by post Mark your envelope Herculis 13,059. Telegraph Media Group, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT. To enter by email Scan your filled-in grid, linked solutions and coupon, and send by email to: prize.puzzles@telegraph.co.uk with Herculis 13,059 in the subject field. Entries must reach us by 5pm Friday. Entry terms and conditions: telegraph.co.uk/prize-terms. Solution and winner's name next Monday.

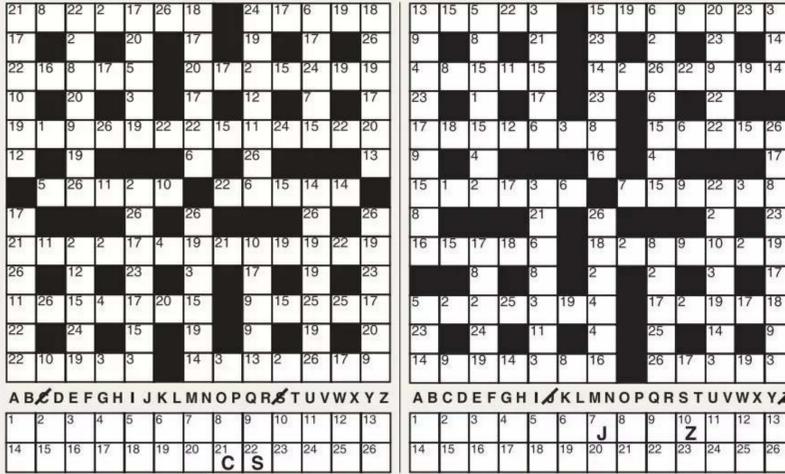
KAKURO

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



CODEWORDS

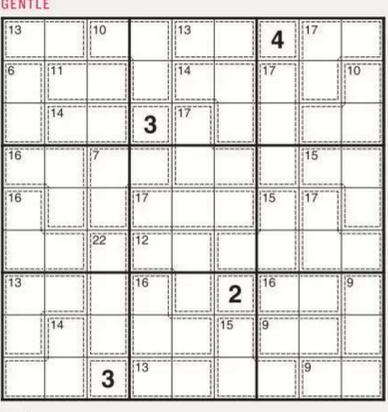
Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*



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

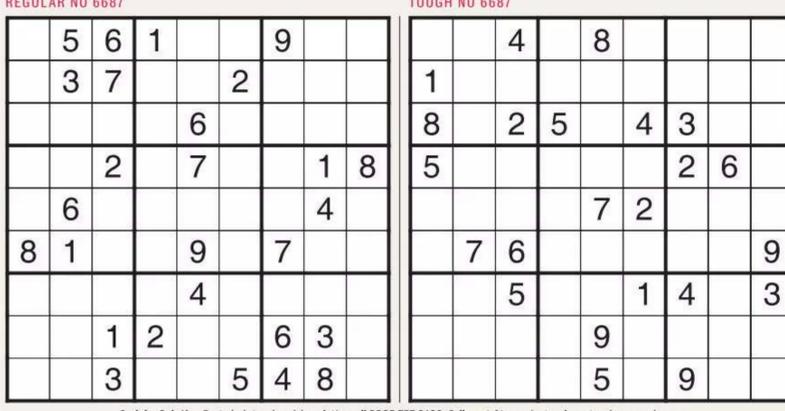
KILLER SUDOKU

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



SUDOKU

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



Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*



Up to 7 words - Word Finder, 8 - Wordsmith, 16 - Word Wizard, 24 - Word Master, 32 - Word Genius, 41 - Word Perfect

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a synonym of the word produce. *Solution tomorrow.*

- BEFIT A CAR -----
- UNARM FAUCET -----
- GET IVORIES -----

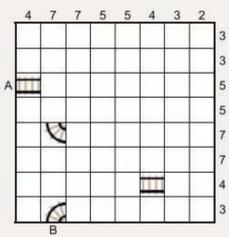
MIND GYM

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER	X BY ITSELF	+79	HALVE IT	3/4 OF THIS	-39	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	ANSWER		
84	÷12							-75		
INTERMEDIATE	12/13 OF THIS	3/4 OF THIS	-67	X BY ITSELF	75% OF THIS	-51	5/8 OF THIS	x4.1	TRIPLE IT	ANSWER
117										
ADVANCED	TRIPLE IT	-582	2/3 OF THIS	+6	X BY ITSELF	-522	÷11	x9.5	ANSWER	
16	x17									

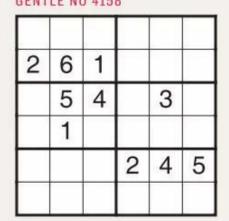
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*



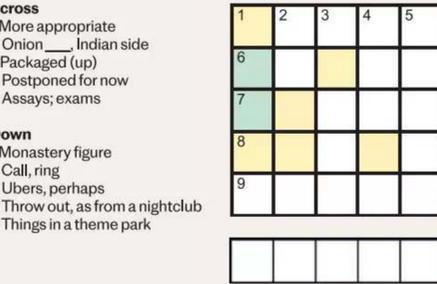
MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*



PLUSWORD

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*



Across
1 More appropriate
6 Onion ____, Indian side
7 Packaged (up)
8 Postponed for now
9 Assays; exams

Down
1 Monastery figure
2 Call, ring
3 Ubers, perhaps
4 Throw out, as from a nightclub
5 Things in a theme park

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

- OPINION, BOG, DARN, FEMALE HORSE, DIG FOR

The Telegraph PUZZLES

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THE SOLUTIONS

Friday's solutions
Train Tracks
Kakuro No 5114
Killer Sudoku
Codewords 2
PlusWord 817
Mini Sudoku No 4157
Sudoku Tough No 6685

Saturday's solutions
Codewords 2
Sudoku Tough No 6685

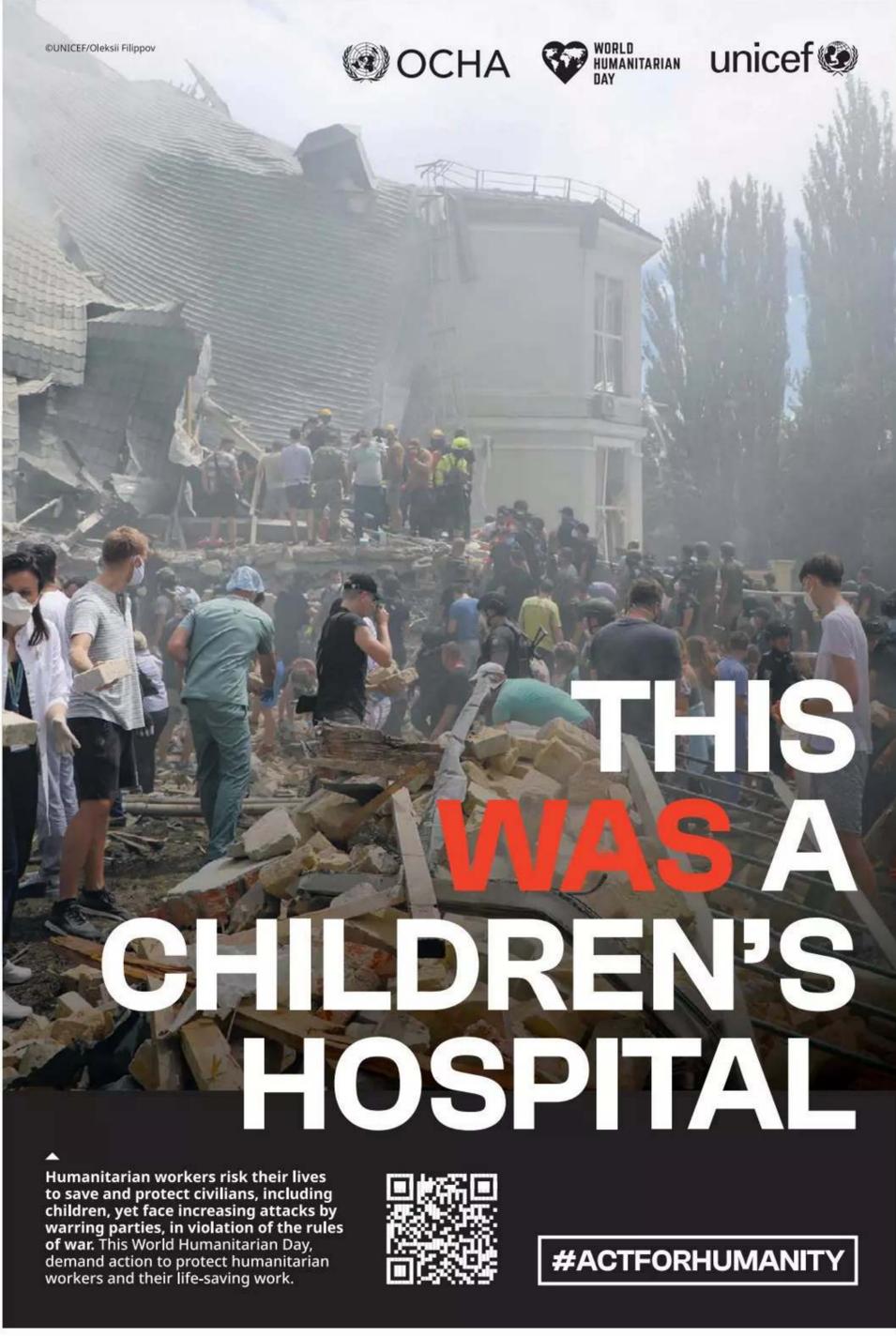
Last week's Herculis solution

Linked Solutions:
CHICKEN- FEED; DANCE FLOOR; GREY MULLET; MONEYBAGS.

Last week's winner:
S Field, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Sunday's Sudoku Regular No 6686

Today's Mind Gym
Beginner: 168 Intermediate: 738 Advanced: 133



THIS WAS A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Humanitarian workers risk their lives to save and protect civilians, including children, yet face increasing attacks by warring parties, in violation of the rules of war. This World Humanitarian Day, demand action to protect humanitarian workers and their life-saving work.



#ACTFORHUMANITY

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Business Briefing
telegraph.co.uk/business-briefing

Business



MARKETS Week-on-week change		CURRENCIES Friday close		COMMODITIES Week-on-week change	
FTSE 100	8311.41 -143.31(-1.75pc)	£\$	Rate 1.2892 Change +1.29c	GOLD	\$2506.87 (£1950) +77.68 (+3.20pc)
BIGGEST RISER Entain 638¼p +80.00 (+14.33pc)	BIGGEST FALER Rio Tinto 4742p -172½ (-3.51pc)	£€	Rate 1.1729 Change +0.45c	BRENT CRUDE	\$79.68 (October) +0.02 (+0.03pc)
DOW JONES	40659.76 +1162.22(+2.94pc)	FTSE 250	21048.91 +423.73 (+2.05pc)		
FTSE All Share	4544.97 +79.93 (+1.79pc)	FTSE All Share Yield	3.63 -0.06		
FTSE Eurotop 100	4042.26 -98.28 (-2.49pc)	Nikkei 225	38062.67 +3037.67 (+8.67pc)		
52WkHigh	8474.41	EURO STOXX 50	4840.52 +165.24 (+3.53pc)		
52WkLow	7215.76	S&P 500	5554.25 +210.09 (+3.93pc)		
Yield	3.69pc +0.02	Nasdaq	17631.72 +886.42 (+5.29pc)		
P/E Ratio	13.45 -0.06				

Trading places
London Stock Exchange Group gears up to take on US giant Bloomberg's mighty desktop business

No prizes for last place
Labour must not make the mistake of bailing out failing academia, but reform the entire set-up
Roger Bootle

Harassment crackdown risks killing office parties

Labour's plan to bring in Worker Protection Act will mean bosses now more accountable to stop abuse

By Lucy Burton

A PLAN to crack down on workplace harassment could spell the end of the office party, lawyers have warned, amid plans to make bosses more accountable for stopping abuse.

A new rule forcing companies to prove they have taken steps to prevent sexual abuse of staff is being rewritten by the Government as part of Angela Rayner's workers' rights overhaul.

The Worker Protection Act, which will come into force in October, was watered down last year after peers said that making employers take "all reasonable steps" to stop harassment could lead to an "almost infinite number of steps" for firms.

However, the Government has confirmed that it is reinstating the word "all" in a move which lawyers said will have a "significant practical impact".

James Davies, an employment partner at Lewis Silkin, said clients have been raising concerns about the implications of the changes.

While the previous wording of the rule meant companies would need to show they have taken some preventative steps, such as staff training, Mr Davies warned that "all" preventative measures could include a crackdown on boozy work events.

