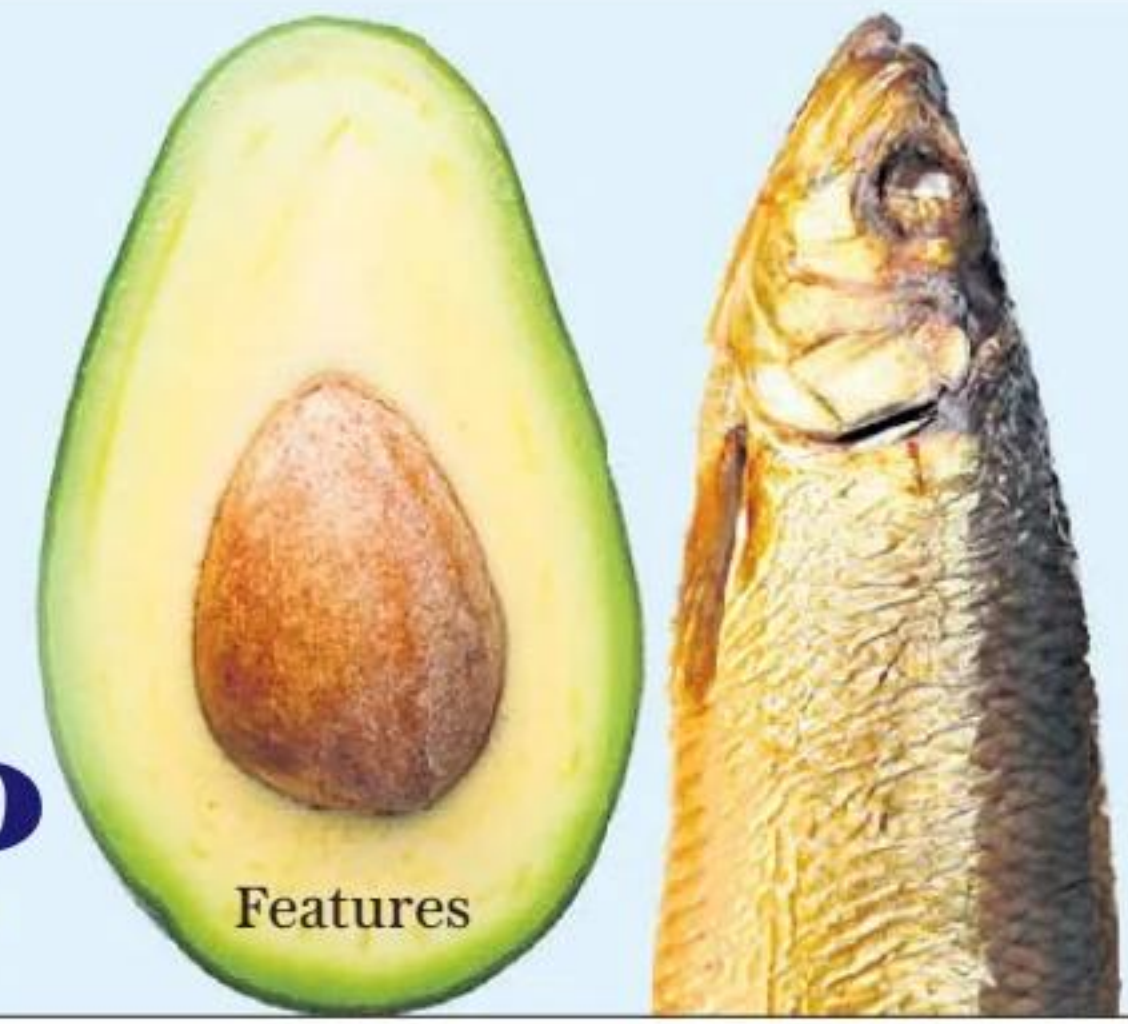


The ultimate high street style guide to autumn

Features



Avocado toast vs kippers Is the boomer diet healthier?



Features

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

NHS in decline for first time in 50 years

Failures in most basic care highlighted in major report into 'broken' health service

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

NHS PROGRESS is going backwards for the first time in 50 years, a major report commissioned by the government has found.

The report by Lord Ara Darzi, the surgeon and former health minister, will this week highlight failures in the most basic care offered by the health service.

It will criticise the amount of time children are left waiting in A&E and how the NHS's routine services ground to a halt during the pandemic.

Lord Darzi will say that the progress made since the 1970s on deaths from heart disease and waiting times for treatment is now in reverse for the first time.

Within hours of Labour winning the election, Wes Streeting, the Health Secretary, had declared the NHS "broken" and pledged to "turn our health service around". He commissioned the report a week later.

It is expected to be instrumental in shaping the government's 10-year plan "to radically reform the NHS". Lord Darzi is particularly concerned about heart care, with heart disease one of Britain's biggest killers.

Mortality rates from heart problems are now rising, having fallen steadily from the 1970s until 2010.

Waiting times for life-saving surgery for those suffering a heart attack have risen by a quarter and waits for treatment have gone backwards across all areas of the service.

In an interview with the BBC's *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*, Sir Keir Starmer said Lord Darzi was "really clear that the NHS is broken but not

beaten". He said: "His diagnosis, and my conclusion, is that the only way out of this now is reform. I think only a Labour government can reform the NHS and therefore we will use his diagnosis as the platform for the reform that we now need to carry out in relation to the NHS."

He added: "Everybody watching this who has used the NHS, or whose relatives have, knows that it's broken. That is unforgivable."

Lord Darzi's report will be published on Thursday. It found that improvements on the cardiovascular disease mortality rate for people aged under 75 stalled in 2010 and started rising again during the pandemic.

In their submission to the investigation, the British Heart Foundation said: "We are extremely concerned that the significant progress made on heart disease and circulatory diseases in the last 50 years is beginning to reverse."

"The number of people dying before the age of 75 in England from these has risen to the highest level in 14 years."

Deaths from heart disease have gradually fallen over the last 50 years to a low of 71 per 100,000 people in 2019, according to the British Heart Foundation. The premature mortality rate has risen since then to 79 per 100,000.

Lord Darzi's investigation also found that there are wide variations in the standard of care patients receive from the NHS depending on where they live.

It will say: "The time for the highest risk heart attack patients to have a rapid intervention to unblock an artery has risen by 28 per cent from an average of 114 minutes in 2013-14 to 146 minutes in

Continued on Page 4

Daisy's new normal



Daisy Edgar-Jones at the premiere of her new film, *On Swift Horses*, during the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival. The actress, who rose to fame in the BBC drama *Normal People*, shares the screen with Saltburn star Jacob Elordi and Will Poulter

Streeting 'not remotely happy' over winter fuel cuts

By Daniel Martin, Dominic Penna and Amy Gibbons

THE Health Secretary has said he is "not remotely happy" with the plan to remove the winter fuel payment from millions of pensioners.

Wes Streeting spoke as up to 40 Labour backbenchers prepared to defy Sir Keir Starmer by abstaining in tomorrow's vote on whether the cut should go ahead. A small number of MPs are also expected to vote against the policy and have been warned they could lose the whip as a result.

The Prime Minister vowed yesterday that he would plough on with the change, saying his government was prepared to take "unpopular decisions" for the good of the economy.

While Mr Streeting conceded that the policy, announced by Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, in July, would have a negative impact on his constituents, he insisted that it was necessary because of the state of the economy bequeathed by the Tories.

"I think it is a tough choice, and we've had plenty of political criticism for it, I think, which demonstrates the political pain of it," he told Sky News.

"I'm not remotely happy about it, and I'm not remotely happy about having to say to some of my constituents: 'I'm sorry that I'm going into work this week to vote for something that will take money away from you'..."

"Let me tell you that whether it's pensioners or anyone else in this country, they won't forgive us if we duck the difficult decisions now and end up leaving the country with a bigger bill, a bigger price of failure in the future."

Other cabinet ministers are understood to share the concerns about the plan. Labour rebels say they have been threatened with the suspension of the Labour party whip if they vote against the government on the motion.

Last night, Liz Kendall, the Work and Pensions Secretary, was understood to be ringing rebels in a bid to limit the size of the revolt.

Today, Ms Reeves will address Labour MPs in the Commons to explain her decision to strip the benefit, worth up to £300 a year, from all those who receive pension credit.

Around 10 million will lose the payments. She has faced pressure to change the policy so that more pensioners on very low incomes keep the payments.

Many potential rebels are considering restricting themselves to abstention

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NEWS

'Police just ignore anti-social behaviour'

Police are ignoring anti-social behaviour, a major report has suggested. Victims of anti-social behaviour have been left suffering persistent abuse for more than five years because of the failure of police and councils to act on their complaints, according to the report by the victims' commissioner for England and Wales. Victims told researchers they thought police had ignored their reports because they deemed the crimes to be "low-level."

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WORLD

Poll shock signals end of Harris 'honeymoon'

Kamala Harris has suffered a fall in the polls for the first time since becoming her party's presidential candidate. A *New York Times* survey shows Donald Trump overtaking Ms Harris on 48 per cent to 47 per cent among likely voters. The drop in popularity comes on the eve of a televised debate between the vice-president and Trump. It is the first major poll to show a drop in support, which *The New York Times* speculates may represent the end of a "euphoric August" for Ms Harris.

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Road to nowhere Oxford's useless £51m car park

Features



BUSINESS

Reeves told to charge CGT after death

Rachel Reeves has been urged to start charging capital gains tax on second homes and businesses after their owners die. Scrapping relief that wipes out capital gains tax charges on death would drive economic growth and raise £2bn a year for the Treasury as the Chancellor scrambles to fill a £22bn budget black hole, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Helen Miller, IFS head of tax, said: "It is a bad tax relief and I would love it if the Government scrapped it."

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SPORT

Carsley: I'm the man to be England coach

Lee Carsley says the win over the Republic of Ireland has helped him prove to himself he can do the England job. The 50-year-old added he sees himself as a head coach and will continue to do so even if he is given the role on a full-time basis. The Football Association has placed Carsley in interim charge for what is expected to be all six ties of the Nations League against Ireland, Finland - whom England face at Wembley Stadium tomorrow - and Greece.

Sport, Pages 1-4

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Children rely on sign language after lockdown affected speech

Generation of students left with major developmental issues as result of the pandemic, report finds

By Mark Ludlow

TEACHERS are being forced to improvise with sign language to communicate with primary school students whose language skills have been severely impacted by lockdowns,

according to a new report. The report by The Association of School and College Leaders, a teaching union, found the pandemic had left a generation of students with major developmental issues including a lack of toilet training, anxiety in social spaces and depression.

The report, written by Tim Oates, the group director of Cambridge University Press and Assessment, found the recovery from lockdowns would take five to 10 years to work its way through the education system.

"It will be a long slog, not a walk in

the park," he said. "There are serious dangers in simply assuming that schools are 'back to normal' - they are not - and assuming they will easily be able to meet the needs of young people affected by lockdowns and pandemic."

The pandemic affected different cohorts of students in different ways, the report found. It said teachers were "needing to improvise with sign language for five year-olds with severely underdeveloped language to older children absent through anxiety".

"While secondary schools are report-

ing an increase in reading difficulties among Year 7 pupils, poor personal organisation and challenging patterns of interaction, staff in primary schools are reporting very serious problems of arrested language development, lack of toilet training, anxiety in being in social spaces, and depressed executive function," it said.

"These problems are real, widespread and significant.

"We should urgently apply remedies to these problems and ensure the problems are diminished - hopefully to

zero - rather than accept and accommodate them."

The report draws upon Cambridge's own research on the impact of lockdowns on the "Covid generation" and recommends better assessment and monitoring to understand how each child has been affected.

Mr Oates warned that dealing with the impact of the pandemic will require a "protracted, grinding effort" and an evidence-driven response co-designed by schools, union and government.

Pepe Di'lasio, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said the report showed while the headlines had moved on from Covid, the impact on schools and children remained a day-to-day reality.

He said: "Schools continue to see high rates of pupil absence and they have many pupils with complex needs."

He added: "We urge the new government to work with us on developing targeted, well-funded policies that respond to the challenges outlined in this report."

NEWS BULLETIN

Elba joins the fight against knife crime

Idris Elba, the actor, will work with the Government to stop knives ending up in the hands of young people.

He will join Sir Keir Starmer in Downing Street today to promote a coalition of organisations coming together to stop young people being dragged into violent gangs.

Commander Stephen Clayman, the national policing lead for knife crime, will carry out an urgent review of "gaps in legislation" as part of the new initiative. The rapid review aims to understand why under 18s are still able to circumvent the law and buy and receive deadly weapons online.

Mystery of woman and child dead in Bodmin

A woman and child have died in unexplained circumstances in Cornwall, police said.

Officers were called by the ambulance service on Saturday morning following a report of concern for the welfare of two people in Bodmin, Devon and Cornwall Police said. They were given emergency treatment but later confirmed dead at the scene. Formal identification is ongoing but their next of kin have been informed. Det Insp Neil Blanchard said: "I would like to reassure the community that this is being treated as an isolated incident."

Veteran who liberated death camp dies aged 104

A D-Day veteran who helped liberate the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp has died aged 104.

Donald "Don" Sheppard, a dispatch rider for the Royal Engineers, arrived on Juno beach on June 6 1944 in a landing ship. Yesterday, the British Normandy Memorial account posted on X, formerly Twitter: "We are saddened to hear of the death of 104-year-old D-Day veteran Donald Sheppard."

They added: "Thinking of Donald's wife Sandra & family. Rest in Peace Don."

Boy, 15, dies in water at activity centre

A 15-year-old boy has died after having difficulty while in the water at an activity centre in Greater Manchester.

Officers were called over concerns for a male in the water at Scotman's Flash, Wigan at around 3pm on Saturday, police said. He was recovered from the water by members of the public but died despite the best efforts of the emergency services.

There are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances and his family are being supported by specialist officers.

Corrections and clarifications

An article "Tate boss: We shouldn't have indigenous art" (Sept 7) was incorrect. Tate Modern will continue to collect and exhibit indigenous art but will explore the ownership structure of works by such artists. We are happy to correct the record.

Labour MPs fear losing whip over fuel vote

Continued from Page 1

because of the "chilling effect" of Sir Keir's decision in July to suspend the whip for six months from seven Labour MPs who voted against the decision to keep the two-child child benefit cap.

Rebels expect around 40 MPs to abstain, plus a small number to vote against it. The rebellion could be similar in size to that over the decision not to lift the two-child benefit cap last July.

It comes as it emerged Labour's own research predicted almost 4,000 pensioners could die if the benefit was stripped from millions of people under plans that were considered by Baroness May. The research, uncovered by the *Daily Mail*, claimed 3,850 pensioners would die if the proposal went ahead.

Speaking on BBC One's *Sunday with Laura Kuennsberg*, Sir Keir urged MPs to vote for the cut to winter fuel.

"I'm absolutely convinced that we will only deliver that change if we do the difficult things now," he said. "I know they're unpopular, I know they're difficult. Of course, they're tough choices.

"Tough decisions are tough decisions. Popular decisions aren't tough, they're easy. I do recognise how difficult it is for some people. I do recognise it's really hard for some pensioners."

He also said that many people agreed that the winter fuel allowance needed to be more "targeted".

One Labour MP who was considering rebelling said that there were no signs the Government was backing down, and that the whipping operation was having a "chilling effect".

"So far, the line is if you vote against, we can't guarantee you'll keep the whip," the rebel said. "Abstention is the new voting against. Obviously there are lots of people who want to vote against. But it's very important to keep the whip and stay in the tent."

One Labour Party source said many of the new MPs were "nervous" about the vote after their inboxes filled up with "F--loads" of emails from angry constituents and campaigners.



Shape of things to come The National Youth Ballet's Evolving Visions, a short series of performances featuring dancers aged nine to 19, reached its climax yesterday with a staging at Sadler's Wells, in London.

'Alarming' reversal of progress on heart disease and stroke

Continued from Page 1

2022-23. "Patients in Surrey are likely to receive the procedure in less than 90 minutes, while those in Bedford, Luton, and Milton Keynes must wait around four hours" despite them being just 50 miles apart."

It will also warn of widespread variation in stroke care.

A Department for Health and Social Care spokesman said: "It's alarming that the progress made on heart disease and stroke is now in decline.

"It points to a failure to help people stay healthy, and a failure of the NHS to be there for us when we need it. This government is acting to cut waiting

times and reform the NHS, so it catches illness earlier, which is better for patients and less expensive for our health service."

The report will also point to evidence that where bold action has been taken, health has improved. It will say this is notably the case for smoking.

Labour brought in a ban on smoking in public places in 2007 and the Government is currently proposing to phase out legal sales of cigarettes by age.

Lord Darzi's review was commissioned by Mr Streeting to uncover the full extent of the challenges facing the NHS in order to provide a full and frank

'Labour is using this report as cover for the tax rises they plan to raise on us all at the Budget in October'

assessment of the issues it has inherited. The Government said the findings will help provide the basis for the government's 10-year plan for the NHS and build a health service that is fit for the future.

However, there were warnings yesterday that Labour's pledge to deliver 40,000 extra weekly NHS appointments to reduce waiting times will not

be enough to meet targets. In its general election manifesto, the party set a target of having 92 per cent of patients begin routine hospital treatment within 18 weeks of referral by the end of this parliament.

This would be achieved by having neighbouring hospitals share waiting lists, supplying additional capacity from the independent sector, and incentivising NHS staff to work extra evenings and weekends.

But a report by the NHS Confederation and healthcare consultancy Carnall Farrar has found the number of appointments promised - equivalent to two million a year - would only meet 15

per cent of the target, if care continues to be delivered in the same way.

The NHS would in fact need to provide 33.6 million outpatient appointments by 2028-29 to bring waiting lists back to meeting the 18-week level, according to the report.

Victoria Atkins, the shadow health secretary, said she was concerned that the government would use the findings of the report to justify tax rises.

She said: "This report should be about what the state of the NHS is and providing solutions and what worries me is that Labour is using this report as cover for the tax rises they plan to raise on us all at the Budget in October."

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Strava app users pay ‘mules’ to run for them

Lazy joggers who want to save face sub-contract exercise to others to keep up their online ratings

By Fiona Parker
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

STRAVA users are paying “mules” to run in their stead, in an attempt to gain more “kudos” on the fitness app.

Popular with runners, cyclists and swimmers, the Strava app allows amateur and professional athletes to track their routes and times – and share their progress with others.

Users can give “kudos” to each other when they post details of their latest training session or race – the equivalent of a “like” on other social media platforms.

But some users are promoting their services as Strava “mules” or “jockeys”, undertaking training sessions or races for others, for a fee. Their clientele can then pass off other people’s achievements as their own.

The Telegraph has identified UK-based accounts which offer the service under anonymous profiles.

When approached by The Telegraph, a Strava spokesman said that such behaviour by “mules” or their clients would violate the app’s terms and service – and that any individuals would face suspension if identified.

However, one runner – who appears to be based in the US – has been openly promoting his own “mule” service on video-sharing app TikTok.

In a video, the runner said that he had been a “Strava mule” for over a year. Explaining the service, he said: “Basically someone will pay me to run

a race with their Strava account on my phone. I did this with the Brooklyn mile last year.”

The runner explained that some clients gave him access to their Strava accounts, while others physically gave him their phone or another device – such as a smart watch.

It is a common misconception that clients want a “fast mule”, the runner explained, describing how he would be completing a slower run for a client who was aiming to complete their next marathon in 2 hours 40 minutes.

“He keeps posting slow times, so then when he does run the marathon, his friends will be like: ‘What? No way, that’s impossible.’”

The “mule” also confessed to agreeing to jobs which deceived loved ones as well as other Strava followers.

He explained: “Certain clients prefer to give me their phone and they want

me to go the extra distance... messaging their spouse, sending them a picture of Central Park, send them a screenshot of the run and be like: ‘Be home soon, honey’. If I’m being honest I’m willing to do anything for the right price. And I’m not making this video out of guilt, I’m making it to say that

‘He keeps posting slow times, so when he runs the marathon, his friends will be like: “No way!”’

my service is now available to the public.”

Another social media account, which appeared to be based in London, claimed to have a “global network of athletes” who would charge 25p per km (40p per mile) for runs and 10p per

km (16p per mile) for cycling. Earlier this month, the account posted a cycle ride completed by a mule which covered a distance of more than 100 miles.

Such an assignment, which took the cyclists over seven hours, would have come at a price of just over £16 for the client.

The same account also wrote a post about the rise of the “jockey movement”, claiming that the platform had become a “social media app rather than remaining a pure fitness app”. “Long live the jockeys,” the post concluded.

On another social media platform, another Strava mule claimed to be based in West Sussex. Sharing a 5km (three mile) run completed in less than 26 minutes, the self-proclaimed mule described the client as “a very happy customer”, adding: “A pleasure to do this for them, even in the blazing heat.” The same account also promoted their

services for an upcoming marathon in a major city.

With more than 120 million runners with accounts, Strava has more than doubled its worldwide user-base since 2020 – when it had 55 million.

High-profile athletes who have shared their own performances on the app include Russell Cook, also known as Hardest Geezer, who ran the length of Africa over a course of 352 days – the equivalent of 16,300km (10,100 miles).

The news comes as running appears to be enjoying a golden era, with a record breaking 840,318 people entering the ballot for next year’s London Marathon.

A Strava spokesman said: “Accounts found violating the terms of service, including through sharing account information or misrepresenting the athlete and/or activity, will be suspended from the platform.”



Time to dive back under the duvet as thunderstorms leave Britain soaking

By Mark Ludlow

LIGHTNING lit up the skies over Britain as thunderstorms struck the country yesterday.

Videos of the intense storms were widely shared on X, after people were awoken by booming thunder.

“Wakes up to London thunderstorms. Sticks phone out of the window to film,” one X user posted. “Slams window shut and hides under the duvet for the rest of the night Would not advise.”

Up to 100mm of rain was expected in some areas last night with the Met

Office issuing a yellow weather warning covering almost the whole of southern and central England up to South Yorkshire and all southern Welsh counties.

It comes after three consecutive days of heavy rain, starting on Thursday, lashed southern England and Wales.

Dan Harris, Met Office deputy chief meteorologist, said the wild weather was making it harder to forecast. “This is due to a more complex than usual meteorological pattern involving multiple corridors of heavy, locally, thundery rain revolving around a slow-moving area of lower pressure,” he said.

Today, some sunshine is likely to

Lightning over Guildford Cathedral, and, right, the final day of the Goodwood Revival, in West Sussex, was not spared a shower

develop in the south east, but this will be offset by further slow-moving thunderstorms.

Lengthy sunny and dry spells are still expected further north in a continuation of recent days, but conditions will be turning cloudier and more mild.

The showers will continue to move in a northwesterly direction while spells of heavy rain will affect many central and southern areas. Cooler, fresher temperatures are widely expected across the country into next week with a generally unsettled outlook.

Weather: Page 26



‘Wakes up to storms. Slams window shut and hides under the duvet for the rest of the night’

‘World’s deadliest chick’ hatches in Cotswolds wildlife attraction

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

ONE of the “world’s deadliest chicks” has hatched in a bird park in the Cotswolds.

Birdland has announced the first successful hatching in its history of the chick of a southern cassowary, renowned as one of the world’s largest and most formidable flightless birds.

The southern cassowary is regarded as dangerous because of its claws, strong legs and aggressive behaviour when threatened. The birds have killed people, including Marvin Hajos, 75, who was attacked by one of his pet cassowaries in Florida five years ago.

It is a major milestone for the Bourton-on-the-Water wildlife attraction, which has been trying to breed the birds on-site for more than 25 years.

The chick is only the fourth to hatch in Europe this year and the first born in the UK since 2021.

The parents, a male from Avifauna in Alphen, the Netherlands, and a female from Frankfurt, Germany, have been together at Birdland since 2012.



Factfile Southern cassowary

Latin name Casuarius casuarius
Height Up to 5ft 11in
Weight Up to 9 stone
Lifespan Up to 20 years in

the wild, and 40 years in captivity
Habitat Rainforests of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

effort from the entire team here over many years, but it’s all been worthwhile when you see this amazing humbug-coloured chick exploring its new surroundings under the watchful eye of a very protective father. Cassowaries have a reputation as one of the world’s most dangerous birds and their size, speed and power combined with their dagger-like 10cm claws mean we have to take looking after them extremely seriously.

“They are the only birds on-site that have their own risk assessment as they are potentially so hazardous.”

Found in the tropical rainforests of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, cassowaries are powerful runners, reaching speeds of up to 31mph. Over the coming weeks, it is hoped that visitors will have a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of the fast-growing bird in its spacious enclosure.

Cruise ship passengers facing €20 tax to go to Greek islands

By Our Foreign Staff

GREECE plans to impose a levy of €20 on cruise ship visitors to the islands of Santorini and Mykonos during the peak summer season.

The tax has been introduced in a bid to avert overtourism, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the prime minister, said yesterday.

Greece relies heavily on tourism, the main driver of the country’s economy, which is still recovering from a decade-long crisis that wiped out a fourth of its output.

But some of its most popular destinations, including Santorini, an idyllic island of quaint villages and pristine beaches with 20,000 permanent residents, risk being ruined by mass tourism.

Mr Mitsotakis clarified that excessive tourism was only a problem in a few destinations.

“Greece does not have a structural over-tourism problem... Some of its destinations have a significant issue during certain weeks or months of the year, which we need to deal with,” he said during a press conference after outlining his main economic policies for 2025. “Cruise shipping has burdened Santorini and

Mykonos and this is why we are proceeding with interventions,” he added, announcing the levy.

Greek tourism revenues stood at about €20 billion in 2023 on the back of nearly 31 million tourist arrivals.

In Santorini, protesters have called for curbs on tourism, as in other popular holiday destinations in Europe, including Venice and Barcelona. Part of the revenues from the cruise shipping tax will be



A cruise ship glides past the Greek island of Santorini, a popular tourist spot

returned to local communities to be invested in infrastructure, Mr Mitsotakis said.

The government also plans to regulate the number of cruise ships that arrive simultaneously at certain destinations, while rules to protect the environment and tackle water shortages must also be imposed on islands, he said.

Greece also wants to increase a tax on short-term rentals and ban new licenses for such rentals in central Athens to increase the housing stock for permanent residents, Mr Mitsotakis said.

The measures are part of a wider push-back against overtourism taking place across Europe.

In April, Venice launched a tourist tax for day-trippers – requiring visitors to pay €5 (£4.30) for visiting the city without staying overnight.

The Venice Access Fee was introduced on April 25, and was only applied during particular days between the hours of 8.30am and 4pm. The Fee is expected to come into full effect in 2025.

Amsterdam has voted to ban cruise ships from entering its main port altogether, as part of a wider crackdown on anti-social behaviour among tourists.

Unions will not ever be content, Aslef boss declares

By Amy Gibbons
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRADE UNIONS will “never be content”, the boss of the train drivers union has said just weeks after striking a bumper pay deal with the Government.

Mick Whelan, Aslef’s general secretary, suggested there was nothing Labour could do to totally appease the movement, despite ministers’ claims relations are entering a “new era”.

It is likely to exacerbate fears that the Government’s inflation-busting pay deals for train drivers and junior doctors will lead to more demands from public sector workers, rather than an end to crippling strikes.

Last month, Aslef was offered a 14 per cent pay rise over three years, which will see the average driver’s salary rise from £60,000 to just under £70,000.

Mr Whelan hailed the “no-strings” deal, saying Labour had “listened” to his union unlike the Tories who he claimed had treated it with “utter contempt”.

Speaking at the National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN) rally on the fringes of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) conference in Brighton on Sunday, he said the movement as a whole would “never be content”.

In particular, he said he was uncomfortable with Labour cutting winter fuel payments for millions of pensioners.

He also suggested that the unions could use the Government’s New Deal for Working People as a springboard to “change” Labour and its policies, in remarks likely to raise further concerns over the power the movement holds over the party.

In his speech at the NSSN rally, Mr Whelan said if Labour delivered even “40 per cent” of its pledges it would be a vast improvement on the 14 years of Tory rule that came before.

If the Government makes a good start on its workers’ rights reforms, he said the unions will have the “building blocks to change the world”.

He suggested the movement as a whole will never be satisfied, no matter what Labour do.

“What can we do? Well, we can do what we’ve always done. We can campaign, we can protest, we can stand there, we can articulate the voices of the people that we represent, our unions, our families, our unions, what we believe, but then we’ve got to build upon it,” he said.

“So I’m not too worried about the ‘what if’ moment, if I’m honest, because even if we only got 40 per cent of what’s being promised, we’re 40 years better than we’ve been in the past.

He added: “So I am quite... not content, cause I’ll never be content, I’m an argumentative b-----. You might have gathered that. And the movement will never be content.”



Sir Keir Starmer enjoys a kickabout with friends in London yesterday following the broadcast of his first major television interview as Prime Minister with Laura Kuenssberg

I’m a landscape fan, PM says amid Thatcher portrait row

By Dominic Penna
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR KEIR STARMER has claimed he took down a portrait of Baroness Thatcher because he doesn’t like pictures of people staring down at him, and prefers landscapes.

The Prime Minister was criticised after it emerged he had asked for the artwork to be removed from the Iron Lady’s former study just weeks into his premiership.

The portrait of Lady Thatcher was commissioned by Gordon Brown and was unveiled in 2009 to be permanently displayed in Downing Street.

But the Prime Minister was reported to have found the likeness of the former prime minister “unsettling” and it has since been hung in a first floor meeting room instead of his study.

Asked about the row on the BBC’s *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*, Sir Keir said: “The first thing is Gordon Brown didn’t actually hang it in the study. It was commissioned and hanging somewhere else, I think it was David Cameron who brought it into the study”.

He added: “This is not actually about Margaret Thatcher at all. I don’t like images and pictures of people staring down on me. I’ve found it all my life.”

“When I was a lawyer I used to have pictures of judges. I don’t like it, I like landscapes. So this is my study, it is my private place where I got to work. I didn’t want a picture of anyone, I wanted pictures of landscapes.”

Sir Keir recalled that during his time as a lawyer before he entered politics, his colleagues had “tried to persuade me” to have pictures of prominent legal figures in his office.

“I didn’t like it, I don’t like it any more if they’re politicians,” he added.

Ms Kuenssberg joked it was “unusual” for a politician to not like to have people looking at them.

“People have different views,” Sir Keir said. “In our house, now flat, you won’t... You know, some people have their mantelpieces full of pictures of themselves with world leaders. None of that in ours, not even in the toilet, where people traditionally also put it. All I’ve got is pictures of the kids, of the cats now. I might tolerate Thierry Henry on the wall but that’s about as far as I go.”