He said: "It means they have to be seen to go even further - such as perhaps looking at any work event where alcohol will be consumed and mitigating harassment risks. Mitigating steps could be warning staff beforehand of expected behaviour, ensuring anyone who feels uncomfortable knows how to respond and perhaps even restricting excessive alcohol consumption."

It is not just formal office parties which could be affected. Mr Davies said that many staff "don't realise that a work event is an extension of the workplace, potentially even where staff agree to go to the pub after work and it isn't organised by the employer". Nicholas Le Riche, a partner at BDB Pitmans, said the Bill will mark a "significant change"

for employers and could impact all "team building events" and not just after work drinks. Even if no harassment has happened, he warned that under the new system employers could still be liable if they cannot prove there are enough protections in place.

Companies are now scrambling to prepare for the change by checking the procedures of all third-party suppliers and putting staff on sexual harassment training courses.

One training presentation, seen by *The Telegraph*, tells staff that "grabbing, groping, kissing, fondling, or brushing against another's body" as well as "sitting or gesturing sexually" are examples of unwanted sexual behaviour.

"Do not sexually harass a colleague," the training document states. It adds that "repeated requests for dates" and "suggestive looks, staring or leering" are not acceptable.

Boardrooms are preparing for the change months after Parliament's Treasury committee raised concerns that women in finance are afraid to speak out about abuses in the workplace because of perceptions that the City is a "man's world".

Women who have faced harassment at work believe that their HR teams are merely "focused on protecting the firm rather than the victims", MPs warned in a report reviewing how to tackle sexism in the City.

The report came amid high-profile allegations of sexual misconduct against hedge fund chief Crispin Odey, whose company has been shut down in the wake of the scandal. Lawyers for Mr Odey have "strenuously" denied the allegations against him.

Labour has promised the biggest overhaul of workers' rights in a generation, with its crackdown on workplace harassment part of a package of measures that have spooked business owners.

The reforms include protection from unfair dismissal from day one, ending zero-hours contracts, banning "fire and rehire" practices and increasing the minimum wage.

The Government is on track to give workers greater rights by Oct 12, meeting its promise of delivering within 100 days of entering power, though it is not yet clear what exactly will be tabled as law.



Ted Baker summer collection. The company was founded in Glasgow in 1988 by Ray Kelvin, who named the brand after his 'alter ego'

Ted Baker to shut final UK stores as Ashley rescue deal stalls

By Daniel Woolfson

TED BAKER is to close its last remaining stores on UK high streets amid uncertainty over a potential rescue deal involving Mike Ashley.

The retailer is expected to shut 31 stores this week, putting around 500 jobs at risk, as a potential licensing deal with Mr Ashley's Frasers Group stalls.

Ted Baker's UK holding company, No Ordinary Designer Label (NODL), fell into administration in March, leading to the closure of 15 stores and the loss of 245 jobs a month later.

Its US parent, Authentic Brands Group, the owner of Ted Baker's intellectual property, said at the time it had built up a "significant" amount of arrears, while sales had been disappointing.

Both Frasers Group, which owns Sports Direct, and Next were reported to be eyeing separate deals with the chain following its administration.

According to Sky News, Frasers had been discussing a deal with Authentic that would have also included Reebok,

31

Ted Baker shops that are expected to close this week, putting 500 jobs at risk. Fifteen stores closed in March

which it also owns. A deal with Mike Ashley would have seen Ted Baker join the likes of Flannels, Sofa.com, Game and Jack Willis in Frasers' portfolio of brands.

Ted Baker was founded in Glasgow in 1988 by the entrepreneur Ray Kelvin, who named the brand after his "alter ego", described at one point by the company as an "all-round sportsman and the consort of princesses and Hollywood beauties".

Mr Kelvin steered the company's listing on the London Stock Exchange in 1997, but was forced to step down in 2019 amid claims he acted inappropriately towards colleagues, allegations he denied.

A string of profit warnings and further executive departures followed, with the pandemic heaping economic pressure on the business. The company left the stock market in 2022 when it was bought by Authentic in a £211m deal.

Before the collapse of NODL, Ted Baker employed around 1,000 people in the UK across 46 stores.

Ted Baker's administrators at advisory firm Teneo and Frasers declined to comment. Authentic was contacted for comment.

Boohoo in supplier stand-off after questioning quality of clothing

By Ben Marlow and Luke Barr

BOOHOO is in a stand-off with suppliers after the struggling fast-fashion seller withheld payments over claims the quality of clothing was too poor.

It is understood the online budget specialist has targeted manufacturers it alleges are responsible for producing a high proportion of faulty goods, and are refusing to pay them until the problems have been resolved.

A source close to Boohoo described the decision to withhold payments as part of "a three-month programme of work to improve quality following a marked increase in faulty goods being delivered by a small group of suppliers".

The same source claimed: "These involved very high levels of faulty goods" and Boohoo was "contractually entitled" to withhold money.

The episode adds to challenges facing Mahmud Kamani, the executive chairman, as he grapples with poor trading, competition from China, and a share price that has plummeted more than 90pc from its pandemic peaks.

Boohoo announced in May that annual losses had widened to £160m from £90m the year before, and turnover had plunged 17pc to £1.5bn.

Analysts have flagged the retailer's rate of returns among its list of troubles, although it fell slightly in its most recent results. The Manchester-based

company also faces crucial debt negotiations in the coming months as it attempts to convince lenders to refinance £300m of existing loans.

Both Boohoo and its creditors have hired specialist debt advisers to oversee the discussions, a move that analysts at Shore Capital described as "concerning". It "signals perhaps a weaker financial constitution", the broker said. However, the discussions "could provide greater reassurance around liquidity and finance costs", if they are successful, it added.

The company has a £325m unsecured overdraft, which it has drawn down fully and must be repaid in two instalments over the next 18 months;

10

Clothing manufacturers that Boohoo is in disagreement with - out of an estimated 500 around the world

£75m must be repaid next year after banks refused Boohoo's request for an extension. The remaining £250m is due in 2026. Talks with its banks come after the company swung from a positive cash position of £6m to £95m of net debt in the most recent financial year - equivalent to a net cash outflow of £101m, though company insiders point

out it had £200m of cash on its balance sheet as of February.

Boohoo was accused of squeezing suppliers in a BBC documentary last year. A *Panorama* investigation claimed an undercover reporter working at the company's Manchester headquarters had seen evidence of staff pressuring suppliers to drive prices down despite a pledge to overhaul its practices.

Mr Kamani had promised to "make everything better" after the company faced criticism in 2020 over poor working conditions at some of the factories that its clothes were sourced from.

Boohoo told the BBC it had experienced significant cost inflation, which it had absorbed in order to maintain

affordable prices for customers. It is understood the current supplier disagreement involves around 10 clothing manufacturers out of an estimated 500 around the world. Most of Boohoo's suppliers are in China, but it works with at least 40 factories in the UK, the majority of which are in Leicester.

A spokesman for Boohoo said: "Boohoo group is committed to delivering product of the highest quality to its customers. We are currently talking with a very small number of supplier partners where, unfortunately, the product supplied was not of a high enough standard. We are working collaboratively with them to remedy the situation and ensure this does not happen again."

BT raises the alarm over lift landlines

By James Warrington

LIFT manufacturers have been told by BT to test their equipment ahead of a switchover to digital landlines, amid concerns outages could leave the public trapped between floors.

Alarms in lifts are among critical services that often still run on the UK's old copper landline network, which is to be replaced with a digital alternative. BT has warned

that the analogue network, which is more than a century old, is becoming "ever more unreliable, prone to faults and difficult to maintain".

In a letter to critical national infrastructure customers this week, Bas Burger, chief executive of BT Business, said: "We understand that your organisation is using technology that is still connected to the PSTN [Public Switched Telephone Network]. This might be a

traditional landline, but it could also be anything from lift alarms to medical equipment. As this ageing network becomes increasingly outdated and fragile, the risk to your critical services grows."

There are 300,000 lifts in the UK, with 180,000 still linked to the copper network. The Lift and Escalator Industry Association, which represents manufacturers, did not respond to a request for comment.



Business

Britain's failing universities must be allowed to go bust



ROGER BOOTLE

Labour should not cough up more money to bail out failing academia, but look at reform of entire set-up

Last week umpteen thousands of teenagers received their A-level and BTEC results. Of course, many secured the necessary grades to go to university, but quite a few did not. They now face an anxious time. They and their parents deserve our sympathy. Yet there is a major issue for public policy that is of more significance than these individual experiences. Are we sending too many young people to university? This question has recently acquired some urgency from the fact that a number of universities are apparently

in dire financial straits and are demanding government bailouts to be able to continue to function. In its so far short life, when confronted with demands for money, this Government has not covered itself in glory. It has given high pay awards to various public sector workers, including in the NHS, without securing any productivity improvements, even though in much of the public sector the levels of productivity are dire. Similarly, the Government has recently given in to striking train drivers who are going to get a bumper pay rise, again without agreeing to any improvements in productivity, despite the fact that working practices on the trains can be described as Byzantine at best. The last thing the Government should now do is bail out failing universities. In reality, we need fewer of them, and those that are currently failing should be allowed to go bust. Don't get me wrong. I am not bashing our universities overall. Quite the opposite. We are fortunate to have

some of the best universities in the world and they make a major contribution to our national and cultural life and to the economy. The current crisis in higher education derives from the earlier over-expansion of the sector, linked to the pretence that a degree certificate automatically improves both the life chances of its holder and the productivity of the economy, regardless of academic standards and of what knowledge or skills are acquired on the course. Some of the most serious defects of our higher education regime derive from the decision in 1992 to merge the former polytechnics with the university sector. Many of the old polytechnics did a very good job, concentrating on practical subjects and practical skills. Since then, there has been a proliferation of poor quality degrees in subjects that are neither truly academic nor technical. To fund this money-go-round, British students are charged a fee of £9,250, on which universities

apparently cannot make ends meet. They aim to cover the difference by recruiting large numbers of foreign students who pay £20,000 each. Owing to changes in visa requirements, the number of such foreign students applying to British universities has recently fallen, thereby accentuating universities' funding crisis. It is rumoured that the Government's response to the crisis is going to include allowing universities to charge British students more. Yet the amounts British students currently have to pay, which universities find too little, most students find far too much. They are burdened with debt at the beginning of their working life. In practice, of course, much of this debt is never repaid. It is written off by the state. So the ultimate paymaster for wasteful degrees is the taxpayer. This disastrous situation is presided over by a cadre of university administrators on ludicrously inflated salaries, often pursuing neither academic excellence nor the public interest. The financial cost of these arrangements is bad enough but what is worse is the waste of many young people's time at a critical phase of their lives on "studying" ridiculous subjects of minimal interest and even less use. Accordingly, there is a substantial economic cost to the over-expansion of universities, namely the removal of substantial numbers of young people from the workforce and the concomitant loss of three years or more, during which they could be building up valuable amounts of experience and skills. I am sure that many readers will protest that I don't seem to understand that education is about more than matters economic and financial. Yet I do understand this. It is wonderful to study a subject out of love and enjoyment alone. Moreover, there are many successful people who have begun their adult life studying some abstruse subject of little apparent practical value before going on to acquire valuable skills. Indeed, traditional academic subjects such as history or philosophy can foster a training of the mind which is useful later in more practical pursuits. But this is a far cry from the pitiful intellectual diet offered to so many of our students in our weaker

universities, when love of the subject doesn't get a look-in and minds are not trained but numbed. The opportunity to study a subject out of love and interest does not have to be restricted to three years at a residential university between the ages of 18 and 21. Plenty of people embark on such study in later life, whether simply to pursue an interest or to enhance their career prospects. Special commendation must go to the excellent Birkbeck College, part of London University, much of whose formal tuition occurs in the evenings, so that students can pursue their studies in their own time, while holding down a full-time job. The current crisis in university funding should act as a spur to the new Government to take a step back and think seriously about reform. Just coughing up more money to smooth matters over, which seems to be one of its primary instincts, is not the answer. There are not many areas of policy where introducing structural reforms will save public money, improve labour supply and enhance young people's lives. This is one of them. There needs to be a fundamental rethink which involves fewer students going to university, an improvement in academic standards at the lower end and a shift towards technical subjects which can provide useful skills for individuals and benefit the economy. Roger Bootle is senior independent adviser to Capital Economics. roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com

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Drum solo
A vendor struggles under the weight of a dozen steel drums that he has managed to stack on to the back of his tricycle. The man was photographed on a back street in Old Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.