An avid Arsenal fan, Sir Keir has repeatedly named former French international Henry – who scored 228 goals for the side – as his favourite player.

The Tories claimed last month that Sir Keir’s decision to remove the painting of Thatcher showed he had “got a problem with women”.

The move was labelled “petty-minded” by Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, a former Tory MP and cabinet minister, and was also condemned by Dame Priti Patel, a former home secretary.

Calls to release Letby are crass, says Streeting

Health Secretary insists the nurse should still be seen as a murderer amid doubts over her conviction

By Dominic Penna and Martin Evans

WES STREETING has branded calls to free Lucy Letby “crass and insensitive”.

The Health Secretary said that the public should continue to view the former nurse, who is currently serving 15 life sentences, as a murderer amid growing demands for her release.

Letby, 35, was convicted of killing seven newborns and attempting to murder seven others at the Countess of Chester Hospital between 2015 and 2016. But there is growing pressure to free her, with some doctors, scientists and statisticians questioning the way that evidence was presented to the jury.

Asked about the row by LBC’s Lewis Goodall, Mr Streeting said: “It is crass

and insensitive to be waging a public campaign in this way. Because we can debate it, you and I, listeners can debate it, we can read the newspapers.

“We’re not the Criminal Case Review Board. We have an independent judiciary in this country, I think we have a fair and successful independent judiciary in this country.”

The Health Secretary’s intervention is the first public comment on growing doubts about the safety of Letby’s convictions by a member of the Cabinet.

It comes as the family of one of the babies who died told those raising concerns about Letby’s conviction, “shame on you”, adding it has made them question humanity.

Appealing to the public to let the judicial process “run its course”, Mr Streeting added: “There is no purpose to a media campaign. It is for the courts to decide on the basis of evidence and I would just remind people that we always presume innocence until people

Lucy Letby was convicted of killing seven newborns and attempting to murder seven others

have been found guilty. Lucy Letby has been found guilty, on multiple counts, of serious crimes with multiple whole life sentences. And until the courts find a reason to suggest otherwise, we should continue to regard her as a convicted killer serving multiple life sentences, delivering justice for those families going through unimaginable and intolerable grief.”

The Thirlwall Inquiry, which was set up to examine how Letby was able to harm babies in her care while working at Countess of Chester Hospital, is due to begin tomorrow. It will also examine the broader conditions in the neonatal unit where Letby worked.

Sir David Davis, the veteran Tory MP, last month revealed he hoped to visit Letby in prison as part of an investigation as to whether she may be the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Sir David told *The Telegraph’s* Daily T podcast he

would hope to visit Letby in HMP Bronzefield in Surrey if he was “at least three-quarters persuaded that she’s innocent”.

Experts from universities including Edinburgh, Harvard and Bristol have joined members of the Royal Statistical Society in questioning the way crucial evidence was presented in court.

Doubts have also been raised over Letby poisoning liquid nutrition bags fed to the victims with insulin, as there was no direct evidence that the bags had been tampered with.

But the parents of twin boys Baby E and Baby F, one of whom was murdered and one of whom was attacked by the nurse, have said calls to free Letby have been fuelled by “lies and misinformation”.

“Our family is deeply shocked by the ongoing speculation surrounding what is being referred to as a miscarriage of justice,” they told *The Sunday Times*. They added: “Once they were all put together the wall of evidence was overwhelming. To take each brick out separately is simply taking evidence out of context.”

“The spread of lies and misinformation is deeply distressing and makes us sick to our cores. We just want some peace to grieve, knowing the person who caused so much agony is where she belongs.”

Last year, Letby failed to face her victims’ families when she was given a whole life order for murdering seven babies and trying to kill six more.

It led Sir Keir, the then opposition leader, to call on Rishi Sunak to introduce a new law to make offenders appear in court.

Mr Justice Goss, the judge in the trial of Letby, told the court he did not have the power to force her to attend her sentencing, saying there was “nothing I can do about it”.

The Thirlwall Inquiry is due to hear evidence from senior managers at the hospital, medical staff and lawyers representing the victims’ families. It will not look at questions over her innocence. But the calls for the case to be re-examined have gathered momentum since the verdicts were handed down last August, with particular concern expressed about some around the scientific evidence presented to the jury.

One of the key planks of the prosecution case centred around a spreadsheet showing the frequency of child collapses against Letby’s shift patterns.

But leading statisticians have questioned the legitimacy of such evidence pointing to miscarriages of justice in the Netherlands and Italy involving medics accused of killing patients in their care.

In 2010, Lucia de Berk, a Dutch nurse who had been convicted of seven murders, partly based on shift pattern evidence, was cleared.

And three years ago, Daniela Poggiali, Italian nurse who was accused of murdering up to 38 patients, was cleared of wrongdoing.

‘I would just remind people that we always presume innocence until people have been found guilty. Lucy Letby has been found guilty, on multiple counts’

Labour drops plans to protect single-sex spaces in Equality Act

By Dominic Penna

THE Government will not carry forward plans to rewrite the Equality Act that were aimed at protecting single-sex spaces, the women and equalities minister has confirmed.

Anneliese Dodds said there were no plans to update the existing legislation, which the Conservatives had promised to reform ahead of the general election.

The Tories planned to rewrite the Act in order to make it clear that “sex” in the legislation means “biological sex” instead of the gender with which a person identifies.

This would have allowed public bodies to stop transgender women entering women’s lavatories or changing rooms, as well as preventing them joining all-female sports teams.

In a written question in Parliament,

John Glen, the shadow paymaster general, asked whether the Government intended to amend the legal definition of what a woman is.

Ms Dodds replied: “We are proud of the Equality Act and the rights and protections it affords women. The Government does not plan to amend legal definitions in the act.”

Mims Davies, the shadow women and equalities minister, warned that the refusal of Ms Dodds and Sir Keir Starmer to rewrite the act could create further “loopholes” for abusers.

“Labour simply cares more about appeasing woke ideologues than delivering on women’s safety,” Mrs Davies said.

“We introduced this change to provide much-needed clarity in the law to stop potential abusers exposing loopholes and acting in stopping the diluting of women’s safety.”

“Only by legally enshrining the importance of single-sex spaces can this Labour Government give biological women the clarity, dignity, privacy and safety we need.”

Sir Keir hinted shortly before polling day that he would abandon Mr Sunak’s plans.

During an election campaign visit, he told reporters: “I don’t think the Equality Act does need to be amended in that regard.”

The law was passed in 2010 when Gordon Brown was prime minister and its wording has been criticised as too vague by gender-critical campaigners.

Mr Sunak had vowed to rewrite the Act as part of his unsuccessful Tory leadership campaign in summer 2022, claiming it was used to “engage in social engineering to which no one has given consent”.

Third of shadow cabinet backs Badenoch for Tory leadership

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

KEMI BADENOCH received the backing of more than a third of the shadow cabinet last night, as two more members came out to say only she had the “X-factor” which could propel the Tories to victory.

James Cartledge, the shadow defence secretary, and Kevin Hollinrake, the shadow business secretary, said Ms Badenoch had the ability to communicate with the public so the party’s message “cuts through”.

In an online article for *The Telegraph*, they said she deserved to win because she combined “star quality, moral strength and sound principles”.

It brought the number of shadow cabinet endorsements for Ms Badenoch to 10 out of 29. The endorsements come ahead of the second round ballot in the

Tory leadership race tomorrow. Priti Patel was eliminated last week, and tomorrow a second candidate will be knocked out.

The final four will make their cases at the party conference at the end of the



Kemi Badenoch came second in the first round of MP voting last week, and now has 10 shadow cabinet endorsements

month. MPs will then whittle down the choice to two, with party members voting throughout October. The winner will be announced in early November.

In their article, Mr Cartledge and Mr Hollinrake wrote: “It is not enough for us to criticise. We can rage at Labour’s

actions, but the public won’t listen to our narrative – unless we have a leader who can communicate. Kemi Badenoch is that person. She is blessed with that rare gift in politics: the X-factor that means she can not only communicate but achieve all important ‘cut through’, so that the public actually notice.”

The pair praised Ms Badenoch’s work to provide redress to the victims of the Post Office scandal, and said she would be able to restore the Tories’ reputation for economic competence.

“Only Kemi combines star quality, moral strength and sound principles,” they said. “That’s... why we believe she is the right person to lead our party and to lead the country.”

Ms Badenoch came second to Robert Jenrick by six votes in the first round of MP voting last week, with James Cleverly coming third, and Tom Tugendhat and Mel Stride coming fourth and fifth.

BBC 'repeatedly downplayed Hamas terror'

Lawyer's report claims Israel is frequently portrayed as a militaristic and aggressive nation

By Patrick Sawyer and Camilla Turner

THE BBC has repeatedly downplayed Palestinian terrorism while presenting Israel as a militaristic and aggressive nation, a report has found.

The corporation's coverage of Israel suggests the Jewish state faces "no substantial threat", thereby "delegitimising its decision to prosecute a war", the report claims.

By contrast the BBC's coverage of the military strength and actions of Hamas, the terror group which runs Gaza, are given "far less weight", the research led

by British lawyer Trevor Asserson found.

It claims that BBC correspondents featured in a podcast series which followed the October 7 attacks had "a tendency to portray Israel as a military aggressor" and that by contrast "they tend to portray Palestinians, and Hamas, as militarily weak... creating a 'victim/aggressor' narrative".

Other examples include a BBC report on Oct 9 last year, which described the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) as "lavishly-funded and prestigious", and another on Oct 16 stating: "Israel's response in the days since the war was another example of its indifference to the suffering of the Palestinian people".

The Asserson report analysed the BBC's coverage over a four-month period beginning Oct 7, 2023 - the day Hamas carried out a massacre in south-

ern Israel, killing about 1,200 and taking another 251 into Gaza as hostages. A team of around 20 lawyers and 20 data scientists contributed to the research, which also used artificial intelligence to calculate the "sympathy ratio" of Israel-Hamas war coverage and analyse nine million words of BBC output.

Earlier this week *The Telegraph* revealed that the report found the BBC breached its own editorial guidelines more than 1,500 times during the height of the Israel-Hamas war.

In one example highlighted by the report, a BBC Arabic roundup of newspaper coverage of the conflict last November contrasted a photograph of a Gazan girl being cradled in an adult's arms after an air raid with a photograph of an ultra-orthodox Jew carrying a machine gun.

But the report's authors state that the

article failed to explain that the Jew carrying a machine gun was returning from the funeral of a Jewish college student shot by Palestinians in the West Bank. The report also points out the photograph was taken in October 2000.

The BBC's coverage has a tendency to excuse or downplay acts of terror by Palestinians, the report claims.

It says this is achieved by describing Hamas as "gunmen", "fighters" or "militants", rather than "terrorists", and by describing Hamas as a "resistance" organisation. The BBC is also said to have failed to mention the role terrorism has played in causing the conflict in the region. The effect is to "place part of the blame for October 7 on Israel".

It goes on to claim that the BBC's choice of language also tends to minimise the suffering of Israelis compared with that of Palestinians. On the BBC

News at Ten on Nov 1, 2023, Gazan civilians were described as being "starved, traumatised and bombed to death", compared with the more neutral description of Israelis "still in shock over the 7th of October attacks".

The report also claims that the BBC tends to give fewer details about Israeli victims of the conflict. It points out that on Jan 1 the corporation used a picture of 28-year-old Israeli hostage Noa Argamani showing her smiling before the war, rather than using a distressing image of her being abducted on a motorcycle on October 7.

A Jan 15 article about the murder of a 70-year-old Israeli woman and a terror attack in Israel offered little detail.

BBC coverage also tends to "glorify and glamorise" Hamas, according to the report, which highlights how correspondents described "Hamas's military

proress" and "astonishingly granular understanding of Israeli security".

A BBC spokesman said: "We have serious questions about the methodology of this report, particularly its heavy reliance on AI to analyse impartiality, and its interpretation of the BBC's editorial guidelines."

"We don't think coverage can be assessed solely by counting particular words divorced from context. We are required to achieve due impartiality, rather than the 'balance of sympathy' proposed in the report, and we believe our knowledgeable and dedicated correspondents are achieving this, despite the highly complex, challenging and polarising nature of the conflict."

"However, we will consider the report carefully and respond directly to the authors once we have had time to study it in detail."

Sunday service

The King attended church near Balmoral for prayers and reflection in memory of his mother Queen Elizabeth II on the second anniversary of her death.

The monarch and Queen Camilla arrived at the tiny granite Crathie Kirk, where the late Queen was a regular worshipper, on Royal Deeside for the Sunday morning service.

The King could be seen, with his window slightly open, in the back seat of the maroon state Bentley with the Queen at his side as they headed to the place of worship.

The King, 75, has been staying on his Aberdeenshire estate in the Highlands, where the late Queen died at the age of 96 on Sept 8 2022.

Tributes paid to the late Queen to mark the anniversary included one from Sir Keir Starmer hailing the '70 glorious years of her reign'.



JEFF MITCHELL/GETTY

Meghan and Oprah on same page at bookshop opening

By Mark Ludlow

THE DUCHESS OF SUSSEX was joined by friend Oprah Winfrey as she spoke at the opening of a bookshop in California.

The book club session was held at the Goodmothers bookshop in Summerland, a few miles from where the Duchess of Sussex lives in Montecito with Prince Harry and their two children.

Meghan's short address was attended by Marco Leone, astrology and psychology expert Dr Jennifer Freed and psychic medium Laura Lynne Jackson.

A copy of *Spare*, her husband's autobiography which was critical of the pair's treatment by the Royal family, was also seen on display in the background.

The evening of "light-filled speeches" was partly to celebrate the opening

weekend of Godmothers, co-owned by literary agent Jennifer Rudolph Walsh, which hosted a string of events and "conversations" with celebrities and authors.

Ms Walsh had put Prince Harry's memoir on display with a collection of books penned by local writers. Meghan's picture book for children, *The Bench*, which was published in 2001, was also on the shelf.

It comes after *The Telegraph* revealed that the Duke has "no interest" in returning to royal duties in the UK and is focused solely on his future in the United States.

Prince Harry's efforts to maintain contact with old friends and an evident desire to repair his relationship with his father the King sparked speculation that he is seeking a fresh start and even



The Duchess gave a short address at the bookshop, near her home in Montecito

an official working role within the family fold.

But multiple sources close to the Duke said this was not the case and he was happy and settled in California, with an "amazing" new set of friends and several projects on the horizon.

Since relocating to the US, the Duke has maintained contact with a tight group of trusted advisers with whom he worked in his former UK life, some of whom he occasionally turns to for advice.

However, they too expressed surprise at the suggestion that he might one day return to royal duties and are unaware of an alleged "blueprint" outlining how he might one day begin moving in UK circles again, the existence of which was first reported by *The Mail on Sunday*.

Princess has Cenotaph 'hope'

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE Princess of Wales is hoping to join the Royal family at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and, later in the year, to host her Christmas concert.

The Princess, who has undergone months of chemotherapy treatment for cancer, will "potentially" join the King on Nov 10 at the national service in Whitehall in honour of those who died in conflict, newspaper reports say.

Planning is also said to be under way for her annual televised *Royal Carols: Together at Christmas* service, at Westminster Abbey, in December, if she continues to have more "good days", *The Sunday Times* reported.

No date has been set for her return to public life, but the Princess is understood to be holding more regular meet-

ings as she works from home. She is said to have enjoyed spending the summer with the Prince of Wales and their children: Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.

The 42-year-old has made two official public appearances since her diagnosis - attending Trooping the Colour in June and presenting the Wimbledon men's singles trophy in July.

In a moving written message in July she said she was making good progress but was "not out of the woods yet".

On Friday, the Princess said she was "looking forward to working" with Dwayne Fields, the new Chief Scout.

A personal welcome message from the Princess, who is joint president of the Scout Association, was posted on the official social media account of the Waleses.

Law: I'll play a king but bowing down to one is another matter

By Gareth Corfield

JUDE LAW has suggested that he would not bow to members of the Royal family.

The star of *The Talented Mr Ripley* portrays Henry VIII towards the end of his life in *Firebrand*, his newly released film.

Yet Law, 51, suggested in an interview that he would not bow to members of the Royal family and wavered about describing himself as a monarchist.

"I'm intrigued by their history," Law said of the Royal family. "But I've never been a great believer in treating someone a certain way because they are born under a title."

When asked whether he considered himself a royalist, the south London-born actor replied: "I don't know that I am."

down to anyone, personally," he told *The Sunday Times*.

Other stars who have portrayed monarchs on the silver screen have changed their views on the institution. Dame Helen Mirren described herself as having been a "grumpy anti-monarchist" at the time of the 1977 Silver Jubilee, only

'I was very aware that Henry symbolises the downfall of many men who got drunk on power'

to say she felt "proud" of Queen Elizabeth II at the time of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

In *Firebrand*, in which Law plays a 28-stone Henry VIII as the monarch marries his sixth and final wife, Catherine Parr, played by Alicia Vikander, the

star of *Tomb Raider*.

Law also said he had gorged himself on "late-night ice cream" in order to portray the morbidly obese king, who by that stage needed nine men to lift him on to his horse.

He also acknowledged the influence of Harvey Weinstein, the disgraced film mogul, on his portrayal of Henry VIII, saying: "I was very aware that Henry symbolises the downfall of many men who soared through life with great success and got drunk on power, abused it and fell. And so Harvey must have crossed my mind."

Law and Weinstein worked together on *Cold Mountain*, the 2003 film, in which the British actor starred opposite Nicole Kidman and Renée Zellweger as a wounded deserter from the Confederate army during the American Civil War.



Jude Law as Henry VIII with Alicia Vikander

Royal rebels Actors who broke the rules



Russell Crowe

Broke protocol by calling Princes William and Harry "mate" and also said "we don't need a king" ahead of the coronation of Charles III last year. "I thought the equeury was going to pass out," the Academy Award winner recalled in a post on X. However, the New Zealand-born star of *Gladiator* did say he had found the King to be a "good bloke".



Susan Sarandon

The Academy Award-winning star of *Thelma and Louise* set royal watchers aflutter in 2018 when she was pictured approaching both Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip while the royal couple were enjoying a day out watching a Royal Windsor Cup match. Traditionally, nobody meets the monarch without being introduced first.



Tom Hiddleston

Broke royal protocol in 2016 by embracing the Queen, at the time the Duchess of Cornwall. The actor was pictured with his arm around a grinning Camilla at an event promoting children's literacy. "Sunday nights just aren't the same without you," the Queen said at the time, referring to Hiddleston's most recent role in *The Night Manager*, a BBC drama.

Newlove: police ignoring anti-social behaviour

Victims have been left suffering persistent abuse for years 'due to the failure of the authorities to act'

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

POLICE are ignoring anti-social behaviour, a major report by the victims' commissioner for England and Wales has suggested.

Victims have been left suffering persistent abuse for more than five years because of the failure of police and councils to act on their complaints, according to the report by Baroness Newlove.

Researchers were told victims thought police had ignored their reports because they deemed the crimes to be "low-level". Others said they were told by police there were not enough officers to come and tackle the abuse.

The research, based on a survey of more than 550 victims, found some had been "living the nightmare" of anti-so-

cial behaviour for the five years since Baroness Newlove's first report on the issue in 2019.

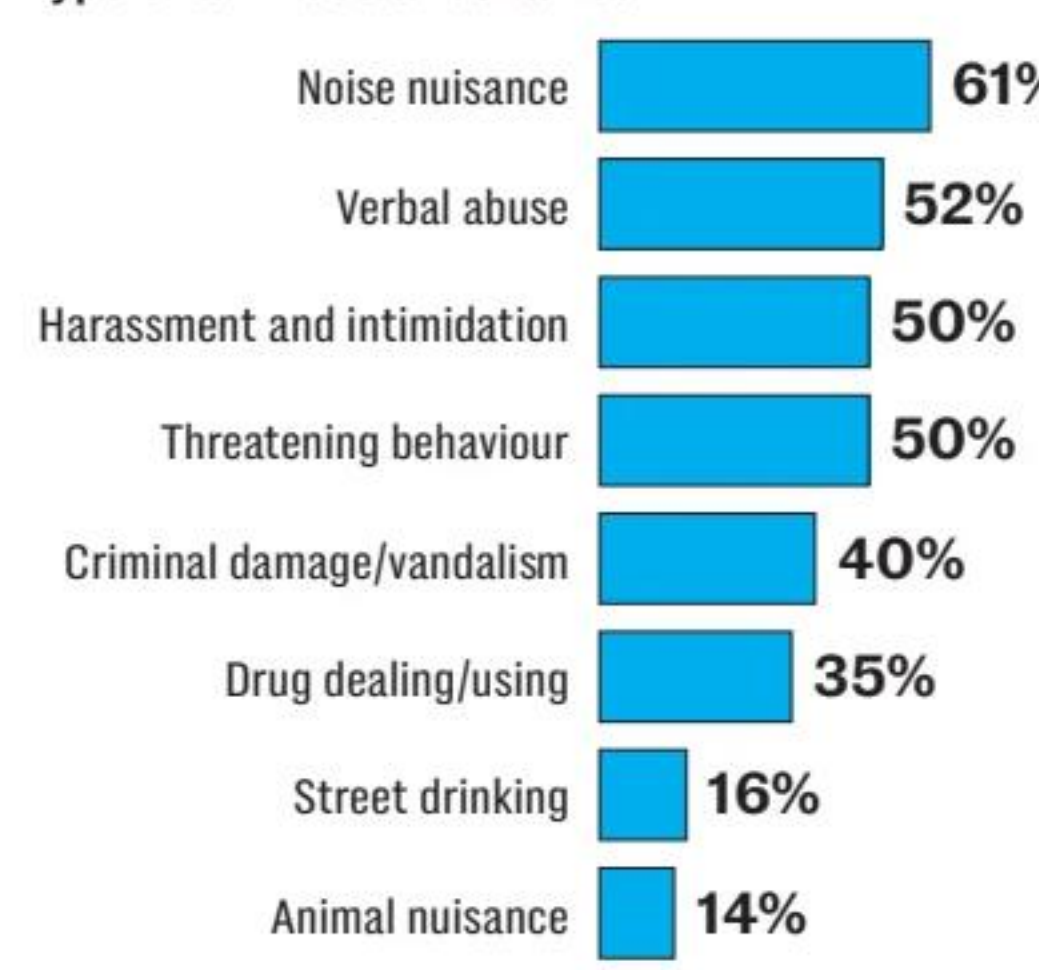
In an exclusive article for *The Telegraph*, she said nearly all of her recommendations - "warmly received" by ministers at the time - had not been implemented. "This reality is reflected in my new report. Victims spoke of anti-social behaviour that festers for years, severely impacting their daily lives and mental health. Some victims tell me they are being driven to the brink of suicide," said Baroness Newlove.

Baroness Newlove said failure by police and councils to counter it risked it escalating into more serious crime. Her report follows the death last week of an 80-year-old pensioner in Leicestershire after he was allegedly assaulted by a 14-year-old boy while walking his dog in a park. He had reported anti-social behaviour by youths to police.

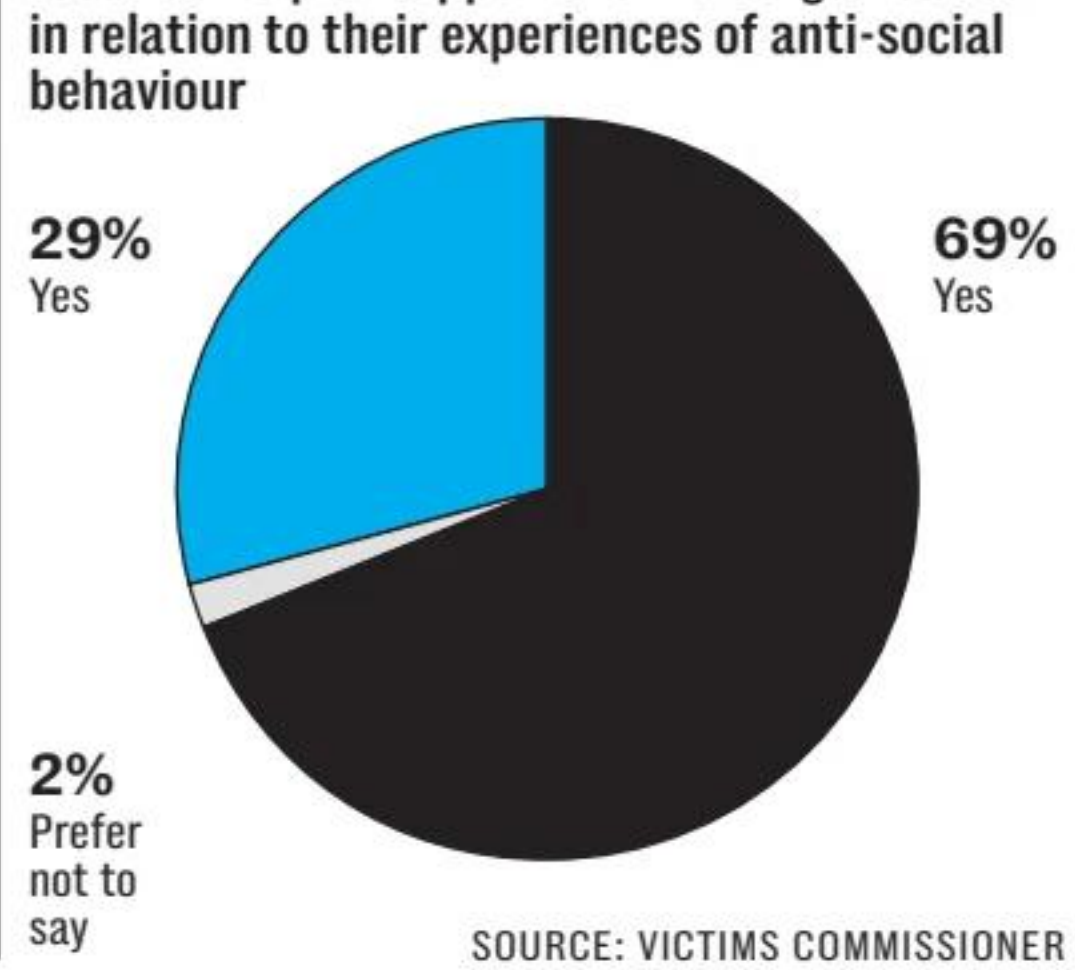
On Sunday night, Dame Diana Johnson, the crime and policing minister, pledged that "getting a grip" on anti-social behaviour was one of the Government's top priorities. "Too often when

Anti-social behaviour in numbers

Proportion of respondents experiencing each type of anti-social behaviour



Proportion of anti-social behaviour victims who received help or support from an organisation in relation to their experiences of anti-social behaviour



anti-social behaviour is reported there is the feeling that no one comes, and nothing is done, with victims unable to access the help and information they need - this must change," she said. "We are going to deliver thousands more neighbourhood police and community support officers,

introduce tough new powers to crack down on repeat anti-social behaviour and strengthen the powers of the Victims' Commissioner to ensure victims of all crime get the support they need."

In the year to March 2024, there were more than one million incidents of

anti-social behaviour. The most common, experienced by 61 per cent of the victims, was noise nuisance, followed by verbal abuse (52 per cent), threatening behaviour, harassment and intimidation (50 per cent), and criminal damage and vandalism (40 per cent). More than three quarters (78 per cent) suffered two or more types of behaviour.

"We threatened to burn our house down, they keyed two of our cars and [were] hammering a cricket bat on the wall every night at 3 o'clock in the morning," a man in his late 50s reported.

"Verbal abuse from them. Damage to property. Friends and families of the tenant would abuse us. They found access to my social media accounts. [They] would go on [to my online business] and do false reports. I'd get pizzas and food deliveries arriving at 2am, anonymously sent to me to pay," said a woman in her 30s in the south east of England.

More than eight in 10 (83 per cent) of victims had reported the behaviour to police, local council or housing association, but two-thirds (63 per cent) said it was still ongoing despite their com-

plaints. Of those, four in 10 (40 per cent) said it began before 2019 when Baroness Newlove's first report was published.

Victims said police blamed a lack of resources which meant they had to prioritise other crimes. "One of [the officers] laughed at me on the phone. He said: 'There's only two police here for [the policing area] so what do you expect us to do?'" said a woman in London in her 40s.

Victims said the failure to act meant it had got worse. "They've allowed it to continue, so the problem is now bigger," said a woman in her 40s from London.

"It's entrenched because they've allowed it to go on for so many years," said a woman in her 50s from the south east of England.

Some were left with no choice but to move house entirely to escape. "I've lived here 23 years. I would not have moved if it wasn't for her...I'm actually waiting to move."

"We're just waiting on an exchange date. That's the only way I'm able to get out of it," said a woman in her 30s in the south east.



A protester is arrested and led into the back of a van by police, who Mr Twist said are being faster and more decisive, during a pro-Palestine demonstration that took place in London on Saturday

Met admits mistakes at pro-Palestinian protests

By Charles Hymas

A SENIOR Scotland Yard officer has admitted the police made mistakes over their handling of pro-Palestinian protests.

Matt Twist, the assistant commissioner of the Met police responsible for public order policing, said the force "didn't get everything right - particularly in the early stages in October."

In an interview with the think tank Policy Exchange for a report on the protests published today, Mr Twist cited the decision not to immediately arrest demonstrators shouting "jihad."

"On occasion we did not move quickly to make arrests, for example the man chanting for 'Jihad' which was a decision made following fast time advice from lawyers and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)," he said.

However, Mr Twist said the police had developed their tactics since then to be faster and more decisive.

"We are now much more focussed on identifying reasonable grounds for arrest, acting where needed, and then investigating, so in these circumstances it's very likely arrests would be made more quickly now," he said.

He rejected accusations of "two-tier or differential policing" in how the Met handled the pro-Palestine protests, claiming instead they had an "infinite number of tiers of policing."

"In public order policing we are neutral as to the cause that is being protested. We base policing tactics on the threat, harm and risk based on the information and intelligence available to us," he said.

"In that sense there is no such thing as 'two-tier or differential policing' - there are in fact an infinite number of tiers of policing, depending on the threat, harm and risk," he said.

The Policy Exchange report, published ahead of a Government review of policing protests, also revealed that town and city centres targeted for protests had effectively become "no-go" zones for many people.

The report said that too often the police, prosecutors, the Government and the courts had wrongly failed to prioritise the rights of ordinary people.