Fragile GPS is massive vulnerability for the West – and Putin knows it



ANDREW ORŁOWSKI

Military and governments are aware of the risks of relying on the US satellite-based navigation network

What would happen if we lost control of time? This isn't a trick question – or a metaphysical joke. The modern world today relies on our ability to tame it: to tell the time very accurately in different places at once. But right now, it's hanging by the most precarious thread. That's because so many of our critical systems get their time from satellite networks, of which GPS is the best known. Built by the US military to

guide missiles precisely, but opened up for civilian use two decades ago, this gives us location information powering the SatNavs and maps in our cars and phones. But it also ensures many critical infrastructure systems can read the same clock. Without this accurate timing information, the energy grid would falter and collapse, as the system needs to maintain a constant frequency. Data centres wouldn't be able to share computing loads. Any radio or broadcast network also needs to work off the same clock, as do financial trading systems. Of course, synchronising time didn't matter at all until the first long distance rail journeys. A clock in Taunton could tell a different time to a clock in Paddington, and we didn't care if the sundials told different stories, as of course they do. (Oxford remains five minutes behind London). In 1840, "railway time" was introduced. Today we derive the most accurate time from

the National Physics Laboratory in Teddington, home of the world's first atomic clock. But many of our critical technology systems use the free PNT (positioning, navigation and timing) information provided by America's GPS satellites. The National Grid, for example, gets its time from GPS. But as Admiral West, Lord West of Spithead, explained to Westminster two years ago: "The impact of the loss of PNT is almost existential. Banking, trade transactions and all areas of transport and food supply would all be affected and in complete chaos." He explained that the signal beamed down to us on Earth is a mere wisp of electromagnetic energy: "The strength of those signals is less than some of the cosmic signals coming from the stars. They can therefore be intercepted and adjusted very easily; the Chinese and Russians have already done this." Just ask the Finns. Last week healthcare systems and mobile phones in Finland went on the fritz again.

Some 350 flights a day over Europe are finding their navigation systems jammed on at least part of their journey. In March, GPS on a plane carrying Grant Shapps, the former defence minister, was jammed. Russia is probing the spectrum. According to Markus Jonsson, a pseudonymous researcher who is closely followed by our own defence officials, GPS interference has increased threefold since the start of the summer. In addition to jamming, feeding duff information into the satellite network, or "spoofing", is relatively easy to do, and isn't immediately detectable. Drifting slightly off course proved fatal for the passengers of Korean Air Lines Flight 007, in 1983 when it strayed and was shot down by a paranoid Russian air defence command. Ironically, that was the catalyst for the US government to pledge to open up its nascent GPS network to civilian use one day. Then there's the threat of space weather,

which would knock out everyone's PNT satellites. So what to do? Well, a Plan B to the Americans' GPS would help. In 2020, the UK bought into satellite upstart OneWeb, alongside Indian tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal. OneWeb had a great roadmap ahead of it for accurate next-generation PTN, and our investment was an expression of bold, British post-Brexit confidence. But Whitehall hated it. SWI doesn't understand Space. "I cannot satisfy myself that this investment meets the requirements of value for money," Sam Beckett, the Department for Business's accounting officer, concluded – a classic pennywise, pound-foolish Whitehall view that often prevails. OneWeb was acquired by Eutelsat, which earlier this year scaled back the PNT capabilities of a network that it doesn't really know what to do with. No wonder Mittal looked like that cat that had eaten the cream last week after buying 25pc of BT. OneWeb is

flying, and now covers India. But thankfully, deep state isn't oblivious to the risks of relying on GPS. The consequences of failure were explored by government scientists in an excellent report in 2018. And as a result we've invested in some futuristic alternatives. In May, an optical quantum clock designed and made in Oxford by Infleqion, made its first flight in May. It's an unjamable timepiece, the first of its kind to go airborne anywhere in the world. Commercial models hit the market next year, and the American firm's UK president Tim Ballance explains that these will be miniaturised, so every plane can carry one, replacing reliance GPS. The timepiece is impervious to space storms and Russian hackers. With GPS, we've built technological castles on sand, and vast markets on the castles – and only through sheer luck have they not collapsed. Nailing down the most precarious thing in the world – time – may save yet save us.

UK plc needs the Conservatives to become a real opposition – and hold Labour to account



LUCY BURTON

If neither party manages to get it right Reform UK could thrive and this is not good news for business

It's hardly a surprise that bosses are set to snub the Conservative Party Conference this autumn. Over lunch in a club run by Tory donor Richard Caring, one City chief who used to back the party chews over its spectacular downfall. The Tories have embarrassed themselves by

becoming preoccupied with ideology over facts, he complains, so why bother rubbing elbows with them at their annual gathering? Hours later, a lifelong Tory donor and business chief tells me he gets "daily emails asking me to come to the conference" even though he has already told the party he isn't going. Once a self-described "dyed-in-the-wool" Tory supporter, the finance veteran has lost interest. Some of the biggest names in the City, traditionally a Conservative Party stronghold, are expected to be missing from this year's event. The party is now as irrelevant as the 60p iceberg lettuce which outlasted Liz Truss. The Conservatives have lost their status as the party of business, and bosses aren't going to waste their time engaging while

the Tories lick their wounds and work out who should be the next leader. People are bored of the drama. Three in five Britons polled by Ipsos have said they don't care about the Conservative leadership race. For the Conservatives to rebuild their credibility, an obvious place to start would be by patching things up with UK plc. So what's the game plan? "Essentially, we're waiting for things to go wrong for business," reveals one Tory insider. Wait for the disappointment to set in and then swoop. Right. Following its worst general election result in history, complacency is an odd strategy. What if things don't "go wrong"? Rachel Reeves has warned that tough decisions will be made in her maiden Budget this autumn, hinting that tax rises are on the

way, but unpopular moves could be partially offset by a growing economy and falling borrowing costs. And what could have been an explosive meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, unions and business groups to discuss Labour's flagship workers' rights reforms last week seemed to do the job of reassuring both sides about the plans, even if bosses are on edge about the timeline of the changes. The Conservatives could be waiting some time for things to backfire so spectacularly that business leaders start longing for them to be back in power. This is not the time for shadow ministers to lean back and sling mud from the sidelines. In many ways Labour has made an inauspicious start in its dealings with unions, typified by train drivers going on strike two days after being handed a pay rise. If neither party gets this right, Reform UK could be handed an opportunity which would be good news for almost nobody in business. The Conservatives need to act fast. There are Labour policies which businesses fear, a plan for workers to

have full employment rights from the first day in a job being among them, which the Tories could easily take advantage of. Older workers will be asking questions as winter fuel payments for pensioners are slashed. Future bosses on the political fence now could end up driving the Conservatives to a successful future if a credible alternative for business is tabled in the coming years. We are a long way from that reality. Influential corporate figures who were desperate for change repeatedly refer to Labour ministers as the only adults in the room. The next Tory leader will need to work hard to prove them wrong and rebuild trust. Businesses started to turn after the Brexit vote and everything seems to have snowballed since. Maudlin humour set in months before this year's election as the City prepared for the Conservatives' crushing defeat. Hours before the last Tory Winter Ball at Whitehall's former War Office, a senior banker asked a colleague why anybody who isn't still a big donor would bother attending. "It's the last party on the

Titanic," came the reply. That same "why bother" attitude is bouncing around business circles now. Corporate affairs specialists are advising their clients to only go to the "inward-facing" Conservative Party Conference if they have a specific reason to. "They're asking, should we go? To which my answer is: no, because it is just totally pointless," the head of one public affairs firm told the *Financial Times*. Britain needs the Tories to be a real opposition – and fast. The Government will do a much better job if it has a party holding it to account, and business leaders will take the Tories more seriously if it does. Without a decent replacement snapping at their heels, Labour could slip far away from its ambitions in the same way the Tories did. Instead of bickering with each other until one of Labour's policies backfires, the Conservatives should be putting together smart alternatives. The business leaders who do attend next month's conference could at least influence what those options might look like.

City launches challenge to usurp Bloomberg

London Stock Exchange Group takes on US financial juggernaut's mighty desktop business.

By Michael Bow

When the BBC's hit banking drama *Industry* wanted to capture the feel of a City trading floor, it turned to a ubiquitous financial computer known as a Bloomberg terminal to bring its portrayal of complex financial manoeuvres to life.

The retro orange and black screens of Bloomberg's desktops, used daily by hundreds of thousands of bankers and traders, have become an easy shorthand to convey the world of complex finance – and made the business's 82-year-old American founder and owner Michael Bloomberg a billionaire.

But now his US financial juggernaut is facing a challenge from a three centuries-old British institution hoping to steal its crown.

The London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), the owner of London's stock market dating back to the 1800s, is gearing up to take on Bloomberg's mighty desktop business.

LSEG is working with US tech behemoth Microsoft to revamp its own terminal offering in a bid to usurp its transatlantic rival.

Led by chief executive David Schwimmer, a former Goldman Sachs executive and protégé of Lloyd Blankfein, LSEG hopes to make its newly minted "Workspace" terminal the battering ram to dislodge Bloomberg.

Microsoft has taken a 4pc stake in LSEG and been given a board seat as part of the tie-up. Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said the products will allow banks to do "more with less". Shareholders have backed Schwimmer's initiative, sending shares up 40pc since the Microsoft announcement and two-fold since the 55-year-old took over the FTSE 100 group six years ago.

By the end of the year most of LSEG's customers will be using Workspace, with 2025 the pivotal year as more financiers start logging on to put the software through its paces.

Yet judging who will win the slugfest between LSEG and Bloomberg over the next few years is hard to tell because of the number of so-called "Bloomberg killers" which litter the financial technology graveyard.

Bloomberg, which churns out \$13.5bn (£10.5bn) of annual revenues every year and has 350,000 subscribers, holds a pre-eminent position in data and trading services through its terminal product, officially known as Bloomberg Professional Services. The desktop, or terminal, business is highly lucrative to data groups such as LSEG, Bloomberg, Factset and S&P because it is the primary way employees in financial markets do their jobs. Bloomberg and LSEG's portals offer a one-stop shop for data, trading and news.

Many have tried to dislodge Bloomberg in the past – but with the might of Microsoft behind it, some experts believe LSEG is the most credible threat to Bloomberg in years.

"Bloomberg has probably been regarded as a superior product (in the past)... but we have seen areas where the gap has narrowed," says RBC financial analyst Ben Bathurst.

"One of the criticisms of the previous versions of the Eikon terminal was that it could be a bit clunky but if you're embedded in the Microsoft product suite that should be pretty seamless," he added.

Bloomberg and LSEG compete for a share of the booming market for data and analytics which underpins the trading of shares, equities and currencies across the globe.

According to the Financial Conduct Authority, the pair between them account for the large majority of the £3bn of data sales made to UK financial firms. The duo's terminal businesses also account for three-quarters of the \$18bn global financial desktop market, according to consultancy Burton-Taylor. They both have a lower share of



'Desktop terminals are the centre of the financial [trader's] workflow, making them incredibly sticky'

Michael Bloomberg, the founder and owner of Bloomberg. The company has 350,000 subscribers

the market by desktop users, at 34pc. LSEG is a relatively new entrant to the desktop market, having inherited Eikon through a \$27bn deal to buy rival provider Refinitiv in 2019.

Eikon, which was originally owned by news agency Thomson Reuters, had historically played second fiddle to Bloomberg, with the platform's clunky interface struggling to win users. Perhaps in a sign of its silver medallist reputation, Schwimmer is retiring the Eikon brand next year for good.

Bloomberg is the world's biggest desktop company by revenue but this masks the fact it makes more money from fewer users.

According to figures from Burton-Taylor, Bloomberg made \$9.1bn from its terminal in 2023 while LSEG made \$5bn (Bloomberg's figure also includes

\$30,000

Fixed price of a Bloomberg terminal per year or between \$2,200 and \$2,700 a month. There are no discounts

the sales from other products such as its news division). This is despite Bloomberg boasting fewer terminal licences than LSEG, at 350,000 versus 400,000. In part this reflects Bloomberg's refusal to negotiate on price. Terminals are offered at a fixed price – \$30,000 per year or between \$2,200 and \$2,700 per month – with no discounts for larger orders or big banks. To crack Bloomberg's hold over the market, Bathurst suggested LSEG could charge a lower price and focus on specific parts of the financial ecosystem to lure more users away from the Bloomberg terminal.

"Fixed income users appear very reliant on Bloomberg terminals and could be more difficult for LSEG to dislodge," he says. "But in foreign exchange, wealth management, equities and banking, LSEG's pitch is

more competitive and compelling. It's about getting as many of the things that the individual participant cares about to be good if not better than Bloomberg to create the compulsion to want to switch from one product to the other."

Microsoft could give LSEG an advantage over Bloomberg in a push to unbundle its data services away from the Workspace desktop.

As generative-AI becomes more powerful, LSEG executives sense an opportunity to sell data to banks and fund managers who might want to feed the data through their own software programs, rather than use it via LSEG's Workspace.

"The concept of a desktop is outdated. We don't think about it that way anymore," says Dean Berry, who leads the Workspace division.

"We need to offer customers an open framework. We don't believe in the other models of being closed. Customers want an open way to interact with our services. A customer might want to write their own code to analyse our data and we will give them their own tooling to do that."

The most concrete plan so far is for LSEG to merge the Workspace terminal into Microsoft Teams and Microsoft 365 applications.

The idea is that funds and banks who rely on Microsoft operating systems – ie the vast majority – will find the terminal more appealing than Bloomberg if it works alongside popular banking applications like Microsoft Excel and Powerpoint.

But LSEG still has an uphill mountain to climb if it wants to crack Bloomberg's terminal prowess.

There are many factors at play that may make dislodging Bloomberg difficult. Although the terminal offers all manner of services – including a classified ads section where super-rich financiers advertise beach houses and elite cars – the majority of subscribers appear to pay the \$30,000 per year fee for its popular messaging app, Instant

Bloomberg. Around 30m messages ping around the messaging system per day and although Wall Street banks have attempted to crush IB's popularity with the launch of their own system Symphony, another "Bloomberg killer" messaging app, the product has failed to take off.

The terminal's indications of interest tool, known as IOIs, also provides electronic messages from brokerage

firms flashing up how much stock they have to buy or sell. Without this, some traders say they would find it difficult to do their jobs. "Desktop terminals are the centre of the financial professional's workflow, making them incredibly sticky," says Burton-Taylor's managing director Robert Iati.

Bloomberg, which declined to comment, is also not resting on its laurels. Around 85pc of its users now

have a Bloomberg Anywhere licence, meaning they can access a terminal on their own hardware. The US business has also been pushing to integrate AI into the terminal and has 350 research scientists globally working on this.

The winner of the LSEG and Bloomberg showdown is unlikely to be known for years. By then, Schwimmer may be hoping to get Workspace a lead role in the next TV banking drama.

Potholes hurt economy, warn factory bosses

By Tim Wallace

POTHOLES on Britain's roads are so bad they are damaging the economy, factory bosses have warned.

Roads have deteriorated over the past decade, according to the majority of manufacturers polled by industry group Make UK, with A-roads and motorways the most urgently in need of upgrades.

Poor roads affect business decisions on investment, the report said, as well as adding to the transport costs companies face and their ability to get staff.

Improving transport is critical to boosting the economy, Make UK said, and manufacturers are particularly dependent on the road network. The report said: "Manufacturers have highlighted the need to repair existing road networks with a focus on A-roads and motorways as a key first step."

The survey found that 54pc of manufacturers believe the national road network has got worse in the past decade. It is most severe in Yorkshire and the Humber, where 68pc of businesses said roads have deteriorated; and in East Anglia, where 67pc agreed. By contrast London is



A-roads and motorways are said to be the most urgently in need of upgrades

the only region where a majority – 78pc – said roads have improved over 10 years. Only 6pc believe things have got worse.

The group said: "If the new Government's mission is to promote growth, there's no better place to start than with infrastructure. By improving the quality of connections, physical and digital, we will expand our capacity to deliver consistent, genuine economic growth that benefits all participants in

our society. Manufacturers also say that better quality infrastructure can make the UK more attractive for foreign direct investment.

"Whilst other factors are involved – such as the availability of labour and skills, access to finance and the state's long-term ambitions to support industry – investors will consider the existing quality of infrastructure as well as the pipeline of projects for the future."

It comes after the Government cut funding for some rail and road projects as Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, sought ways to plug a £22bn black hole in Britain's finances. Almost six in 10 said cutting back the high speed rail project last year was the wrong decision.

"The cancellation of this project sends the wrong message to businesses, potential investors and people in certain places," said Make UK.

A Department for Transport spokesman said: "We are aware of the poor state of our local roads and are committed to tackling this head on and to renewing the road network, including by helping local authorities to fix up to one million more potholes a year."

The Telegraph

1960s

According to *Blower*

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Alain Delon

Magnetic French film star described as ‘the most handsome man in the world’ who projected a moral ambivalence on screen and in life

ALAIN DELON, who has died aged 88, was one of the most prominent and magnetic French actors of the post-war era; his dazzling good looks and his lack of formal training sometimes led people to underrate his talents as an actor, yet there were few better equipped to portray enigmatic and morally corrupted youth.

At the height of his powers, Delon, with his piercing blue eyes, high cheekbones and delinquent vitality, was considered, as *Time* magazine described him, “the most handsome man in the world”.

He was often described as “the French Sinatra” and, as a young man, told friends that the great American crooner, notorious for his underworld associations, was his idol. “I can’t open a drawer,” Delon’s first wife Nathalie complained in a French television documentary, “without finding a gun in it.”

Delon was seldom troubled by self-doubt. He was one of the first international stars to “brand” himself, first with a range of fragrances, clothes and sunglasses, and later by allowing the marketing of “Alain Delon” cigarettes.

He drifted into acting in the early 1950s, working with many New Wave directors and appearing in international productions. He possessed an icy impassivity, projecting a moral ambivalence that enabled him to switch from sadist to seducer with barely a twitch – a duality which Jean-Luc Godard exploited when he cast Delon as a pair of polar opposite twins in *Nouvelle Vague* (1990).

His breakthrough came with René Clément’s stylish *Plein Soleil* (1960), an adaptation of Patricia Highsmith’s *The Talented Mr Ripley*, in which Delon’s portrayal of the psychopathic charmer who attempts to take on the personality of his victim seemed to draw on something deep in his own psychological make-up.

The part called for an actor capable of conveying unusual levels of amorality, bravado and self-love. They had come to the right man.

He also gave tremendous performances as Tancredi, the Prince’s son, in Visconti’s *Il Gattopardo* (“The Leopard”) and in Jean-Pierre Melville’s *Le Samourai* (1967), in which he gave a masterclass in the art of expressionless menace as the hitman whose latest contract killing is witnessed by a beautiful nightclub pianist (played by Cathy Rosier).

In 1968, Delon and his wife Nathalie found themselves at the centre of scandal when their Yugoslav friend and bodyguard, Stefan Markovic, was found shot dead in a sack on a rubbish tip. The subsequent investigation threatened to implicate many of France’s most prominent celebrities and politicians, including President Georges Pompidou and his wife, in a scandal of sex, drugs and murder.

Although Delon was eventually cleared of all suspicion, the crime was never solved and the whiff of corruption lingered. Many predicted that his career would not survive.

Instead, he exploited the scandal and boosted his stock among



Delon as Tom Ripley in René Clément’s *Plein Soleil*, an adaptation of Patricia Highsmith’s *The Talented Mr Ripley*; right, with Jean-Paul Belmondo in Jacques Deray’s *Borsalino*



Le Figaro, “I lived off my looks, supported by ladies of the quartier.” He also took odd jobs, including working as a porter in Les Halles market in Paris and as a butcher’s assistant.

Moving to Marseille, he befriended a young actor who invited him to the Cannes Film Festival, where he was noticed by his future agent, Georges Beaume. “Everybody in Cannes stared at the boy,” said Beaume. Delon’s striking good looks won him several offers and he accepted a small part in Yves Allegret’s *Quand la Femme S’en Mele* (“Send a Woman When the Devil Falls”, 1957) followed by *Sois Belle Et Tais-Toi* (“Be Beautiful But Shut Up”, 1958).

His first lead was in *Christine* (1958), opposite Romy Schneider. After *Plein Soleil* he was Rocco, the self-sacrificing brother, a sensitive young boxer in Visconti’s *Rocco e i suoi Fratelli* (“Rocco and his Brothers”, 1960) and appeared on stage, with Romy Schneider, in John Ford’s *Tis Pity She’s a Whore*, also directed by Visconti. Delon was engaged for three years to the actress; they remained close friends until her death in 1982.

In 1961 he had a one-night stand with Nico, the German singer, who bore Delon a son, Ari. Delon denied paternity, but his mother Edith adopted Ari when he was two and brought him up; the actor cut off almost all contact with his mother, although he was by her side at the end of her life, in 1995.

Also in 1961 he teamed up with René Clément in *Che Gioia Vivere*, (“The Joy

of Living”) followed by an appearance with Brigitte Bardot in *Les Amours célèbres*. The following year he starred in Antonioni’s brilliant *L’Eclisse* as a glamorous stock market trader who falls into a giddy and anxious affair with Monica Vitti.

In *Melodie En Sous-Sol* (“Any Number Can Win”, 1963), he and Jean Gabin played two thieves plotting to rob a Riviera casino. In 1964 he produced and acted in *Les Felins* (“Joy House”) later establishing his own film company, Adel Productions.

In 1965 Delon moved to Hollywood, where he appeared in several films that failed to do full justice to his talents. Returning to Europe in 1967, he was Marianne Faithfull’s love interest in *Girl on a Motorcycle*, a film that won him a large female following in Britain.

His devilish reputation enhanced by the Markovic scandal, Delon went on to appear in numerous money-spinning gangster films, including Jean Herman’s *Jeff* and Henri Verneuil’s *Le Clan des Siciliens* (1969). In Jacques Deray’s *Borsalino* (1970) he was a small-time gangster who, with Jean-Paul Belmondo, becomes king of the Marseille underworld, and in Melville’s film noir *Le Cercle Rouge* (1970), he played a small time crook recently released from prison who joins up with Gian-Maria Volonté’s escaped career criminal to plan a raid on a jewellery store.

By the 1970s, Delon was France’s biggest star. In *La Veuve Couderc* (1970) he played a handsome drifter hired by a frumpy widow (Simone Signoret) to work on her farm; in *Un Flic* (also known as “Dirty Money”, 1972) he played opposite Catherine Deneuve as a police commissioner on the trail of a drug syndicate. Other credits at this time include *Zorro* (1974) and Michael Winner’s *Scorpio* (1973).

In the mid-1970s, he had an unhappy spell as a boxing entrepreneur, promoting his friend Carlos Monzon, the Argentine middleweight, who ended up getting 11 years for the defenestration of his wife. Delon won critical acclaim for his performance in the title role of Joseph Losey’s *Mr Klein* (1976), a sinister profiteer who specialises in buying art on the cheap from Jews fleeing Vichy France, only to find that a Jewish stranger is slowly taking over his identity. The film, which Delon also produced, won a César for best picture.

In 1981, Delon turned to directing with *Pour la Peau d’un Flic* (“For a Cop’s Hide”), in which he played a down-on-his-luck private eye hired to track down a young blind woman. In 1984 he co-starred with Jeremy Irons as Baron de Charlus in Volker Schlöndorff’s acclaimed *Swann in Love*.

The same year he won his only César, for his performance as a middle-aged garage owner, a slovenly drunk captivated by an alluring stranger, in *Notre Histoire*. In 1985 he produced, wrote, starred in and composed a song for *Parole de Flic* (aka “Cop’s Honour”), in which he played a tough ex-cop tracking down his daughter’s murderers.

After poor reviews (and takings) for *Le Passage* (1986), however, Delon began to be more choosy about his

projects and, during the 1990s, concentrated increasingly on various business ventures. In *Le Retour de Casanova* (1992) he mocked his own screen legend in the role of an ageing seducer who finds that, now his beauty has faded, he must rely on his wits.

When critics panned his appearance with Jean Paul Belmondo in *1 Chance Sur 2* (1998) he announced his retirement from acting. He was made a Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur in 1991 and an Officer in 2005.

A keen art connoisseur and collector, on his estate outside Paris Delon bred racehorses and looked after abandoned dogs. He was a friend and admirer of the French National Front leader, “my friend, Jean-Marie Le Pen”, although his nationalism did not prevent him seeking tax exile status in Switzerland and taking Swiss nationality in 1999.

His often expressed indifference to the human race (as early as 1964 he was proclaiming how much he preferred dogs to people). In old age he appeared tormented, resentful and dissatisfied. Despite his Swiss citizenship he lived mainly on his sprawling estate at Douchy, south of Paris, protected by guard dogs, high fences and cameras.

The quality of performances towards the end of his career tarnished the glory of his earlier work. He appeared in *Le jour et la nuit* (“Day and night”, 1997). Written by the philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy, it is a contender for the title of worst French movie ever made.

Despite having announced his retirement in 1999, he resurfaced intermittently until he bade his definitive farewell in 2012 in a derided Russian production, *Hello Mums!* His appearance as Julius Caesar in *Asterix at the Olympic Games*, four years earlier, had done no more to elevate his declining stock.