Some officers think these offences are just low-level annoyances; minor irritants

Commentary



By Baroness Newlove

In 2019, my report *Living a Nightmare* laid bare the devastating reality of anti-social behaviour. Victims confided in me, telling me they felt like "second-class" citizens, passed from pillar to post, ignored, unheard and alone with no resolution in sight.

The reality for victims is a persistent barrage of noise nuisance, verbal abuse, harassment, and intimidation, often with no end in sight. The report's title neatly captured their plight. These victims were living a nightmare.

As my latest report makes plain, many still are. After its publication, my inbox swelled with devastating victim accounts of persistent anti-social behaviour. Clearly the findings resonated, and victims finally felt seen and heard.

That steady stream of messages from victims has continued ever since. Even today, most of the correspondence my office receives comes from victims of anti-social behaviour.

So, five years later, the pressing question remains: has anything changed? For a start, many victims are still living that very same nightmare.

For a staggering 40 per cent of the more than 500 victims we spoke to, their ordeal with anti-social behaviour began before my previous report and is still ongoing today. That is a damning

'The question remains: has anything changed? Many victims are still living that same nightmare'

indictment of our approach. It is clear that victims are being failed.

In my 2019 report, I outlined several recommendations for the government and responsible agencies. These were warmly received by ministers at the time, with assurances that the recommendations would be considered "carefully." That careful consideration amounted to little.

To date, nearly all of these recommendations remain unimplemented. This reality is reflected in my new report.

Victims spoke of anti-social behaviour that festers for years, severely impacting their daily lives and mental health. Some victims tell me they are being driven to the brink of suicide. Despite reporting the anti-social behaviour, nearly two-thirds say it is still ongoing. Victims

struggle with burdensome evidence collection and often feel ignored by authorities.

Anti-social behaviour is often minimalised. But the truth is anti-social behaviour can and does make victims lives a living nightmare, causing stress, misery, and despair.

It can have a devastating effect on victims, affecting their sleep, their relationships, and their ability to work.

It can also be a precursor to serious crimes, including knife crime and gang activity. It is so important that it is taken seriously by the agencies responding to it. But tackling anti-social behaviour is rarely the responsibility of a single agency. The burden falls on victims to navigate a fragmented system, bouncing between police, council, and housing agencies all under their own steam. Meanwhile, the behaviour continues unabated.

Reporting anti-social behaviour is also not straightforward. Too often, police regard the behaviour as low-level and an irritant as opposed to a cause for concern. This shows a complete lack of understanding of the impact of persistent anti-social behaviour on its

'Too often, police regard the behaviour as low-level and an irritant as opposed to a cause for concern'

victims. This must change - and not before time.

In 2007, a campaign of anti-social behaviour and violence tore apart my family's ordinary life and led to the senseless murder of my husband, Garry. My story is only unique in its tragic outcome. The relentless harassment, the ignored pleas for help, the sense of powerlessness - these are the grim realities countless ordinary families face every day.

Garry's death in 2007 should have been a turning point. Yet, 17 years later, I feel too little has changed.

In my report, I set out 11 concrete recommendations for police, government departments, and local authorities to take forward.

My plea is that in five years' time we can look back and say that real, meaningful progress has indeed been made. Because right now victims are still being pushed to the brink.

Warm words are not enough. We need action. We must end this nightmare for victims up and down our country once and for all. *Baroness Newlove is the victims' commissioner for England and Wales*

Police officers 'massively frustrated' by slow speed of justice

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

POLICE officers are "massively frustrated" that not all criminals are treated with the same speed and efficiency as the rioters, the new head of the Police Superintendents' Association (PSA) has said.

Nick Smart said all victims of crime deserved swift and decisive justice and warned that the "broken" court system was letting the public and his police colleagues down. In the four weeks since the far-Right riots erupted across the country, a total of 1,380 people have been arrested and more than 860 charged.

Mr Smart said while such a response was welcome, it was unfortunate not all criminals received similarly swift outcomes. Speaking ahead of the PSA's annual conference, he said: "We looked at how quickly offenders were brought to justice over the riots and it is not lost on the police service or anybody else within the criminal justice system how swift and effective that was and we would like to see that for all victims. It is a massive frustration for the police that they are not."

"We want that all the time from a policing perspective and I'm sure our criminal justice partners would want that all the time because that is best for the public and best for the victims and that is what counts."

He said his colleagues worked extremely hard to arrest criminals and ensure they were charged by prosecutors in a timely manner, but delays in the court system often resulted in victims giving up and withdrawing their support.

Mr Smart urged the new government to invest urgently in policing and the wider criminal justice system in order to ensure victims got the justice they deserve.

He explained: "If you invest in the police you also have to invest in the courts, you have got to invest in the CPS, you have got to invest in social care, you have to invest in the prisons. You can't just invest in one agency and expect everything to change. Policing costs money, criminal justice costs money and the only way you are going to improve it is to significantly invest because the criminal justice system is broken. It's an invidious situation that we find ourselves in."

"If you are prepared to invest in people and in funding you can see how effective the criminal justice system could be. Our staff work tirelessly to deliver the best possible outcomes but if we invest, those out-

comes could be so much more positive for everyone."

Mr Smart will also use his conference speech tomorrow to urge the Government to allow the police to "get back to basics" and deliver the service the public expects and deserves. But he will warn the job is being made virtually impossible because officers are now expected to perform so many non-policing roles.

"People who are high risk and vulnerable who go missing are absolutely a police job and we will always be there, but in some cases, not all, people could be prevented from going missing in the first

place by proactive preventative work to help them. Partners need investment to do this too of course, but it would result in better positive outcomes for that individual, who may be in an ongoing crisis, and would also stop that demand coming to the police service, which might not be best placed to provide that specialist help."

He went on: "What we will be saying to the Government is 'define the mission for us', tell us what the priorities are and we will deliver on those with the resources that we have got but if you want us to do everything, when everything is a priority it can't be a priority."

'There is a lot of damage to the huts that are now badly exposed to the elements'



BNPS

Homeless campers 'vandalising beach huts'

Angry business owners demand council take action after timber is stripped for firewood

By Steve Bird and Mark Ludlow

A GROUP of homeless seaside campers has been accused of prising materials from Bournemouth's beach huts to use as firewood.

Timber cladding from more than a dozen huts has been removed by vandals, and Britain's oldest beach hut has been broken into.

The damage to the huts, which are either privately or council owned and rented out, is expected to cost tens of thousands of pounds to repair.

Around 10 tents have been pitched at

the seaside resort for three weeks, angering some local business owners who say they are blighting the area.

It is understood that most of the occupants are homeless and move to the beach during the warmer weather.

But in recent weeks council staff discovered the back and sides of some huts had been stripped of wooden panelling.

One family renting a beach hut said they had been told by council officials that campers had been taking wood from the huts to use for firewood.

"There is a lot of damage to the huts that are now badly exposed to the elements. The council had better get on and repair them before the winter weather sets in. God knows how much it will cost the taxpayer to fix," a family member said.

Britain's oldest public beach hut, built in 1909, was broken into and now



Damage to the huts, left, which is expected to cost tens of thousands to fix, has been blamed on an encampment of homeless people on the beach in Bournemouth, above

has a panel boarding up the front door. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) said it was working to capture the culprits.

"We are aware of the damage to a number of beach huts at Pier Approach and our maintenance team are assessing their condition," Cllr Richard Herrett, head of BCP Council's leisure operations, said.

He added that the council was also attempting to deal with the current encampment of tents on the beach.

"We are working closely with St Mungo's [a homeless charity] and the council's housing and communities team to provide support," he said.

The spokesman stressed that Public Spaces Protection Orders could apply to anyone displaying intimidating, aggressive or antisocial behaviour.

"Those caught breaking the PSPO

risk being issued with an on-the-spot fixed penalty notice of up to £100," he said. "Anyone choosing to sleep overnight on our beaches and break these bylaws risks prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000."

Local tourism officials say the tents blight a beach that is ranked one of the best in the UK.

Rosie Radwell, chairman of the Bournemouth Area Hospitality Association, told *The Daily Mail*: "This is not what we want for Bournemouth, it does not set the right tone for our reputation."

She said some of the illegal campers were people who did not want to pay to stay at a campsite or hotel.

"Our guests comment that it doesn't look good, and we know the residents in the area are not happy too. It has in the past brought with it antisocial behaviour," she said.

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Early release scheme could be undone by prison recalls

Fears inmates let out after 40pc of sentence will end up back inside and could carry out serious crimes

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE prison early release scheme to be launched tomorrow risks being undermined by recalls of freed offenders, ministers fear.

Sources have told *The Telegraph* that ministers have two major concerns over the early release plans which will free around 1,750 offenders 40 per cent of the way through their sentences rather than 50 per cent to prevent jails running out of spaces.

With nearly 2,000 prisoners being recalled every month for breaching their licence after release, sources are worried that any increase could limit the number of spaces freed up to ease overcrowding.

'There's always a danger but the risk is increased because everybody's working so frantically'

"They've been bounced back because they've been homeless or because they've breached licence conditions in some way," said the senior justice source.

"Second and most worrying is a serious further offence which, fingers crossed, won't happen.

"People come out of prison all the time. There's always a danger that can happen. But at the moment the risk is increased because everybody's having to work so frantically. So there is a danger someone slips through the cracks."

Around 500 serious offences (SFOs) are committed on average each year by a freed prisoner.

SFOs are defined as a "violent or sexual crime committed by someone who is or was under probation supervision."

The latest Ministry of Justice figures show the number of recalls of freed prisoners for breaching their licence

was 7,415 between January and March 2024, a nine per cent increase on the same quarter in the previous year and equivalent to more than half of the 13,829 prisoners released.

Reasons for recalls can range from failing to attend an interview with a probation officer to reoffending.

The increase was attributed to the Tories' introduction of an ad hoc early release scheme for prisoners to up to 70 days before their scheduled date, and increasing caution by probation officers following a series of high-profile scandals over SFOs by freed offenders.

Labour's scheme is different in that it changes all prisoners' release date to 40 per cent of their sentences unless they have been jailed for sexual offences, terrorism, domestic abuse or for more than four years for violence.

Sources said this gave prison and probation officers more certainty about the release dates.

By announcing the scheme two months ago, the MoJ said it had aimed to give all relevant authorities and services the necessary time to prepare for the release of offenders and to notify victims.

An MoJ spokesman said: "The new Government inherited a justice system in crisis, with prisons on the point of collapse. It has been forced to introduce an early release programme to stop a crisis that would have overwhelmed the criminal justice system, meaning we would no longer be able to lock up dangerous criminals and protect the public."

"The Government has also set out plans to recruit over 1,000 new trainee probation officers by March 2025 to meet additional demand."

Tom Wheatley, president of the Prison Governors' Association said: "We are almost giving people a better chance than they would have had through the normal run of things. There's checking upon checking upon checking."

The prison population hit a record weekly high on Friday of 88,521 amid an influx of people jailed in the riots. It meant there were just over 700 spare places in male adult jails.

This is an improvement from a low of just 86 spare places after the August bank holiday weekend.



Red letter day Sir Alan Bates has married Suzanne Sercombe on Sir Richard Branson's Necker Island with the Virgin tycoon officiating. Sir Alan, the former sub-postmaster known for his High Court battle with the Post Office, was reportedly invited after he said in an interview: 'If Richard Branson is reading this, I'd love a holiday.' *Editorial Comment: Page 17*

Drug scanners in jails fail over staff shortage

By Charles Hymas
and Danny Shaw

A MULTI-MILLION pound airport-style scanner security system to stem the flood of drugs in prisons has failed because of staff shortages, a Government review has found.

The X-ray scanners, which cost £80,000 apiece and peer inside the human body to see hidden contraband, were part of a £100 million "security investment programme" (SIP) by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) introduced five years ago to reverse soaring drug use, corruption and violence in jails.

But research by the MoJ has found the equipment was "not used consistently" in prisons which meant that "illicit items may be conveyed via these routes."

The report, seen by *The Telegraph*,

blamed staff shortages, officers trained in the equipment being deployed elsewhere in the jail to plug staffing gaps, and the increasing workload for investigators from rising numbers of officers being corrupted by criminal gangs.

It also warned that criminal gangs were increasingly using drones and "throwovers" to circumvent the security and deliver drugs into jails.

"High levels of staff turnover and increasing demands on staff because of growing prisoner populations will continue to hinder the effectiveness of SIP's investment, if not addressed," said the report.

"In areas where SIP resource was being used as intended, such as funding police investigators for corruption cases, there is still a risk that resources become too stretched as caseloads of

minor and major instances of corruption increase."

The critical review comes ahead of Tuesday's annual report by Charlie Taylor, the chief inspector of prisons, in which he is expected to warn that drug

'There is still a risk that resources become too stretched as caseloads of corruption increase'

use is out of control in some jails with up to half the prisoners testing positive in random tests.

He will highlight the threat from sophisticated criminal gangs using drones to drop heavy payloads of cannabis into prisons via ever more

ingenious approaches because of the "enormous" mark-ups that they can make from selling the drugs in jails.

In one jail, prisoners ripped out the element from a kettle and burned a hole in the perspex windows of their cell so that drones could fly in and deliver drugs and mobile phones, which are used to coordinate contraband deliveries.

In another jail, HMP Oakwood, in Wolverhampton, the gangs disguised the drug payloads in grass then dropped them via drones on to the turf of the prison's playing fields so that they could not be spotted by officers and could be retrieved by the prisoners.

Mr Taylor told *The Telegraph*: "Even if they are losing lots of shipments because they get found or picked up, there is still a huge amount of money to be made."

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Cafes pull the plug on laptop table hoggers

Businesses fed up with slow crowd of workers spending all lunchtime enjoying free Wi-Fi

By Frankie Vetch

TWO cafés have banned people using laptops at lunchtime in an attempt to stop remote workers “hogging” tables.

Milk and Bean in Newbury, Berks, has limited customers to using their laptops for an hour on weekdays and has implemented a complete ban on weekends.

The Collective, based in Caversham, Reading, has banned the devices between 11.30am and 1.30pm on weekdays and completely at weekends.

Alex Middleton, the café's manager, told the BBC the policy was about finding a “balance” which “doesn't compro-

mise us losing money”. “We are a small independent business, so we need to keep those tables busy and turned around – we can't have people hogging the table and we don't want to disrespect people that come in with laptops either”, he said.

The reaction from customers to the ban “really varies”, he said.

“We're quite lucky that a lot of our customers are returning customers that come in quite often – so they respect the policy, but then you will get people that get a little bit antsy about it,” he added.

Chris Chaplin, owner of the Milk and Bean, told the broadcaster that laptop use has led to “a lower turnover and quite a low spend compared to people that aren't on laptops”.

“It also brings the vibe of the place down with people on laptops,” he said.

“On one hand, we rely on them for revenue, but on the other hand, they've



The Collective cafe in Caversham said the reaction to the ban 'really varies'

got to be reasonable and have some self awareness”. He added that he often had “no choice” but to tell customers to stop using their laptops. Working from

home has become increasingly popular since the pandemic with many remote workers choosing to make cafés a second office because there is free Wi-Fi and electricity.

From October to December 2019 and January to March 2022, the number of home workers in Britain more than doubled from 4.7 million to 9.9 million people, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Some companies including HSBC, Amazon and Boots have launched drives to get workers back at their desks for at least part of the week, but the practice is expected to remain widespread.

Cafés, pubs and restaurants have been hit hard in recent years.