At the 2019 Cannes Film Festival Delon received an honorary Palme d’Or. The same year, however, he was disabled by a stroke, an event which precipitated bitter feuds with his children over the role of Hiromi Rollin, a Japanese former film production assistant who moved in with him in 2019 and whom the children accused of using her influence to isolate their father and make him dependent on her.

In 2023 they succeeded in evicting her from his home only to turn on each other in a public exchange of mutual grievances, insults, accusations, lawsuits and secret recordings. Most commentators seemed to agree, however, that the sibling rift was not about money, but about rivalry for paternal love.

Delon’s first marriage, to Nathalie Barthélémy, was dissolved in 1968. In 1969 he began a 15-year relationship with the actress Mireille Darc, then in 1987 he married Rosalie Van Breemen; they parted in 2002.

He is survived by his son from his first marriage and his daughter and son with Rosalie Van Breemen. Ari, his son from his relationship with Nico, died last year after a lifetime battling drug addiction.

Alain Delon, born November 8 1935, died August 18 2024

Peter Reddaway

Sovietologist who campaigned for dissidents but opposed the economic ‘shock therapy’ of the 1990s

PETER REDDAWAY, who has died aged 84, was a leading Sovietologist who did much to bring the plight of Russian dissidents to the attention of the West; after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, however, he turned his fire on western policy “experts” who had impelled Russia down the path of shock therapy, privatisation and economic collapse.

In 1964, as a British graduate student in Moscow, Reddaway was expelled from the Soviet Union for meeting the wife of a Soviet defector to the UK. For more than three decades thereafter he remained at the centre of Western attempts to help Soviet dissidents publicise their plight in the West.

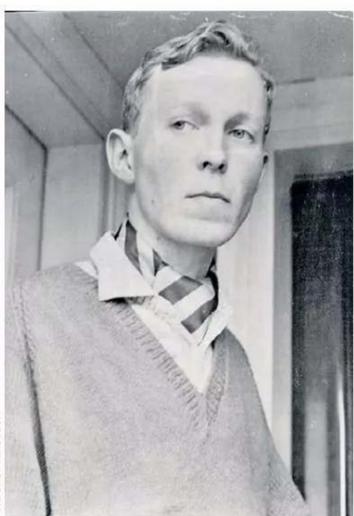
As he recalled in *The Dissidents: a Memoir of Working with the Resistance in Russia, 1960-1990* (2020), a key turning point came in 1968 when he was summoned to the office of the chief political commentator of the BBC Russian Service to be given an envelope from the dissident Pavel Litvinov. It contained a sheaf of typewritten pages in Russian entitled “A Chronicle of Current Events”, cataloguing dozens of recent human-rights violations across the Soviet Union.

A few weeks later “Chronicle Number Two” appeared. Reddaway arranged for the chronicles to be translated into English and circulated to journalists and western government officials. In 1971 he published the first 11 issues in a book, *Uncensored Russia*.

Reddaway went on to help arrange smuggling operations and the distribution of *samizdat* material (censored and underground makeshift publications, reproduced, often by hand, and passed from reader to reader in the USSR) once they arrived in the West.

He wrote and campaigned on such issues as religious and ethnic-minority rights and the treatment of dissidents confined to psychiatric hospitals, and he also played a key role in the foundation of the magazine *Index on Censorship*, an offshoot of the Writers and Scholars International Trust established by Stephen Spender to defend the human-rights movement in the USSR.

When in 1988, during Mikhail Gorbachev’s years of perestroika, Reddaway was finally able to return to the USSR and meet some of the dissidents his publicity and advocacy had



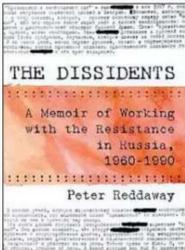
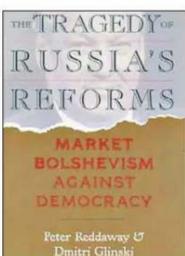
helped, he was filled with hope for a new era of openness.

But hope turned to alarm in 1991 as the Soviet empire crumbled, when Russia’s new leader, Boris Yeltsin, inspired by western free-market economists, embarked on a programme of economic “shock therapy” in an attempt to create a domestic market economy.

In the summer of 1991, in a paper prepared for a conference at the Aspen Institute, Reddaway warned that “democracy and the market normally develop over decades” in countries lacking a pluralist tradition.

In *The Tragedy of Russia’s Reforms: Market Bolshevism against Democracy* (2000), written with the Russian scholar Dmitri Gliniski) Reddaway observed that Russia in the 20th century had demonstrated “the dehumanising extremes of two different Utopian visions based on economic determinism and designed for global use.”

The first was bureaucratic state bolshevism, based on a command economy and one-party rule; the second was “market



Reddaway: in 1991, when Boris Yeltsin embarked on a breakneck programme of what Reddaway labelled ‘market bolshevism’, he warned that ‘democracy and the market normally develop over decades’ in countries lacking a pluralist tradition

bolshevism”, which brought on an economic collapse almost twice as severe as America’s Great Depression, all but destroying Russia’s industrial base and creating a risk of “irreversible criminalisation and privatisation of the Russian state”.

By late 1993, most democrats – “an entire generation of talented and idealistic would-be leaders of Russia’s body politic and civil society” had been “pushed off the political stage along with the democratic movement as a whole”.

Reddaway attributed much of the blame for this disaster to Western “transitologists” in the IMF and Ivy League universities, economists ignorant of Russia’s history, customs and people, who arrived in Moscow with their off-the-shelf, one-size-fits-all free-market solutions.

Their prescriptions, he maintained, allowed the nomenklatura and the financial oligarchs to acquire Russia’s industrial and natural resources and, among other things, justified Vladimir Putin’s march towards the reimposition of authoritarianism.

Peter Brian Reddaway was born on September 18 1939 to Brian Reddaway, professor of political economy at Cambridge University, and Barbara, née Bennett, a physiotherapist.

From Oundle School he read Russian at Cambridge, and in the summer vacations of 1960 and 1961 he travelled to the Soviet Union with friends, staying in officially approved campsites.

The reality of life in the Soviet Union, he recalled in *The Dissidents*, “was of huge interest, but was more or less what I had expected”, and he painted a grim picture of economic hardship, intrusive ideology and a people scarred by decades of Stalinism.

In 1962 he wrote that “a new revolution – in 30 years’ time?” might be the only solution, speculating that it could come about “after a long internal liberation movement (underground, of course)”.

On graduation Reddaway won a British Council scholarship to research Soviet literature post-1956 at Moscow State University, where he became excited by what he recognised as resistance among some academics and intellectuals. “It was evident to me [that] Soviet society was moving toward becoming a seedbed for the emergence of *samizdat* and the expression of public dissent,” he recalled.

Reddaway was philosophical about his expulsion from the USSR in 1964, observing that it enabled him to write freely “without having to temper my views to avoid being put on a Soviet blacklist”.

He went on to take a PhD in Soviet studies at the LSE and taught there until 1986, when he took up the directorship of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Washington-based think tank. Three years later he moved to George Washington University, where he remained until his retirement in 2004, taking US citizenship.

In 1972 Reddaway married Kathleen Teitgens. The marriage was dissolved and in 1989 he married Betsy Burton, who survives him with a son and daughter from his first marriage and a stepson and stepdaughter.

Peter Reddaway, born September 18 1939, died July 28 2024

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Television & Radio

Television reviews Anita Singh



Judi Dench stole the show in this charming road trip



Jay Blades and Judi Dench visited the places that mean the most to them

I have listened to Dame Judi Dench talk about her life many times: on chat shows, in the 2022 programme *Louis Theroux Interviews...* and in conversations on stage. And I could listen many times more, because she is unfailingly delightful. Her latest outing, as suggested by the title of **Dame Judi and Jay: The Odd Couple**, (Channel 4) is somewhat unexpected. It's a road trip with Jay Blades, in which they show one another the places that shaped them.

They have been friends since Dame Judi appeared in an episode of *The Repair Shop*. Their rapport is evident from the moment 6ft 3in Blades steps into her low-ceilinged cottage and envelops her in a hug. The director asks her to name the major difference between her and Blades. "He's very tall," she giggles. "I'm amazed we can hear each other, he's so tall!" They spend the next five days laughing together, listening intently to one another's stories, and walking arm in arm.

Dame Judi's special places are the Old Vic, where as a drama student she would sit in the gods dreaming of a career, before making her professional debut as Ophelia in a 1957 production of *Hamlet*; Stratford-upon-Avon, where she met her beloved late husband, Michael Williams; and her former home in Charlecote, Warwickshire, where she and Williams spent 12 happy

years and raised their daughter, Finty. "Oh, this place, I love it," she said, gazing at the Old Vic with tears in her eyes. The tears returned in Charlecote, where the current owners of the house invited the pair inside. Dame Judi recalled the vegetable patch and the greenhouse, and Finty attending in the next village. Williams died in 2001, and Dame Judi took Blades to the church where he lies buried. "Although Jay can't meet him in person, I want to introduce them in spirit," she said.

Blades took Dame Judi to "my manor", which is Hackney in east London. They visited Ridley Road market, where his mother would take him every Saturday; the youth club where he hung out in his teens, guided by loving staff who kept him on the straight and narrow; and to meet a DJ friend who showed Dame Judi how to scratch records. Ostensibly, these were Blades's sections of the programme, but Dame Judi stole the show at every turn, gamely throwing herself into new experiences.

It was noticeable that so many of Dame Judi's reminiscences were about her late husband and daughter – "The thing I'm most proud of in my life is my family," she said – but Blades made no mention of his own children or past relationships. While he has overcome greater challenges to get where he is, she is the one with a life well lived.

Look at the premise of **Made in Korea: The K-Pop Experience** (BBC One). Five British lads are put through a K-pop "boot camp" in an attempt to turn them into a marketable boy band. At its most basic level, this makes little sense. K-pop is a South Korean form of pop music, performed by South Korean pop stars. That is its appeal, and you can't magically transfer that appeal to kids from Sunderland or Cirencester.

The hopefuls were selected at UK auditions and represent "raw, undiscovered talent", although one of them has 5.65million followers on TikTok, where he does dance routines with his twin. It's fair to say that, for most of them, their dancing skills are better than their singing. Listening to their first attempt to do both at the same time is painful, although I'm sure an early Take That performance would have sounded similar.

The boys are installed in a house in South Korea, where they are put through their paces by a despairing choreographer and vocal coach who observe them with undisguised horror. But this is just the warm-up act.

The aim of this project, we are told, is to impress music executive Hee Jun Yoon. With the aura of a crime boss who has just ordered that all her remaining enemies be murdered, she greets the boys' performance with a silence so icy it could induce frostbite. Finally, she speaks, to ask them to rate their presentation out of 100. They give middling scores. "Where is this confidence coming from?" she asks, baffled, before taking them apart with utter brutality.

Is she really like this or is it an act? The whole thing feels wildly contrived and designed simply to cash in on the K-pop craze, especially when the BBC website features an interview with Hee, explaining that she first met all the boys at the London auditions and thinks they're hugely talented.

The programme does offer a window into how much hard work goes into grinding out a pop product like this. But does the world want another boy band?

Dame Judi and Jay: The Odd Couple ★★★★★
Made in Korea: The K-Pop Experience ★★

What to watch

WE MIGHT REGRET THIS
BBC Two, 10pm; NI, 11.05pm



Darren Boyd, Edward Bluemel, Elena Saurel and Kyla Harris star in this hilarious new sitcom

BC comedy is enjoying something of a grown-up moment. Only a week after David Morrissey and Aimee Lou Wood's excellent new sitcom about the trevails of parenting and pregnancy, *Daddy Issues*, comes another top-class offering featuring a man negotiating a midlife crisis in the company of a much smarter younger woman. The pairing here is lawyer Abe (Darren Boyd), who's recently begun living

with his girlfriend, the Canadian tetraplegic artist and model Freya (Kyla Harris, co-creator with Lee Getty). With their privacy already compromised by Freya's need for a 24-hour live-in carer – a situation graphically illustrated in the opening scene – the arrival on their doorstep of Freya's chaotic best friend Jo (Elena Saurel), seeking somewhere to stay, does not bode well. Among the heavy themes handled – grief and

depression, alongside living with disability – Freya and Jo's spiky, sparky relationship provides much of the laughs and best exemplifies the firecracker quality of the writing and acting (be warned, some of the humour is very near the knuckle, especially around the more intimate necessities of tetraplegic care). The superb cast includes Sally Phillips, Tim Key and Aasiya Shah. **Gerard O'Donovan**

DOCUMENTARY

The Kingdom: The World's Most Powerful Prince
BBC Two, 9pm

Making *Succession* look like child's play, this two-parter follows the Machiavellian rise of Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed bin Salman from minor royal to the country's de facto ruler. Tonight's opener traces how, since his early twenties, "MBS" ruthlessly swept aside the powerful figures who stood between him and the throne.

Merseyside Detectives
Channel 4, 9pm
The senseless shooting of nine-year-old Olivia



Merseyside Detectives: victim Olivia Pratt-Korbel

Pratt-Korbel and 29-year-old Ashley Dale visited two days in Liverpool in 2022 shocked Britain. As one police officer says here, the murders "took things to a new level" in the city,

provoking urgent discussions about gang culture and the rising scourge of gun crime on our streets. This gripping four-part documentary (continuing tomorrow) tracks the intensive Merseyside Police investigation that eventually brought the culprits to justice.

Slavery at Sea
BBC Two, 11.05pm; BBC One Scot, 9pm; NI, 11.35pm
A grim report following a three-year investigation by BBC Scotland's *Disclosure* strand into modern slavery aboard UK fishing vessels. Reporter Chris Clements hears from



migrant workers who thought that they were coming to Britain for a better life, only to find hardship and misery at the hands of an international illegal-exploitation network.

The Flight Attendant Murders

Channel 4, 12.05am
Yet more true crime in a gripping new documentary series re-examining the series of murders of four Texan air stewardesses in the 1970s and 1980s, and questioning whether the wrong man was jailed for their deaths. Featuring interviews with friends and family of the victims, police and journalists, as well as the man convicted, all four parts air overnight.



Neighbours: Ryan Moloney and Lucinda Cowden

DRAMA

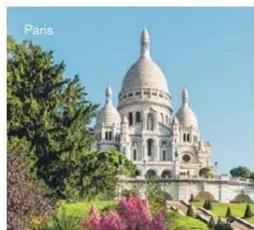
Neighbours
Amazon Prime Video
A week of high drama awaits as a group of Ramsay Street residents head into the Outback and – if the *Neighbours* press bulletin headline "Death in the Outback" Week is to be believed – not all of them return safe and sound. With veteran series actor Ryan Moloney already confirmed to be leaving the show, could this spell a nasty end for Toadfish?

ENTERTAINMENT

The Answer Run
BBC One, 4.30pm
A fun new quiz show in which competitors face torrents of questions, answering against the clock, to build up cash pots for the big-money final round. Jason Manford is your host. **GO**

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The Daily T

A Telegraph Podcast

Radio choice



Grenfell: Building a Disaster
Radio 4, 1.45pm

There is a sickening sense of inevitability at the core of this investigation, for which

Kate Lambie sifted through hundreds of hours of testimony from the inquiry into the 2017 tragedy in which 72 people died when the high-rise residential block

in west London caught fire. Her chilling 10-part series, airing ahead of the publication of the final report, is a horrifying account of "corporate deceit, government

deregulation and a construction industry race to the bottom". And of a government refusing to listen to warnings. Sad but essential listening. **Gerard O'Donovan**

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12:45 **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on **1.5.45** Newsbeat @ 17:45 **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show with Daniel P Carter **1.00am** BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe **2.00** Radio 1's Future Alternative **3.00** Reading Festival 2019-Charli XCX **3.30** Radio 1's Chill Mix **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00** - **6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Tina Daheley. Tina Daheley sits in for Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spooky. DJ Spooky sits in for Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing **7.00** Edith Bowman's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Edith Bowman **9.00** The Blues Show with Moby. Moby sits in for Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes **12.00** Phil Williams **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with DJ Borg **3.00** Tom Daley's Motivational Mix – Row **4.00** - **6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Tailleferre **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape.

With pieces by Dvorak, Vivaldi, Bach and Tchaikovsky **7.30** BBC Proms 2024. A live performance of Bach's St John Passion **10.15** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30** - **6.30am** Radio on the Night

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz

6.00am Today **9.00** The Artificial Human **9.30** Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Michael Sheen Gets into Character **11.30** One to One **11.45** Book of the Week: Exam Nation **12.00** News **12.04pm** You and Yours. Consumer affairs **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Jonny Dymond **1.45** Grenfell: Building a Disaster See Radio choice **2.00** The Archers. Alistair faces the consequences, and George takes shocking action **2.15** Ed Reardon's Week **2.45** Jessie Kesson Short Stories. Cold in Coventry, abridged and produced by Kirsteen Cameron **3.00** Great Lives. Film director Julien Temple discusses Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe **3.30** Extreme. The status of women and gay men in Eighties bodybuilding culture **4.00** Ukraine: On the Frontline **4.30** Alexei Sayle's Strangers on a Train **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** The Unbelievable Truth. With Miles Jupp, Marcus Brigstocke, Holly Walsh and Lou Sanders **7.00** The Archers. Will is forced to improvise, and Jim makes a suggestion **7.15** Front Row **8.00** The Briefing Room **8.30** BBC Inside Science **9.00** History's Secret Heroes **9.30** To Catch a Scorpion **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between **11.00** Harland **11.30** The Rise and Rise of the Microchip **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: Exam Nation **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World

Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** - **6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909kHz

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Steffan Powell **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Monday Night Club. Darren Fletcher and guests debate the weekend's football **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket. A look ahead to England v Sri Lanka in their First Test match beginning Wednesday **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00** - **6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** John Brunning **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Zeb Soanes celebrates the work of Mozart **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** - **6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE

DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Conversation **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06**

HARDtalk 10.30 The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio **5.00** - **8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Dixon of Dock Green **6.30** Raffles **7.00** Anything Legal **7.30** Stop Messing About! **8.00** North by Northamptonshire **8.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **8.45** Subterranean Homesick Blues **9.00** The Unbelievable Truth **9.30** Door Stepping **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Frankly Speaking **10.30** When Hollywood Met Halifax **11.00** Dixon of Dock Green **11.30** Raffles **12.00** Anything Legal **12.30pm** Stop Messing About! **1.00** North by Northamptonshire **1.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **1.45** Subterranean Homesick Blues **2.00** Just a Minute **2.30** Street and Lane **3.00** Safe as Houses **4.00** Frankly Speaking **4.30** When Hollywood Met Halifax **5.00** Dixon of Dock Green **5.30** Raffles **6.00** Anything Legal **6.30** Stop Messing About! **7.00** North by Northamptonshire **7.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **7.45** Subterranean Homesick Blues **8.00** Just a Minute **8.30** Street and Lane **9.00** Safe as Houses **10.00** The Unbelievable Truth **10.30** Goodness Gracious Me **11.00** Catherine Bohart: TL;DR **11.30** Radio 9 **12.00** Frankly Speaking **12.30am** When Hollywood Met Halifax **1.00** Dixon of Dock Green **1.30** Raffles **2.00** Anything Legal **2.30** Stop Messing About! **3.00** North by Northamptonshire **3.30** On Her Majesty's Secret Service **3.45** Subterranean Homesick Blues **4.00** Just a Minute **4.30** Street and Lane **5.00** - **6.00am** Safe as Houses

Today's television

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.30** Animal Park (AD) (S) **10.15** Countryfile (R) (S) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (R) (S)

12.00 Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S)

1.00 pm BBC News at One; Weather (S)

1.35 Regional News; Weather (S)

1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S)

2.00 Money for Nothing (R) (S)

3.00 Escape to the Country (S)

3.45 Antiques Road Trip (S)

4.30 The Answer Run See What to watch (S)

5.15 Pointless (S)

6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)

6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)



The Answer Run

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Roman Kemp present (S)

7.30 EastEnders Reiss is nervous as he faces the deadline to pay Phil (AD) (S)

8.00 The Riots that Shocked the Country: Panorama (S)

8.30 Scam Interceptors A student takes a call from hackers claiming to be a retail giant's fraud team (R) (S)

9.00 Death in Paradise The owner of a hair salon is killed in puzzling circumstances (AD) (R) (S)

10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.40 Have I Got News for You Richard Ayoade hosts with guests Marina Purkiss and Phil Wang (R) (S)

11.10 Who Do You Think You Are? **12.10am** The Repair Shop **1.15 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.45 am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (R) (S) **8.15** Sign Zone: Bridge of Lies (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News

1.00 pm Head Hunters (R) (S)

1.45 Bridge of Lies (R) (S)

2.30 All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star (AD) (R) (S)

3.30 Hairy Bikers' Best of British (R) (S)

4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life (AD) (R) (S)

5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)

6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (R) (S)

6.30 Great British Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S)



The World's Most Powerful Prince

7.00 Iolo's Valleys Iolo Williams finds a fox in the South Wales Valleys (R) (S)

7.30 Mastermind Specialist subjects include Tom Lehrer and Operation Mincemeat (S)

8.00 Only Connect The Hopsters take on the Sprouters (S)

8.30 University Challenge Open University takes on UCL (S)

9.00 The Kingdom: The World's Most Powerful Prince The story of Mohammed bin Salman's rise to power in Saudi Arabia **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

10.00 We Might Regret This New series. Comedy drama starring Kyla Harris **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

10.30 Newsnight (S)

11.05 Slavery at Sea See What to watch **12.05am FILM: The Levelling** (2016) Drama starring Ellie Kendrick **See Film choice** **1.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile **2.20** Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef **3.20 - 6.30am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)

12.30 pm Loose Women (S)

1.30 News; Weather (S)

1.55 Regional News; Weather (S)

2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (AD) (R) (S)

3.00 Tenable (R) (S)

4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)

5.00 The Chase (R) (S)

6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)

6.30 News; Weather (S)



Long Lost Family

7.30 Emmerdale Laurel suggests buying Jai's shares in the Hide (AD) (S)

8.00 Coronation Street The pieces fall into place for Dee-Dee as Joel's deceit becomes clear (AD) (S)

9.00 Long Lost Family A 66-year-old woman looks for the baby she gave up as a teenager (AD) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.45 FILM: Olympus Has Fallen (2013) Action thriller starring Gerard Butler (AD) (S)

12.40 am Shop on TV **3.00** Family Fortunes **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Jimmy's Taste of Florida

Channel 4

6.15 am Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (AD) (R) (S) **6.20** Cheers (R) (S) **6.45** Cheers (R) (S) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.00** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.30** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.00** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S) **11.30** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

12.00 Channel 4 News (S)

12.05 pm Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (AD) (R) (S)

12.10 A New Life in the Sun (R) (S)

1.10 Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S)

2.10 Countdown (S)

3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S)

4.00 The Great House Giveaway (R) (S)

5.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (S)

6.00 Come Dine with Me (R) (S)

6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)



The Flight Attendant Murders

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

8.00 Yorkshire by the Sea Fisherman Darren heads into the North Sea in search of lobster and crab (AD) (S)

9.00 Merseyside Detectives: The Murders of Ashley and Olivia New series. The case of two people shot in their own homes in Liverpool **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

10.00 Murder Case: The Digital Detectives (AD) (R) (S)

11.05 Night Coppers **12.05am The Flight Attendant Murders See What to watch** **1.00 The Flight Attendant Murders See What to watch** **1.55 The Flight Attendant Murders See What to watch** **2.50 The Flight Attendant Murders See What to watch** **3.45** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes **3.50** Grand Designs **4.45 - 5.35am** Frasier

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.30** Storm Huntley (S)

12.45 pm Friends (AD) (R) (S)

1.10 Friends (AD) (R) (S)

1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S)

1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S)

2.15 FILM: Mystery 101: Words Can Kill (2019, TVM) Thriller starring Jill Wagner (S)

4.00 The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits at Sea (R) (S)

5.00 5 News at 5 (S)

6.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (R) (S)

6.55 5 News Update (S)



Motorway Cops

7.00 Traffic Cops A car thief rams officers off the road at high-speed (R) (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders PC Will Hunter tries to track down a suspect (S)

9.00 Forensics: Murder Scene A man is shot and killed in a newsagents (S)

10.30 999: Police Hour of Duty A man calls in to report his neighbour is acting aggressively (R) (S)

11.30 999: Critical Condition **12.30am** Traffic Cops **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.20** Suspects **4.05** The Dambusters **4.50** House Busters **5.15** House Doctor **5.40** Entertainment News on 5 **5.45 - 6.00am** Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures!

Film choice



Bagdad Cafe (1988) Talking Pictures TV, 11.25pm ★★★★★

Inspired by Carson McCullers's novella *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, Percy Adlon's sunny comedy centres on German tourist Jasmin (Marianne Sägebrecht), who leaves her husband behind after an argument in the Californian desert and storms off to the Bagdad Cafe, where she forges a surprising friendship with the outpost's moody owner (CCH Pounder). Jack Palance co-stars.



Daddio (2024) Sky Cinema Premiere, 11.50pm ★★★★★

Director Christy Hall (who wrote the script for current box-office smash hit *It Ends With Us*) crafts a tender portrait of love and loss in NYC in this *Lost in Translation*-esque drama. Dakota Johnson plays a young woman who, upon returning to Manhattan from a trip, shares a candid conversation with her taxi driver (Sean Penn) about their past relationships and future hopes.