Establishments that managed to survive a drop in customers during the Covid lockdowns were soon hit by rising food prices because of the war in

Ukraine. High inflation and the cost of living crisis have made it hard to keep prices steady and to keep attracting customers.

Tom Kerridge, the celebrity chef, told *The Daily Mail* in April that if “I was a sole operator of one single restaurant, I would be absolutely terrified. It's very, very scary right now”.

For some owners, customers with laptops are not just a financial burden, but can cause disruption to staff and other customers by taking up space.

The Fringe and Ginge in Kent banned laptops earlier this year after one customer asked staff to be quiet during work call on Zoom, a video conferencing software.

Cafés in Europe, from Berlin to Paris, have also imposed restrictions on laptop usage following an influx of digital nomads on the continent. Some have referred to them as “café squatters”.

‘On one hand, we rely on them for revenue, but on the other hand, they've got to be reasonable’

Night owls at higher risk of Type 2 diabetes, study finds

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

NIGHT owls are more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes – and it is not just because they have less healthy lifestyles, research suggests.

The study of more than 5,000 adults examined the association between sleep timing, diabetes and body fat distribution.

Researchers found that those who went to bed late had a higher body mass index (BMI), larger waists and were almost 50 per cent more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.

Previous studies have found links between late nights and Type 2 diabetes, but these have often been explained by unhealthier habits among those who stay up late, such as junk food consumption. However, the new study by researchers in the Netherlands suggests that lifestyle cannot fully explain the links.

Researchers said that the disruption to the body clock – putting it “out of sync” with work and social schedules of society, could cause “circadian misalignment” which adversely affects metabolic health. They suggested that night owls might benefit from either going to bed earlier, or having their last meal of the day sooner.

Lead researcher Dr Jeroen van der

We believe lifestyle cannot explain the relationship between a late chronotype and metabolic disorders

Velde, of Leiden University Medical Centre, in the Netherlands, said: “Previous studies have indicated that a late chronotype – preferring to go to bed late and wake up later – is associated with an unhealthy lifestyle.

“Late chronotypes are more likely to smoke or have an unhealthy diet, for example, and it has been suggested this is why they are at higher risk of obesity and metabolic disorders including Type 2 diabetes. However, we believe that lifestyle cannot fully explain the relationship between a late chronotype and metabolic disorders.”

The research showed that night owls had more visceral fat – which is more deadly, as it surrounds the organs – and larger waistlines, which also carry higher health risks. The study, which tracked participants for almost seven years, involved adults with an average age of 56, and a BMI of 30 kg/m², putting them on the edge of obesity.

Dr Lucy Chambers, who is head of research communications at Diabetes UK, said: “It's important to remember that Type 2 diabetes is a complex condition and the chances of developing it depend on a mix of biological, genetic and environmental factors. So while strategies to change sleep habits might help some people to reduce their risk of Type 2 diabetes, they are never going to be a ‘silver bullet’ for everyone at risk.”



Field of battle Two wild female ponies fight for dominance of the herd. Photographer Andrew Fusek Peters, 59, captured the ‘vicious’ fight unfolding on the Long Mynd in Shropshire last week. The two females were seen squaring up to each other before the grey challenger launched at its white rival.

ChatGPT ‘better than doctors at diagnosing respiratory illnesses’

By Frankie Vetch

CHATGPT is better at diagnosing respiratory diseases than trainee doctors, a new study suggests.

The findings also found that Google's artificial intelligence (AI) tool, Gemini, performed better than humans in some aspects, while Microsoft's Bing performed as well as the trainee doctors.

The study indicates that these kinds of large language models could help medical staff to assess patients more efficiently and reduce the significant pressures facing the NHS.

Ten trainee doctors with less than four months of clinical experience in paediatrics were given one hour to use the internet, but not AI chatbots, to solve scenarios created by experts in child respiratory medicine for which there was no obvious diagnosis.

The doctors' answers were graded and compared to answers given by the chatbots. ChatGPT version 3.5 scored the highest and was believed to be more human-like in its responses than other chatbots. The study was presented to

the European Respiratory Society in Austria by Dr Manjith Narayanan, a consultant in paediatric pulmonology at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People.

“These tools have several potential applications in medicine. My motivation to carry out this research was to assess how well LLMs are able to assist

‘It is encouraging to see how ChatGPT can provide solutions to complex cases of respiratory illness’

clinicians in real life,” Dr Narayanan said.

The researchers did not find any clear instances of so-called “hallucinations”, when language models seemingly make up information, with any of the three chatbots. But Dr Narayanan cautioned that it is important to mitigate against this occurring moving forward as there is always a possibility of it happening.

Bing and Gemini did give some

answers that were deemed to be irrelevant to the questions asked, but so too did the trainee doctors.

Over half of the public in the UK and three-quarters of NHS staff said they support the use of AI for patient care, according to a survey released in July by the Health Foundation, a healthcare think tank.

But both the public and NHS staff also felt that the fact that AI systems cannot show “real empathy” or “kindness” was selected as the biggest disadvantage to using the technology.

Hilary Pinnock, a professor of primary care respiratory medicine at the University of Edinburgh said: “It is encouraging, but maybe also a bit scary, to see how a widely available AI tool like ChatGPT can provide solutions to complex cases of respiratory illness in children.

“It certainly points the way to a brave new world of AI-supported care.”

Dr Narayanan is now planning to test chatbots against more senior doctors and to look at newer and more advanced large language models.

Great Ormond Street probed over treatment of 721 children

By Fiona Parker SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A GREAT Ormond Street Hospital surgeon who treated 721 children is being investigated after a string of “inappropriate and unnecessary” operations, which left some suffering “severe harm”.

The hospital trust said the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) has been asked to review its paediatric orthopaedic service following accusations against Yaser Jabbar, who previously worked there.

Citing a leaked report, *The Sunday Times* said that, of the 39 cases already reviewed, 22 children have been found to have come to some degree of harm, 13 of them classed as “severe harm”, which is likely to include lifelong injuries.

Mr Jabbar, who no longer works at the London hospital, is reported to be an expert in limb reconstruction but has not had a licence to practise medicine in the UK since Jan 8, according to the General Medical Council's website. Earlier this year, Great Ormond Street Hospital wrote to the families of all children treated by Mr Jabbar, and apologised for any “worry

and uncertainty” the letters about the care provided by him may have caused. It could now face multiple claims for compensation.

The hospital trust said the RCS was asked to review its paediatric orthopaedic service following concerns raised by family members and staff. The RCS then raised concerns about Mr Jabbar.

Caroline Murgatroyd, of Hurdge Solicitors, which represents some former patients, said initial findings by the RCS “paint a very worrying picture of the treatment provided to children by Mr Jabbar”.

“They outline unacceptable assessments, examinations, clinical decision-making, and treatments of patients, poor communication with families with regards to seeking their consent for treatments and procedures, as well as failures

to make it clear what kind of complications children could face after undergoing surgery,” she said.

“In one case, a child underwent an amputation... [that] could possibly have been avoided with a different route of treatment. Children have suffered leg length discrepancies following inappropriate and unnecessary surgeries which will require treatment, and nerve injuries causing ongoing pain... it appears the hospital may be facing many claims for compensation.”

Mr Jabbar declined to comment to *The Sunday Times*. *The Telegraph* has approached him independently for a response. A spokesman for Great Ormond Street said: “Following concerns raised by our staff and families, we asked the RCS to review our paediatric orthopaedic service. We accept the findings in full and are taking steps to act on all its recommendations.”

Yaser Jabbar previously worked at Great Ormond Street



Russian cash could price UK workers out of Dubai

Property prices in the capital of the United Arab Emirates have soared since the invasion of Ukraine

By Melanie Swan

BRITISH expats are being priced out of Dubai as property is bought up by Russians following the Ukraine invasion.

Since 2022, Russian nationals have bought up \$6.3bn (£4.8bn) in existing and in-development properties in Dubai, according to a group of economists with the EU Tax Observatory and Norway's Centre for Tax Research.

Last month, property firm Knight Frank revealed prices in Dubai have risen 124 per cent since 2020.

And the rise in prices is forcing British expatriates to look elsewhere, according to a real estate expert in the kingdom.

Mona Jalota, founder of Krypton Global Real Estate, said she had received an uptick in enquiries from British expatriates enquiring about a move out of the city for cheaper rents and purchases.

"Every time there is a global or political crisis, Dubai continues to be a safe place to invest in, hence the continuous demand keeps the prices being pushed up," she said.

Shruti Krishnan from White Window Real Estate said cash purchases from Russians are swaying landlords to push for cash only sales too.

"Most of the Russian market is purchasing and in areas that give them really high rental so because of that the prices have gone up a lot," she said. "They're doing cash purchases, so what happens is, they will buy the property in cash and when that happens the sale is faster and the sellers are happy, so you see different sellers asking for cash only sales, especially rising since the war."

It has led to a two-tier pricing with cash prices versus prices for those on mortgages: a cash sale of one million Emirati Dirham (AED) is now the equivalent of a AED1.25m sale to a mortgage client.

The rising rents have also pushed many in Dubai to buy, as prices become equivalent to mortgages, said Ms Krishnan, a one-bedroom apartment last

year AED35,000 a year, now AED50,000 a year in Dubai South.

The price rise has come at a time when there has been a significant spike in interest from British nationals looking to move to the UAE from the UK. Earlier this year, John Mason International Movers reported a 50 per cent increase in enquiries from people looking to leave the UK.

Steve Johnston is one of the Brits who has recently left Dubai, where he lived for 27 years. Originally from the Wirral, he is now paying 40 per cent less in rent than in Dubai after moving to the northernmost emirate in the UAE, Ras Al Khaimah.

The radio presenter was paying around AED4,000 (£830) a month for a studio apartment but now pays just AED2,300 (£480) including free air conditioning, internet and electricity.

"I can see a lot more people moving out of Dubai," he said.

Jennifer Webster is also making a similar move. She said: "I've been served my second eviction notice in three years as

'Every time there is a global or political crisis, Dubai continues to be a safe place to invest in'

landlords look to capitalise on higher rental rates for villas and I simply cannot afford to pay the moving costs then find another villa for myself, my husband and our two rescue dogs, when prices are so inflated."

She has gradually moved further and further out of the city.

"Even with that, costs are far too high and we are living hand to mouth off our salaries every month which negates the point of moving here in the first place," she explained.

The report from the EU Tax Observatory said the team found evidence of a "substantial boom" in Russian interest following the outbreak of the war.

"We estimate that Russians bought \$2.4 billion worth of existing residential real estate during the two years following the invasion, and a further \$3.9 billion of off-plan properties.

"This is roughly a 940 per cent and 1,500 per cent increase on the previous two years."



Ifende Uzoka was reportedly advertising the Stratford flat for as much as £190 per night on Airbnb and Booking.com

Influencer 'put flat on Airbnb while she flew off to the UAE'

By Gareth Corfield

A LANDLORD has accused a fitness influencer of secretly subletting her flat to tourists on AirBnB while jetting off on holidays to Dubai.

Leanne Newton claimed her tenant listed her one-bedroom London flat on short-term rental websites after altering the interior decor and furniture.

Ifende Uzoka, a bodybuilding champion and fitness influencer, was reportedly advertising the Stratford flat for as much as £190 per night on Airbnb and Booking.com.

"This is the first time in my whole term as a landlord that I've ever encountered something like this, it's gob-smacking," Ms Newton told MailOnline.

Ms Uzoka rented the one-bedroom Newham flat in October last year for £1,900 per month.

Yet her landlady complained that the 34-year-old tenant had apparently listed the property as a two-bed holiday home and put up large TVs on internal



Ms Newton's flat before the influencer moved in and began 'changing things'

walls that were not designed for them. Ms Newton, who revealed the dining room has been converted into a second bedroom, said Ms Uzoka was even allegedly trying to make a booking for eight guests. She explained her reaction as "absolute shock", saying: "How could there be another house in London with similar architecture to mine and similar art to mine, but with different furniture? I had heard about these sorts of scams operating, but we thought we were careful about the screening and contracts process, and we have still been bitten."

The landlady said she had alerted Newham Council, Airbnb, Booking.com and the Metropolitan Police to no avail, leaving her with no option but the normal civil eviction process.

A Newham Council spokesman said: "We have located two online reports made in relation to a property in Fairland Road, Stratford, which we only received last week."

"As this is a very recent report we are yet to review and respond to the landlord directly."

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British prisoner escapes prison in Portugal using handmade rope

By James Badcock in Madrid

A "VERY dangerous" British prisoner escaped from a high-security prison in Portugal on Sunday morning using a ladder and homemade rope.

Mark Cameron Roscaleer was serving a nine-year sentence for kidnap and robbery when he broke out of the Vale de Judeus jail, about 40 miles north of Lisbon, with five other inmates.

Four of the five are "dangerous" and "violent" men who "will do anything to remain free," including putting human lives at risk, said Luis Neves, the director of the Portuguese judicial police.

The men were serving sentences for crimes including violent robbery, drug trafficking and organised crime. The public has been warned not to approach them. The five, who along with 39-year-old Roscaleer, include an Argentinian and a Georgian national, received "external help" to execute their escape, authorities said.

The Portuguese prison service (DGRSP) reported that accomplices from outside the prison provided the men with a ladder that "allowed the inmates to scale the wall".

"They managed to jump a fence because there are no guards to watch the perimeter... put the ladder against the wall and, from there, with a hand-



The prisoners escaped through the prison wall, as seen in images captured by CCTV cameras

made rope, they climbed over the wall," said Frederico Morais, president of Portugal's national prison guards' union.

Mr Neves said the escape was a "complex operation by organised criminals with financial capacity [with] everything thought out down to the smallest detail".

Manuel Vieira of the Portuguese internal security system said that the authorities of the Schengen area, Interpol and Europol had all been alerted, but no emergency closure of Portugal's borders would take place yet.

Of Roscaleer's fellow escapees, two Portuguese men were serving the longest sentences of 25 years, including 61-year-old Fernando Ribeiro Ferreira, jailed for crimes including robbery and kidnapping.

The other inmates who escaped are Fábio Fernandes Santos Loureiro, a 33-year-old Portuguese man, Rodolf José Lohrmann, a 59-year-old Argentinian, and 40-year-old Shergili Farjiani, originally from Georgia and who is considered the least dangerous of the gang.

Toyah: Bully row made me question Strictly

By Liam Kelly and Fiona Parker

STRICTLY Come Dancing contestant Toyah Willcox suggested that bullying claims made by former contestants made her question whether she had what it takes to appear on the show.

The 80s singer is one of 15 celebrity contestants set to compete for the glitterball prize in the flagship show's 22nd series, which is due to launch on Saturday.

However, this year's season comes in the wake of a bullying row that is continuing to dog the show.

Speaking after rehearsals for the first show, Willcox, 66, said: "It made me take what's coming very seriously, because what's happened in the last year is because this show is 100 per cent committed to dance and you've got to go beyond your own personal comfort zone. That's always been very, very obvious."

The singer, whose hits include the 1981 single *Thunder in the Mountains*,

added: "And I know, for me, with what's been going on this year, I've been thinking: 'Well, can I push myself beyond my own limitations?' And for me, it's now or never, simply as that, now or never, that's made me commit to the show."

The BBC is preparing to release the findings of a review into allegations made by Amanda Abbington about her partner last year, Giovanni Pernice.

He denies the claims, but has left the show.