The Levelling (2016) BBC Two, 12.05am; not NI ★★★★★

Hope Dickson Leach's slow-burning drama is a beautiful, introspective portrait of a young woman. When Clove Catto (*Game of Thrones*' Ellie Kendrick) is told that her brother Harry has killed himself, she returns to the Somerset farm where she grew up. A reckoning with her difficult father (David Troughton) ensues. The landscape, the atmosphere and Kendrick herself are all magnificent.



with **CAMILLA TOMINEY** and **KAMAL AHMED**



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BBC Four

7.00 pm Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam

7.30 Great Welsh Adventure

8.00 The Impressionists – Painting and Revolution

9.00 Call My Bluff

9.30 Going for a Song

10.00 Shock of the Nude

11.00 Sex and Sensibility: The Allure of Art Nouveau

12.00 Romancing the Stone: The Golden Ages of British Sculpture

1.00 am Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam

1.30 Great Welsh Adventure

2.00 Shock of the Nude

3.00 - 4.00am The Impressionists – Painting and Revolution

ITV3

11.25 am Heartbeat

12.35 pm Heartbeat

1.40 Classic Emmerdale

2.40 Classic Coronation Street

3.15 Classic Coronation Street

3.50 A Touch of Frost

6.00 Heartbeat

7.00 Heartbeat

8.00 Vera

10.00 Cracker

11.05 Cracker

12.00 Wild at Heart

12.45 am Wild at Heart

1.35 Upstairs, Downstairs

2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

11.30 am BattleBots

12.30 pm Robin of Sherwood

1.00 Tales of the Unexpected

2.45 Kojak

3.50 Minder

4.55 The Professionals

6.00 BattleBots

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special

8.00 MotoGP Highlights

9.00 FILM: The World Is Not Enough (1999) James Bond adventure starring Pierce Brosnan

11.35 The Motorbike Show

12.30 am Motorsport UK

1.25 Auto Mundial

1.50 From Dusk Till Dawn

2.40 Unwind with ITV

3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

Noon The Joy of Painting

12.30 pm The Joy of Painting

1.00 Tales of the Unexpected

1.30 Tales of the Unexpected

2.00 The Timeless Louvre

3.00 Sky Arts Book Club

4.00 Discovering: Jean Harlow

5.00 Watercolour Challenge

5.30 Watercolour Challenge

6.00 Make It at Market

6.30 Tales of the Unexpected

7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents

7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents

8.00 Andre Rieu: Shall We Dance?

11.00 Shakespeare: Hamlet

2.20 - 4.10am Shakespeare: The Man Behind the Name

Sky Atlantic

11.20 am Westworld

12.25 pm Game of Thrones

1.25 The Sopranos

2.30 The Sopranos

3.35 Perry Mason

4.40 Perry Mason

5.45 Westworld

6.50 Westworld

7.55 Game of Thrones

9.00 Mare of Easttown

10.05 The Last of Us

11.20 Succession

12.35 am Euphoria

1.40 Game of Thrones

2.50 - 4.00am The Nevers

Film4

11.00 am Jingle All the Way (1996) Comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger

12.45 pm Shrek Forever After (2010)

2.35 Stormbreaker (2006)

4.25 Cutthroat Island (1995)

4.25 Swashbuckling adventure starring Geena Davis

6.45 Cowboys & Aliens (2011) Sci-fi Western with Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford

9.00 Men in Black: International (2019) Fantasy sequel starring Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson

11.15 xXx: The Next Level (2005)

1.20 - 3.35am Assassination Nation (2018)

U&Drama

11.40 am The Bill

12.40 pm Classic EastEnders

1.20 Classic EastEnders

2.00 London's Burning

3.00 Born and Bred

4.10 Howards' Way

5.25 Birds of a Feather

6.05 Desmond's

6.40 Are You Being Served?

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine

8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries

10.00 New Tricks

11.20 Waking the Dead

12.40 am Waking the Dead

2.00 Strike – The Cuckoo's Calling

3.00 - 4.00am Classic Holly City

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm True North: The Omagh Hum **11.10** Have I Got News for You **11.40** Who Do You Think You Are? **12.40am** The Repair Shop **1.40 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Kayak ó Thuaidh **11.05** We Might Regret This **11.35** Slavery at Sea **12.35am** Barra on the Foyle **12.40 - 1.25am** Sign Zone: Clean It, Fix It **1.25 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

Scotland

BBC One: 9.00 - 10.00pm Disclosure: Slavery at Sea **11.10** SportsScene: SWPL Highlights **11.40** Who Do You Think You Are? **12.40am** The Repair Shop **1.45 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Scotland: 7.00pm SportsScene: SWPL Highlights **7.30** Paramedics on Scene **8.30** Life on the Bay **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City **10.30** Alan Carr's Picture Slam **11.15** Martin Compston's Scottish Fling **11.45** Rewind 2000s

Wales

BBC One: 8.30 - 9.00pm Defying Gravity: Our Lives **10.40** Dark Land: Hunting the Killers **11.25** Have I Got News for You? **12.00** Who Do You Think You Are? **12.55am** The Repair Shop **1.55 - 6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two: No variations

ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cwyl **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Caru Siopa **12.30** Heno **1.00** Y Sgubor Flodau **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Priddas Pum Mill **4.00** Awr Fawr: Blocciau Lliw **4.05** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cegin Bryn **6.30** Bywyd y Fet **6.57** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Trefi Gwyllt **10.40** 8.25 Garddio **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Cefn Gwlad **10.00** Sgorio **10.30** Cyfres Triathlon Cymru 2024 **11.00 - 11.35pm** Y Sin

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Rick Stein's Secret France **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **7.00** Would I Lie to You? With Alan Davies, Richard Osman, Germaine Greer and Jermaine Jenas **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL. Extended edition, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and David Mitchell **10.00** QI XL. Join Sandi Toksvig and guests for a look at tubas and tubas **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** Room 101 **2.00 - 4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

11.55am Last of the Summer Wine **12.35pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.15** Ever Decreasing Circles **1.55** Still Open All Hours **2.35** Dad's Army **3.15** Hi-de-Hi! **3.55** Last of the Summer Wine **5.15** Still Open All Hours **5.55** Keeping Up Appearances **6.35** Dad's Army **8.00** dinnerladies. **8.40** Only Fools and Horses **11.40** Not Going Out **12.20am** dinnerladies **1.00 - 4.00am** Only Fools and Horses

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress **1.00pm** In for a Penny **2.00** Supermarket Sweep

3.00 Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win. Husband and wife team Matt and Hannah take on the money ladder **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30am** Bob's Burgers **1.30** Deal or No Deal **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S. **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Car S.O.S. The boys head to Somerset to restore a Jeep Grand Cherokee **10.00** Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera. Dramatic moments captured on film at airports and on planes **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. A driver is rushed in after flipping his car on its roof **12.05am** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes **12.15** Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.20** 999: On the Front Line **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25 - 3.55am** Food Unwrapped

PBS America

11.50am The US and the Holocaust **1.00pm** The Ottoman Empire **2.15** The Remarkable Miss North **3.30** Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp **4.45** The US and

the Holocaust **5.55** The Ottoman Empire **7.05** The Remarkable Miss North. The story of how Marianne North changed the face of botanical research **8.20** Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp. The story of a group of American citizens incarcerated for their race **9.35** The US and the Holocaust. How Allied soldiers uncovered mass graves, revealing the sheer scale of the Holocaust **10.45** The Remarkable Miss North. The story of how Marianne North changed the face of botanical research **12.15** Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp **1.15am** Beautiful Serengeti **2.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: **11.35am** The Outer Limits **12.40pm** What's On TPTV with Noel **12.55** FILM: Ramrod (1947, b/w) Western with Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake **2.45** Look at Life **3.00** The Saint **4.05** FILM: Gambler and the Lady (1952, b/w) Crime thriller starring Dane Clark **5.35** A Lifetime Ago with The Balm Collection **6.00** For the Love of Ada **6.30** Out of Town **7.00** The Footage Detectives **8.00** Enemy at the Door **9.05** FILM: Wuthering Heights (1998) Adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel starring Orla Brady **11.25** FILM:

Bagdad Cafe (1988) Comedy starring Marianne Sägebrecht **See Film choice** **1.35am** Air Parade **2.00** Mairget **3.50 - 4.45am** FILM: Fools Rush In (1995, b/w) Thriller starring Ken Buckridge

U&Yesterday

Noon Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** WW2 – Frontlines **5.00** Nazi Hunters **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Make It at Market **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **9.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great American Railroad Journeys **1.00am** The Architecture of the Railways Built **3.00 - 6.10am** Teleshopping

Weather & Crosswords*

Forecast

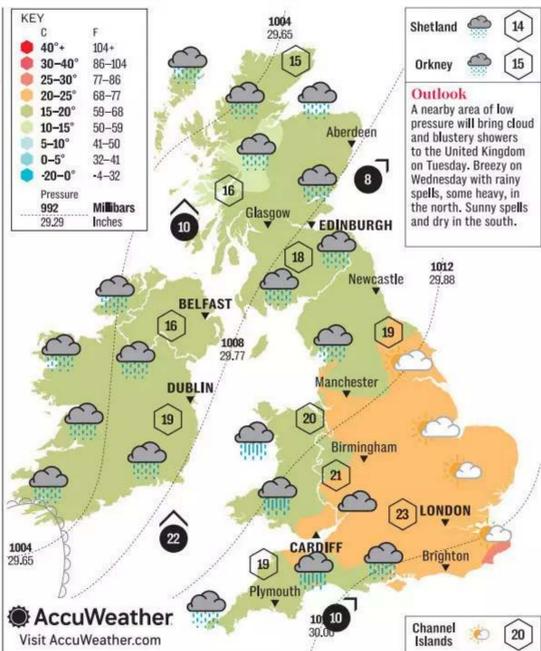
General situation

Low pressure will spread cloud and rainy spells across the northern and western United Kingdom today. Sunny spells and mainly dry in southeast England with rain arriving at night.

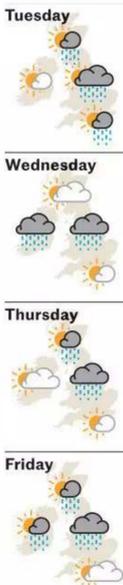
- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Sunny spells and largely dry today. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 55-68F (13-20C). Mostly cloudy tonight with blustery spells of rain. Min 55-65F (13-18C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Broken cloud today with rain arriving in the afternoon. A moderate S wind. Max 55-68F (13-20C). Rainy spells tonight. Min 48-58F (9-15C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Broken cloud today with afternoon rain. A moderate S to SW wind.

Max 55-68F (13-20C). Spells of rain tonight. Min 48-60F (9-16C).

- ♦ **N Ireland:** Rainy periods, some heavy, today. A gentle to moderate S wind. Max 52-62F (11-17C). Showers tonight. Min 41-54F (5-12C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Rainy spells, some heavy, today and tonight. A gentle to moderate S wind. Max 45-65F (7-18C). Min 38-57F (3-14C).