Ms Abbington's accusations sparked other reports of alleged wrongdoing.

Graziano Di Prima, another professional dancer, was dropped from Strictly over his behaviour in the rehearsal room towards

partner Zara McDermott. He admitted kicking her, saying it was an isolated incident that he regrets.

Aljaz Skorjanec, who has rejoined the show as a replacement for Di Prima, is facing a new claim in *The Sun* that he was involved in a "shocking" altercation with a female professional on the 2022 tour. He denies the claim.

Other contestants insisted they did not question whether or not to participate, including former England hockey player and *A Question of Sport* star Sam Quek.

The BBC has been deciding whether to release the review findings before Saturday, which could overshadow its launch, or to delay it until the series is under way.

Six women have signed up for the show this year, with nine men.



Toyah Willcox says it is 'now or never' for her with Strictly

Poll blow shows Harris honeymoon is over

Vice-president's ratings fall behind Trump's with advisers saying she must perform in crucial debate

By Edward Helmore in New York and Jacob Freedland

KAMALA HARRIS has suffered a fall in the polls for the first time since becoming her party's presidential candidate.

A *New York Times* survey shows Donald Trump overtaking Ms Harris on 48 per cent to 47 per cent among likely voters nationally.

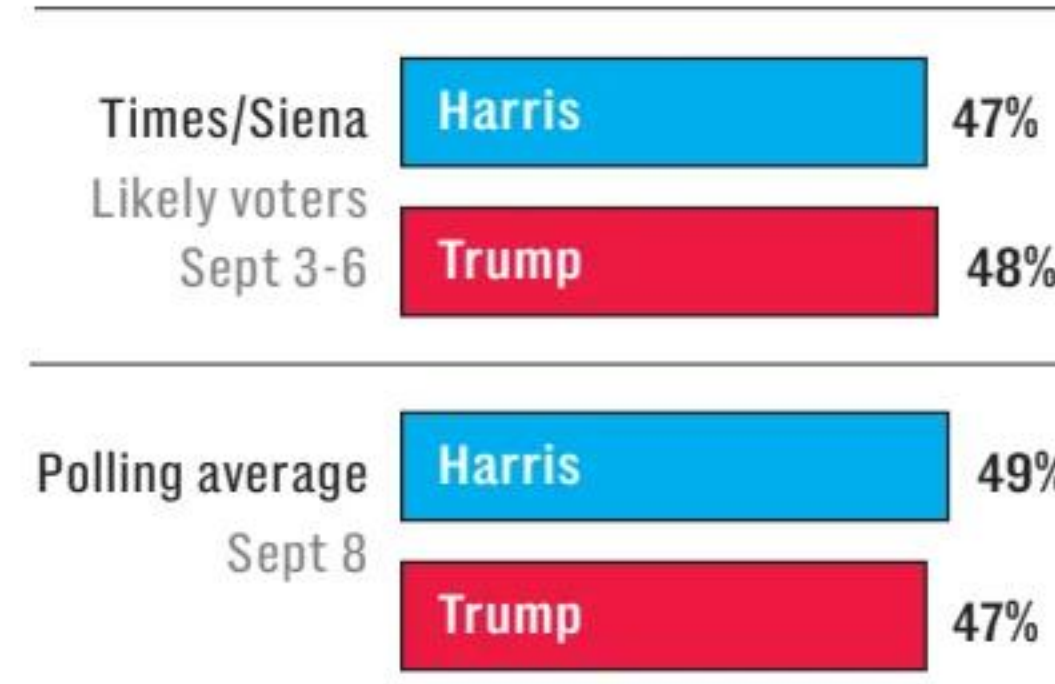
The drop in popularity comes on the eve of a critical televised debate between the vice-president and Trump tomorrow night.

It is the first major poll to show a drop in support, which *The New York Times* speculates may represent the end of a honeymoon period and a "euphoric August" for the vice-president.

The poll reduces Ms Harris's lead in the overall average of polls to 2.5 per cent, and just 0.3 per cent in the key swing state of Pennsylvania.

Analysts warned that the new poll was an outlier so far. However, it will likely trigger fears inside the Harris campaign that it could also be a sign of

Trump overtakes Harris in new poll



things to come. "The honeymoon is officially over," Jason Miller, a Trump spokesman, triumphantly told Politico.

The poll also found that 28 per cent of likely voters said they needed to know more about Ms Harris, while only 9 per cent said the same for Trump.

The poll comes as both candidates prepare for tomorrow's debate.

Ms Harris is reportedly hunkered down in a Pittsburgh hotel undergoing intensive preparation on a mock-up stage with an adviser "inhabiting" Trump in a characteristic blue suit and long tie. Trump's preparations are more improvised, with no stand-in but aides refreshing him on his policy record and posing questions.

Pete Buttigieg, the US transport secretary, said yesterday that the main task for Ms Harris was "to make sure Americans understand the difference in visions and are reminded that they already agree with her on the issues that matter most to them. That's going to be challenging. It will take almost super-human focus and discipline to deal with Donald Trump. It's no ordinary proposition."

On the other side, Republican senator Tom Cotton told CNN that most Americans look at the race as between "a president who served in office and brought good times to America and Kamala Harris, a San Francisco liberal,



Donald Trump held a rally in Mosinee, Wisconsin at the weekend. He has said he is entitled to personal attacks on his Democrat rival

who has brought to America exactly what you see in San Francisco".

Senior US Republicans are urging Trump to stick to a disciplined policy script, warning that he could damage himself if he gets into personal attacks. Senator Lindsey Graham wrote in a *New York Times* op-ed last week that "every day that the candidates trade insults is a good day for Harris because it's one less day that she has to defend the failures of the Biden-Harris administration".

Newt Gingrich, the Republican former house speaker said he assumed Ms Harris would "come in very, very aggressive, and she will try to bait him, getting very angry, and she'll be personal and try to demean him".

Trump has said he is "entitled to personal attacks" on Harris and joked at a rally that he should "fire" advisers who told him to steer clear of insults.

Trump is now a veteran of seven presidential debates, while Harris has

Talking points Three key issues to watch out for in debate

Will Trump keep his cool?

Donald Trump's temperament will, as ever, be under scrutiny. It's not clear that Trump is willing or even able to change his approach, which has traditionally been heavy on attack and generating political entertainment.

His advisers have been urging him to tone down the more personal tirades, especially any hints of sexism,

fearing that they will not land in the same way as his attacks did against Joe Biden.

The Harris campaign may be hoping Trump will overstep, giving the Democrat an opening to unleash her skills as a calm former prosecutor.

Harris's record Trump's main objective will be to tie Ms Harris to the Biden administration's record on

immigration and border control. It is estimated that at least nine million migrants have crossed the US-Mexico border since 2020.

Ms Harris herself has been trying to distance herself from Mr Biden's economic record, including offering more tax support for families.

Abortion Reproductive rights are an issue Trump cannot

easily get around; after all, it was his Supreme Court appointees who helped overturn 50 years of federal law on the issue.

In recent weeks, Trump has been trying to shift his position. He has repeatedly urged Republicans to prioritise winning elections, even if it means softening their stance on abortion, but Ms Harris has kept a strong poll lead among women.

only debated once - when she eviscerated Joe Biden over his support for racial school bussing, during the race to be Democrat candidate in 2019.

The New York Times poll shows that what some Democrat advisors warned would be a "sugar high" of support for Ms Harris, could be wearing off. The poll also suggests a wide gender gap, with women breaking for Harris by 11 points (53 per cent to 42 per cent), while men favour Trump by 17 points (56 per cent to 39 per cent).

James Johnson, co-founder of polling firm JL partners, said that Ms Harris's position had been adversely affected by Robert F. Kennedy Jr deciding to withdraw from the race last month. He said: "The honeymoon is over for Harris. There is a desire to see more detail from her. Not seeing her do interviews is a concern for some voters." Mr Johnson said tomorrow's debate would be pivotal. "It all hangs on Tuesday," he said.

It will take almost super-human focus and discipline to deal with Donald Trump

Scholz calls for Ukraine peace deal to happen 'more quickly'

By James Jackson in Berlin

OLAF SCHOLZ has said peace in Ukraine must be achieved "more quickly" as he faces mounting pressure at home to bring about an end to the war.

As Russia's invasion stretches on, it has given rise to a weariness over the continued cost to the government and public.

The far-Right AfD and far-Left BSW parties - who both want to end weapons deliveries to Ukraine - made huge gains in two regional elections in Germany last week, while Mr Scholz's coalition parties received a bruising.

"I believe that now is the time to discuss how we can get out of this war situation and achieve peace more quickly," Mr Scholz told public broadcaster ZDF, in an annual summer interview.

The chancellor made the comments as a new poll by ARD Deutschland Trend ranked him the most unpopular

German leader for almost 30 years. It found that only 16 per cent of Germans are satisfied with his fractious traffic-light coalition, which succeeded Angela Merkel's government in 2021, and only 18 per cent approve of Mr Scholz personally.

They are the lowest approval scores

'It's important that we make progress ... another peace conference must include Russia'

since 1997, when Helmut Kohl was leader.

Among the reasons for voters deserting Mr Scholz for the far-Right are perceptions he is weak on migration and too supportive of Ukraine.

Germany is the second largest contributor of aid to Ukraine after the United States. Mr Scholz said Russia

should attend the next international peace summit on ending the war, after Moscow was excluded from the first one.

"It's important that we make progress," Scholz said.

"There will definitely be another peace conference," he added. "And the (Ukrainian) president and I agree that it must include Russia".

Leaders and top officials from more than 90 states gathered in Switzerland in June for a first summit organised by Ukraine, while Russia was not invited.

Kyiv is aiming for a second peace summit this year, and Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president said in late July that Russia should be present in order to achieve "meaningful results".

Despite his weak polling numbers Mr Scholz has vowed to seek re-election.

"I firmly expect that the SPD and I will have such a strong mandate in 2025 that we will also lead the next government," Mr Scholz told the *Tagesspiegel*.

Venezuela's 'election-winning' opposition leader flees to Spain

By James Badcock in Madrid

THE leader of Venezuela's opposition fled to Spain yesterday, where he has been granted political asylum.

Edmundo González Urrutia arrived in Madrid at around 4.30pm local time on a Spanish Air Force plane.

The 75-year-old has been in hiding since elections were held in Venezuela in July with a government crackdown on opposition figures soon following.

Rights groups say Venezuelan authorities have been committing widespread violations against critics, including carrying out arbitrary arrests and violence against them.

On September 2, a judge issued an arrest warrant against Mr González for "conspiracy," "incitement to disobedience" and other crimes after he disputed the election result.

Mr González fled to the Dutch embassy, where he sought refuge for more than a month before then staying

at the home of Spain's ambassador. Before the July 28 election, Mr González was a political unknown, but he was the only person left to run against Nicolas Maduro after the government banned all other opposition candidates.

Venezuela's socialist government announced that Mr Maduro had won a

third six-year mandate with 52 per cent of the vote, but it has not yet published the official results. Venezuela's opposition's own tallies show Mr González winning with 67 per cent of the vote.

The US, the EU and major Latin American governments have refused to

recognise Mr Maduro's claim to victory. Mass protests have led to at least 27 deaths and 2,400 arrests.

José Manuel Albares, the Spanish foreign minister, told reporters that Spain had responded positively to an asylum request from Mr González and denied that Madrid had negotiated the move with Venezuela's government.

Speaking on Saturday before Mr González's move into exile, Pedro Sánchez, the Spanish prime minister described the retired diplomat as "a hero whom Spain will not abandon".

However, Right-wing politicians criticised the move.

"Bringing Edmundo González here without recognising him as the legitimate president does no favours to democracy, but rather removes a problem for the dictatorship," said Esteban González Pons, a spokesman for the People's Party, which has said it will force a vote over recognising Mr González as Venezuela's leader.



Edmundo González Urrutia won 67 per cent of the votes in July's election against Nicolas Maduro, according to his party

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Life on the range Two northern white rhinos, Najin and daughter Fatu, are pictured at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia, Kenya, where they live and are taken care of. The northern white rhino was once found across Central Africa, but illegal hunting fuelled by the demand for their horns has decimated their presence in the wild.

Israeli splits turn toxic over its 'forever war'

Netanyahu at odds with security services over increasing demands for ceasefire to free hostages

By Jotam Confino in Tel-Aviv

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU is facing a split with Mossad and the IDF over hostage negotiations as senior government figures openly row over ending the war in Gaza.

Disagreements between security services and the prime minister's office over signing a ceasefire deal have been growing in recent weeks. They have also started to be leaked to the public through a campaign of toxic briefings.

Ministers have clashed in key security meetings, with reports of shouting matches and fists slamming on tables over the terms of an agreement that could free some of the remaining hostages. The splits at the top of government have intensified since last week's killing of six hostages in a Gaza tunnel that led to mass protests and a general strike to stop the war.

The hostage negotiation team, run by David Barnea, the director of Mossad, and Ronen Bar, the head of the Shin Bet security services, wants to strike a compromise deal with Hamas but has been frustrated by Mr Netanyahu.

"It's clear that both the negotiation team and government are frustrated

with each other," an Israeli source privy to the ceasefire talks told *The Telegraph*.

"Books will be written" about the negotiations, the source added, and the general "mistrust" among everyone involved.

With the Oct 7 anniversary approaching and amid mass unrest, the intelligence chiefs want to reach a ceasefire and get the hostages out, a position the army also seems to have taken. But Mr Netanyahu has refused to give up on his most recent demand: full control of the Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow buffer zone separating Egypt from Gaza.

Tensions peaked in a security cabinet meeting last week, where Mr Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defence minister, reportedly engaged in shouting matches during a vote on whether Israel should keep control of the Corridor.

The verbal fight, leaked by Israel's Channel 12, revealed how Mr Barnea let the cabinet know there wasn't any "logic" to vote on the issue now.

"In any case, the negotiations are currently focused on (other issues) and not the Philadelphi Corridor," Mr Barnea said, revealing the deepening divide between Mr Netanyahu and the negotiation team.

Herzl Halevi, the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), also took issue with Mr Netanyahu's insistence on keeping control of the corridor, saying the army would know "how to enter and return" to the corridor at the end of



Anti-government protests continue in Tel Aviv as demonstrators call for the release of hostages

the first six weeks of the ceasefire. "There are enough constraints in the talks, you don't need to add another," Mr Halevi reportedly said.

Mr Gallant confronted the prime minister directly about whether he was willing to sacrifice the lives of hostages, asking him: "What about when 30 lives are at stake? What do you do?"

"I stay on the Philadelphi (Corridor). Only resolute negotiations will force (Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader) to fold," Mr Netanyahu reportedly

replied. Mr Gallant accused the prime minister of "imposing" his position on the defence top brass.

"They had their own plan. You have been running the negotiations by yourself ever since the war cabinet disbanded (in June). We learn of decisions only after the fact," Mr Gallant said furiously.

"The negotiators sketched the maps as you wanted, but they had a different position," he added.

Mr Netanyahu then reportedly

'You have been running the negotiations by yourself. We learn of decisions only after the fact'

banged his fist on the table, calling for a vote on the corridor.

A spat also broke out between Mr Gallant and Ron Dermer, the strategic affairs minister, after the latter said the prime minister "can do whatever he wants".

"The prime minister can indeed make all the decisions, and he can also decide to have all the hostages killed," Mr Gallant replied sarcastically.