Four day forecast

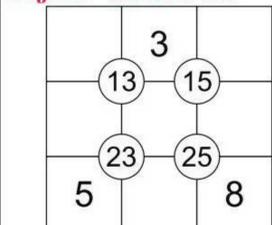


European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

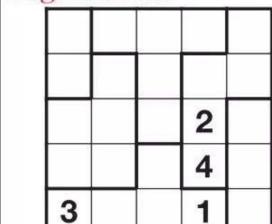
City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Akrotiri	32	24	sunny	Frankfurt	23	19	showers	Oslo	19	8	showers
Alicante	30	22	sunny	Funchal	29	22	sunny	Palermo	29	26	p/cldy
Amsterdam	24	14	cloudy	Gdansk	27	18	sunny	Paris	24	14	cloudy
Athens	34	26	sunny	Geneva	20	16	showers	Perpignan	28	21	windy
Barcelona	26	22	showers	Gibraltar	34	22	sunny	Prague	26	18	showers
Bari	36	24	p/cldy	Hamburg	22	14	p/cldy	Reykjavik	12	6	p/cldy
Belgrade	36	22	p/cldy	Helsinki	24	8	p/cldy	Rhodes	34	27	sunny
Benidorm	30	22	sunny	Innsbruck	25	18	rain	Riga	22	9	sunny
Bergen	16	13	showers	Istanbul	30	22	sunny	Rome	27	23	storms
Berlin	26	18	p/cldy	Kyiv	32	16	storms	Saint Malo	23	12	p/cldy
Biarritz	25	19	p/cldy	La Rochelle	22	15	p/cldy	Salzburg	22	18	rain
Bodrum	37	23	sunny	Lisbon	30	21	windy	Santander	23	18	showers
Bordeaux	23	15	p/cldy	Lucarno	27	14	showers	Santiago/Comp.	27	17	p/cldy
Brest	22	12	p/cldy	Luxembourg	23	15	showers	Sofia	33	19	haze
Brussel	24	17	p/cldy	Madrid	35	21	sunny	St. Petersburg	22	16	sunny
Bucharest	35	20	p/cldy	Majorca	30	22	p/cldy	Stockholm	24	9	p/cldy
Budapest	32	20	showers	Malaga	36	21	sunny	Strasbourg	22	19	showers
Cagliari	33	23	sunny	Malta	33	27	sunny	Tenerife	30	24	windy
Chamonix	17	13	storms	Marseille	29	21	windy	Tirana	34	23	storms
Copenhagen	20	11	p/cldy	Menorca	29	22	showers	Toulouse	25	17	p/cldy
Corfu	33	25	cloudy	Milan	27	21	showers	Valencia	32	22	sunny
Cork	20	10	p/cldy	Monaco	28	23	storms	Venice	29	23	storms
Corsica	29	22	storms	Moscow	26	17	p/cldy	Vienna	31	20	p/cldy
Crete	31	27	sunny	Munich	23	18	showers	Vigo	28	19	p/cldy
Dublin	19	12	p/cldy	Naples	30	22	showers	Vilnius	28	17	p/cldy
Dubrovnik	32	24	p/cldy	Nice	29	22	windy	Warsaw	31	20	storms
Faro	33	24	sunny	Nicosia	39	23	sunny	Zagreb	34	20	storms
Florence	31	22	showers	Oporto	26	19	p/cldy	Zurich	20	17	rain

Sujiko® GENTLE NO 4943



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares.

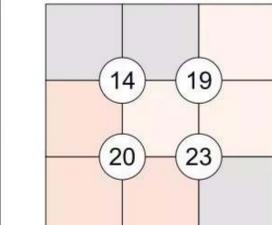
Suguru NO 2031



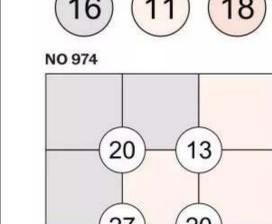
The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Suko

NO 973 Every Monday



NO 974



To play Suko, place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Friday's solutions:

Sujiko 4942:	138	Suguru 2030:	4 3 4 1
	524		1 2 1 2 1
	967		5 3 4 6
			2 1 2 1 2
			3 1 3 3

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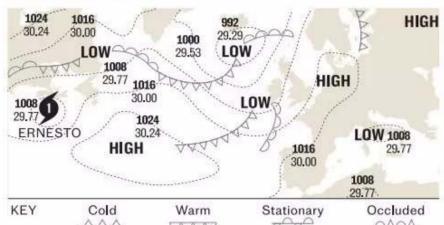
British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
			°C	weather				°C	weather
Aberdeen	3.7	0.00	18 12	cloudy	Chester	4.5	0.00	20 11	p/cldy
Aberystwyth	2.7	0.00	17 13	cloudy	Coventry	2.0	0.00	21 13	cloudy
Antrim	3.5	0.01	18 12	cloudy	Doncaster	1.9	0.00	20 13	cloudy
Aviemore	1.2	0.00	14 10	cloudy	Dover	5.6	0.00	22 13	p/cldy
Barnstaple	3.2	0.01	19 15	cloudy	Dundee	4.6	0.00	18 12	p/cldy
Barrow-in-Furness	2.4	0.00	18 15	cloudy	Eastbourne	4.0	0.00	23 12	cloudy
Basingstoke	6.9	0.00	22 13	p/cldy	Edinburgh	4.3	0.01	17 12	p/cldy
Bedford	6.9	0.00	22 13	p/cldy	Epsom	5.3	0.00	22 11	p/cldy
Belfast	3.4	0.00	19 13	cloudy	Falmouth	3.6	0.00	19 13	cloudy
Berwick	2.8	0.00	18 10	cloudy	Farnborough	3.2	0.00	23 12	cloudy
Birmingham	8.2	0.00	22 14	p/cldy	Fort William	0.1	0.05	14 10	showers
Bodmin	2.4	0.01	18 12	cloudy	Glasgow	3.7	0.07	18 12	showers
Bournemouth	7.2	0.00	23 13	p/cldy	Great Malvern	3.4	0.00	22 13	cloudy
Braintree	4.7	0.00	23 9	p/cldy	Grimsby	2.9	0.00	21 12	cloudy
Brecon	3.8	0.00	17 11	cloudy	Guernsey	1.8	0.00	19 15	cloudy
Bridlington	0.4	0.00	22 14	cloudy	Hereford	5.6	0.00	21 12	p/cldy
Brighton	3.3	0.00	22 12	cloudy	High Wycombe	3.2	0.00	23 11	cloudy
Bristol	2.2	0.00	20 14	cloudy	Holyhead	7.2	0.00	18 14	p/cldy
Cambridge	4.0	0.01	18 13	cloudy	Huddersfield	0.9	0.00	17 12	cloudy
Cardiff	8.1	0.02	19 15	p/cldy	Ipswich	6.0	0.00	23 9	p/cldy
Carlisle	0.2	0.00	17 14	cloudy	Isle of Man	5.3	0.00	18 14	p/cldy
Catterick	5.4	0.00	20 14	p/cldy	Isle of Skye	0.2	0.00	14 9	cloudy
Cheltenham	3.5	0.00	22 14	cloudy	Isle of Wight	3.0	0.00	19 15	cloudy

City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
			°C	weather				°C	weather
Kes of Scilly	0.4	0.01	19 15	cloudy	Ramsgate	7.8	0.00	22 14	p/cldy
Jersey	7.3	0.00	20 15	p/cldy	Rhyl	3.4	0.00	19 13	cloudy
Keswick	0.0	0.00	18 14	cloudy	Rugby	2.8	0.00	22 13	cloudy
Kew Gardens	5.1	0.00	24 15	p/cldy	Salisbury	2.4	0.00	22 13	cloudy
King's Lynn	1.9	0.00	22 11	cloudy	Scunthorpe	1.8	0.00	21 13	cloudy
Leeds	1.2	0.00	17 12	cloudy	Sheffield	1.9	0.00	20 13	cloudy
Leek	1.8	0.00	18 11	cloudy	Shetland	2.9	0.02	15 11	cloudy
Leominster	7.2	0.00	19 12	p/cldy	Shrewsbury	5.2	0.00	19 13	p/cldy
Lincoln	6.9	0.00	21 14	p/cldy	Skegness	2.3	0.00	22 12	cloudy
Liverpool	4.5	0.00	20 11	p/cldy	Southampton	5.0	0.00	22 15	p/cldy
London	6.3	0.00	24 13	p/cldy	South-on-Sea	8.4	0.00	23 12	p/cldy
Manchester	3.6	0.00	19 13	cloudy	Stockport	3.6	0.00	19 13	cloudy
Middlesbrough	2.1	0.00	21 13	cloudy	Stornoway	2.4	0.10	15 9	rain
Newcastle	9.1	0.00	19 11	p/cldy	Swansea	4.1	0.00	19 14	p/cldy
Newquay	4.0	0.01	18 13	cloudy	Swindon	3.0	0.00	19 13	cloudy
Nottingham	6.0	0.00	20 13	p/cldy	Thirsk	0.6	0.00	19 13	cloudy
Orkney	4.6	0.03	16 11	showers	Tiree	2.4	0.02	14 12	cloudy
Oxford	7.7	0.00	22 14	p/cldy	Weymouth	3.9	0.00	20 16	cloudy
Perth	2.7	0.00	18 12	cloudy	Whitehaven	1.9	0.00	17 13	cloudy
Peterborough	6.5	0.00	22 12	p/cldy	Windermere	1.1	0.00	17 13	cloudy
Plymouth	2.0	0.00	21 14	cloudy	Worcester	3.4	0.00	22 13	cloudy
Portsmouth	3.1	0.01	22 14	cloudy	Yeovil	2.1	0.00	21 13	cloudy
Prestrick	1.8	0.00	17 14	cloudy	York	0.9	0.00	19 13	cloudy

Atlantic front



Sun & moon

(Greenwich)

Sun rises	0554
Sun sets	2015
Moon rises	2033
Moon sets	0452
Last quarter	Aug 26

Yesterday

Warmest	London/Gatwick 24C (76F)
Cooliest	Cairngorm Summit 3C (37F)
Wettest	Cladich 0.29 in
Sunniest	Newcastle 9.1 hr.

High water

Aberdeen	0132	4.1m	1410	4.2m
Belfast	1135	3.3m	2344	3.5m
Cardiff	0728	11.5m	1951	12.2m
Dover	1135	6.8m	2357	6.6m
Falmouth	0538	4.9m	1754	5.3m
Harwich	--	--	1216	3.8m
Holyhead	1057	5.3m	2307	5.8m
Hull	0634	7.3m	1916	7.3m
Liverpool	1143	8.9m	2356	9.2m
London	0207	6.9m	1435	6.8m
Portsmouth	3.1	0.01	22 14	cloudy
Southampton	0123	4.0m	1109	4.4m

Sea forecast

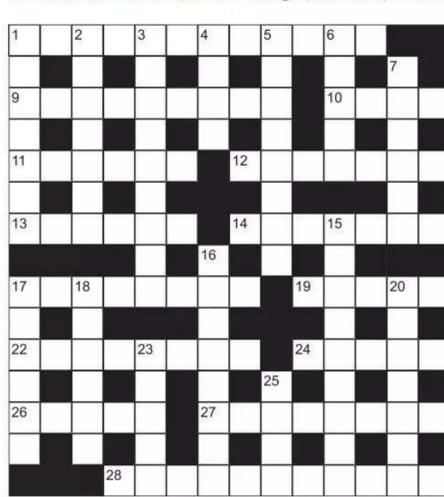
S North Sea: A moderate to strong southerly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A gentle to fresh southwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough on the east and will be rough on the west. Visibility will be good.

St. George's Channel: A strong to gale southerly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be poor.

Irish Sea: A strong to gale southerly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be poor.

Crossword 30,696



Across

- Some ethereal, thin gossamer, not a cheap substitute! (3,4,5)
- Supplier of clothes Tom Cruise ordered (9)
- Identically copy 100 + 1 divided by 50 (5)
- Is boat, oddly, carrying Henry VIII's daughter in European region? (6)
- Like many snakes, very big - run away! (8)
- Involve cover of Elton track (6)
- Ladies' partners concealing weapon in clothing (8)
- South American country certain to welcome one chap from the east (8)
- Seizing power, yells "blimey!" (6)
- Einstein's underwear not yet unpacked? (8)
- Dimmer Democrat seen confused by Republican (6)
- Large pachyderm, one with horn running around (5)
- Very cheeky dresses showing bust (9)
- Monarch in a red suit thinks of gear getting redesigned (4,2,6)

Down

- Concerned with touching bit of Hamlet - Act I learnt (7)
- Most comfortable in Spain before a short nap there (7)
- Great knowledge of issue besetting Rugby Union (9)
- Primarily, lions are indeed resting here? (4)
- Rider Haggard's beginning a sermon in novel form (8)
- Refusal to eat a cold, hard tortilla chip (5)
- Drop dress, hosting party (2,4)
- Stops smuggling drug in pieces of luggage (6)
- Seller with aim to shift French port (9)
- Impressive confession made by person showing off (8)
- Legendary cricketer succeeded after avoiding alcohol (6)
- Regular helpings of Rioja advised for band's helper (6)
- French chemist's gone over French street, heading north (7)
- Brownies and fizzy drinks? (7)
- Ruth's relative and I complain when upset (5)
- Leaders in America smiling in friendship? Come off it! (2,2)

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Help with today's clues Single clues 0905 757 0120. All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0121. Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. Services open Mon-Fri, 9pm - 5pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Quick Crossword



- Across**
- Ancient Peruvian? (4)
 - Be told (4)
 - Weakest of the litter (4)
 - Bungling (5)
 - EastEnders, e.g. (4)
 - Slowly, in music (6)
 - Rain protection (8)
 - Hen house (4)
 - Type of audio (2-2)
 - Cheap (3-5)
 - The Beaver State (6)
 - Grasp (4)
 - Omit, of sounds (5)
 - Nobleman (4)
 - Welsh symbol (4)
 - Spot (4)
- Down**
- Leander's lover (4)
 - Losing moisture when hung up (4-6)
 - Couple (4)
 - Eye problem (8)
 - Part of a ladder (4)