Critics claim Mr Netanyahu is blocking a deal so he can cling on to power. Opposition leader Yair Lapid said last week that the government was locked in a "forever war that has and will never have an end date".

A senior Israeli official defended Mr Netanyahu and his insistence on keeping control of the border. They told *The Telegraph* that the issue of the Philadelphi Corridor was "agreed on" in the "bridging proposal" put forward by the US, Qatar and Egypt on Aug 16.

"Everyone understands Israel has to stay along the Philadelphi Corridor," the official said.

The official also took issue with the IDF's claim that Israel could retake control of the corridor at a later point if needed. "Well, we've heard that before and we're not gonna fall for it again. We have paid too high of a price," the official said.

As the internal bickering in Israel continues, Hamas has reportedly upped its demands for more Palestinian prisoners in exchange for hostages.

Jordanian truck driver kills three guards at West Bank border

By Our Foreign Staff

A **JORDANIAN** truck driver opened fire at an Israeli border crossing between the occupied West Bank and Jordan yesterday, killing three Israeli guards, before he was killed by security forces.

The attack at the Allenby Bridge Crossing comes amid surging violence in the West Bank, with major Israeli military raids and attacks by Palestinians. The Israeli military said "a terrorist" reached the area of the crossing, in

the Jordan Valley, in a truck "from Jordan". The driver "exited the truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces operating at the bridge", a military statement said.

"Three Israeli civilians were pronounced dead as a result of the attack," the military said, later clarifying that they were "working as security guards" and not part of the army or police forces.

On Sunday evening, Jordan's interior ministry said in a statement it was one

of their nationals who was the shooter. "Preliminary investigations in the shooting on the other (Palestinian) side of the King Hussein (Allenby) Bridge confirmed that the shooter is a Jordanian named Maher Diab Hussein al-Jazi," the interior ministry said.

The crossing is the only international gateway for Palestinians from the West Bank that does not require entering Israel. Private security guards operate it alongside Israeli security forces stationed there.

Violence in the West Bank has soared since the war in Gaza broke out after the Oct 7 attack on Israel. Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 662 Palestinians in the West Bank.

At least 23 Israelis, including members of the security forces, have been killed in Palestinian attacks during the same period, Israeli officials say.

In Gaza, meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike early yesterday killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil Defense - first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government.

The Civil Defense said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for northern Gaza, Mohammed Morsi, in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Iran sending Russia missiles in exchange for beans and wheat

By James Kilner

IRAN has confirmed that it is sending ballistic missiles to Russian forces fighting in Ukraine in exchange for soybeans and wheat.

Despite official Iranian denials, an MP admitted to the deal less than 48 hours after US officials warned of the missile shipments and deepening Russia-Iran military ties.

"We circumvent sanctions through our partnership with Russia. We import soybeans, corn, and other goods from Russia," said Ahmad Bakhsheh Ardeshani, an Iranian MP and a member of the country's security and foreign policy committee.

Iran is under heavy Western sanctions that limit its access to hard currencies, forcing it to barter goods for food and fuel. Analysts have said that the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 accelerated a new anti-West axis with Russia and Iran at its core, a concept that Mr Ardeshani appeared to confirm.

"We give missiles to Hezbollah, Hamas, and Hashd al-Shaabi, so why not to Russia?" he told Iranian media. "Europeans sell arms to Ukraine. Nato has entered Ukraine, so why shouldn't we support our ally by sending missiles and drones to Russia?"

US intelligence officials have con-

How the missiles measure up

Missile	Created	Range	Speed	Payload
Iran's Fatah-360	2022	75 miles	Mach 4	330lb
US-supplied Himars	2005	45 miles	Mach 2.5	200lb

firmed that Iran has sent 200 ballistic missiles to Russia. These have since been identified as Fath-360 missiles, fired from manoeuvrable trucks and comparable to US-built Himars.

Iran has been supplying drones to Russia for two years, but Bill Burns, the CIA director, said on Saturday at an event in London that Iranian missile supplies to Russia would mark a "dramatic escalation" in Iran-Russia military relations.

"It is a two-way street," he said. "Russia is able to do a number of things to help Iran's ballistic missiles, to make

them more dangerous to use against our friends and partners across the Middle East."

The largely untested Fath-360, which was only unveiled in 2022, has a top speed of Mach 4, compared with a top speed of Mach 2.5 for missiles fired by Himars. Fath-360 missiles also carry a payload of 330lbs, roughly double that of Himars missiles.

Analysts said that the Fath-360 missiles would be particularly devastating across the long Donbas front line, where the Kremlin has continued to concentrate its attacks.



Israeli soldiers arrive at the Allenby Bridge Crossing following the shooting

The misogynistic 'manosphere' in background of Olympian's murder

Dispatch



By Adrian Blomfield in Nairobi

THE masculinity coach behind Kenya's biggest social media phenomenon is energised by twin obsessions: putting women in their place and avoiding haemorrhoids.

Eric Amunga is unquestionably the doyen of Kenya's corner of the "manosphere", that constellation of online communities frequented by men worldwide who believe that feminism is the root of all evil.

Every Saturday morning, men across Kenya reach for their phones to see what words of wisdom Mr Amunga will post to his 1.9 million followers on the social media platform X.

He uses the hashtag #MasculinitySaturday, invariably the site's highest trending topic in Kenya every weekend.

For his defenders, Mr Amunga's Masculinity Saturdays are about giving back a voice to men silenced by a

'We are raising a generation who are likely to be even more misogynistic than their fathers'

"AirBnb killings", prompted countrywide demonstrations against rising femicide – the killing of women because they are women.

No-one is suggesting that male internet influencers directly inspired any of these killings. But the manosphere has helped normalise violence against women, according to Irungu Houghton, Amnesty International's Kenya head.

"The corrosive power of online misogynistic disinformation is reinforcing the most negative and vicious of vices," he said.

"Male sexist internet influencers may not have directly inspired any of these killings, but the lack of accountability in the manosphere contributes to violence against women being regarded as acceptable and fuels a culture of impunity."

Much of the content churned out by Mr Amunga is too preposterous to be taken seriously, a mixture of cod science, dubious psychology and rambling relationship advice.

"Don't eat fibre," he advises in one of many posts on haemorrhoids. "Remember, during a traffic jam, don't add more vehicles; the jam will worsen."

"Don't be a homosexual," he says in another. "The rectum and anus are for pooping, not penetration."

But amid more dangerous pseudoscience ("cancer doesn't kill, chemotherapy does"), there is a relentless drumbeat of what a man should be and how he should treat a woman.

His followers are repeatedly told to "be a pimp, not a simp". The latter internet term describes men who are too attentive to women.

Women, he says, are "reactionary", "emotional" and "manipulative". A man's role in a relationship is to "precede, protect, provide and penetrate" and "not to change the kid's diapers".

"If the woman becomes rude, belligerent and bellicose, she doesn't deserve to be loved," Mr Amunga writes. "She doesn't deserve to be preceded, provided for or penetrated. She deserves to be abandoned and suffer the pain of her ignorance."

While Mr Amunga, who says he has four wives, never openly advocates violence against women, many of his followers, including boys, interpret what they hear as the tacit encouragement of physical and sexual violence towards women, critics say.

One Kenyan head teacher says schoolboys are "feeding on a toxic online diet" provided by Mr Amunga and others. The head cites Andrew Kibe, a Kenyan podcaster with hundreds of thousands of online followers, and Andrew Tate, the British influencer whom he dubs "the fountainhead of toxic masculinity".

"It is an unholy trinity that is very difficult to fight against," the head teacher said. "The result is that we are raising a generation of boys who are likely to be even more violent and misogynistic than their fathers."

Domestic violence in Kenya is already rife. At least a third and possibly as many as half of



REUTERS/DYLAN MARTINEZ/AFP/GETTY



Above, eight female bodies were found at a dump. Right, Rebecca Cheptegei and below, Eric Amunga

feminised society skewed in favour of promiscuous and grasping women, or "slay queens".

Others, though, see Mr Amunga and similar influencers as the embodiment of "toxic masculinity" who, by legitimising unreasonable male grievances, have fostered misogyny and helped create a hostile and violent environment in Kenya for women.

The debate has been renewed in the past week by the murder of Rebecca Cheptegei, a Ugandan Olympic runner living in Kenya whose ex-boyfriend allegedly doused her in petrol and set her ablaze in front of her young daughters as she left church last Sunday.

Ms Cheptegei, who died four days later, was the fourth female athlete murdered in Kenya since 2021. In each case, the chief suspect was either the victim's partner or ex-partner.

Nor is it just female athletes at risk. In July, sacks containing the dismembered remains of as many as 13 women were found in a dump in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Earlier this year, a spate of murders of women in serviced apartments, known as the



women in the country have experienced sexual or physical violence, according to surveys, among the highest rates in the world.

Many in Kenya openly admit their misogyny, including politicians.

Esther Passaris, a Kenyan MP responsible for women's issues in Nairobi, says she has frequently been subject to assault and threats of sexual violence. In June, she says, an opposition MP accosted her on the floor of parliament and threatened to rape her for supporting an unpopular tax bill, echoing threats made to her in 2016 by a prominent politician during a television interview.

In recent weeks, after her mobile number was leaked online, she has been inundated with photographs of male genitalia. Worse still, she adds, a man took advantage of a crush of people around her while she was on the campaign trail in 2022 to twice insert his finger into her rectum.

"If a guy could do something like this to me as an MP, can you imagine

what he is doing to vulnerable girls in the village or the slum," she said.

Violence against women is as pervasive as it is incomprehensible, says Mrs Passaris, who notes that among the constituency cases she is dealing with are the rapes of a five-month-old baby, an 83-year-old woman and a lesbian, raped three times by men trying to "convert her back to heterosexuality".

Activists say there is no quick or single fix to the problem and point out that while online toxicity amplifies misogyny and enables sexual violence, it is not the root cause of the problem.

Ms Cheptegei was murdered, her family members allege, because her estranged partner disputed her right to a plot of land he claimed was his.

Thanks to progressive legislation, affirmative action policies and female economic empowerment programmes, women have become more financially independent in recent years, often owning property in their own right.

This small step towards gender

'We need political pressure as well as public pressure if we are to make a difference'

equality sometimes triggers resentment among men who feel entitled to the assets of their partners, says Mr Houghton. This resentment, fanned by online misogyny, often results in violence against women.

Far more needs to be done across society to address the problem, campaigners say, from improving police investigations, to building more shelters for rape survivors, to countering online toxicity through talk shows and information campaigns.

Such progress will not happen, however, unless William Ruto, Kenya's president, throws his weight behind a national campaign to end violence against women. So far, he has stayed conspicuously silent.

"A presidential statement on the subject would have a significant degree of influence," said Mr Houghton. "Without it, we will struggle to galvanise the kind of action we need. We need political pressure as well as public pressure if we are to make a difference."

Barnier must honour pledge to suspend immigration, says Le Pen

By Vivian Song

FRANCE'S new prime minister is under pressure to follow through on an old election promise to place a temporary ban on immigration.

Michel Barnier, is being propped up by Marine Le Pen of the hard-Right National Rally, who said she supported the three to five-year moratorium he proposed when he made a run to be a presidential candidate in 2021.

At the time, Mr Barnier suggested a

"pause" in order to take back control of the country's migration policy.

Along with a moratorium, his plans included ending the regularisation of undocumented immigrants, tightening the criteria for family reunification and reducing the number of long-stay visas.

In an interview with *La Tribune Dimanche* yesterday, Ms Le Pen said she was in favour of Mr Barnier's idea for a ban and expressed approval of the Brexit negotiator as prime minister.

"There is no doubt that Michel Barnier seems to have the same view on immigration as we do. Now, we expect action from him," she said.

"The leaders from the Left refuse to face the reality of the immigration problem."

"I also stick to Michel Barnier's proposals during the 2021 Republican primary, many of which were in line with our line."

Mr Barnier promised that his first priority as prime minister would be to "put

a stop to the current immigration" and re-establish the authority of the state.

In 2021, he told *Le Figaro*: "My commitments on immigration, with a moratorium and a constitutional shield, and on security have one goal and one goal only: to solve the problems of the French."

He also called for the British to "finally accept their responsibility and process asylum applications at home" and warned: "If we don't change anything, there will be other Brexits," a ref-

erence Ms Le Pen brought up in her interview. "I remember the time when he explained that out-of-control immigration had been one of the reasons for Brexit. It is an analysis that I share," she said.

Mr Barnier was named prime minister by Emmanuel Macron, the French president, on Thursday after two months of political chaos following snap elections.

New polling published yesterday by Ifop for the *Journal du Dimanche* also

showed that the French are split on the president's choice of prime minister, with 52 per cent expressing satisfaction with his choice, versus 48 per cent opposing it.

Mr Barnier's approval rating rises to 62 per cent when asked about his perceived competence, and 61 per cent for his perceived openness to dialogue.

The findings came a day after more than 100,000 Left-wing demonstrators took to the streets to protest Mr Barnier's nomination.

Pope Francis calls for peace in the Pacific as he warns of new arms race amid China tensions

By Louise Watt

THE Pope has warned against a new arms race as he called for peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

After a mass attended by tens of thousands in the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Pope Francis asked for peace, "in particular for this great region of the world, Asia, Oceania and the Pacific Ocean".

"No to rearmament and exploitation of our common home", the pope added, according to the Vatican News, the news portal of the Holy See.

His 12-day trip, which will also include a stop in Singapore, is testing the 87-year-old pope's stamina and health. He uses a wheelchair because of knee and back pain, and is prone to suffer breathing problems because he only

has one lung. Spanning seven flights and more than 20,000 miles, his trip is one of the longest and farthest any pope has undertaken.

His calls about peace comes amid rising geopolitical tensions in the region, with at-times violent standoffs in disputed South China Sea waters between China and the Philippines, growing fears that a conflict could break out in the Taiwan Strait, and a larger competition between Beijing and Washington for influence in the Pacific.

The Vatican does not have official relations with Beijing, and it is Taiwan's only official diplomat

ally in Europe. While Pope Francis has been trying to improve relations with China, efforts have been strained by cases of Beijing appointing bishops without papal consent.

Spending on defence has been surging in Asia, led by China. It spent about US\$296 billion in 2023, a rise of 6 per cent from a year earlier. That increase has driven Japan and Taiwan to build up their defence capabilities.

The U.S. and its allies in Asia, including Japan and South Korea, have also warned that North Korea poses a mounting regional threat.

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Pope Francis meets with the faithful of the diocese of Vanimo on his tour of Papua New Guinea on Sunday

Is it wrong to kill a spider? Surely the world is big enough for us all

JANE SHILLING



Vacuuming the kitchen floor the other day, I disturbed a whopping spider lurking by the skirting board. On this occasion, I vacuumed around it, suggesting that it might want to move outdoors in its own time.

What I should have done, I learn from Nick Harding's guide to spider-proofing your home in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph*, was to eject it, using the glass-and-paper technique that also works well for confused bees and errant wasps (I have followed with dismay the vespidal tendencies of Edwina Currie and her fellow wasp-botherers in the current *Telegraph* correspondence about these admirable pollinators and pest-predators).

But even wasps don't divide opinion as sharply as spiders. When it comes to inspiring irrational human terror, spiders rival snakes – with even less justification. In 2022, *The Telegraph* noted that "deaths related to spider bites are virtually unprecedented in the UK", yet a YouGov poll in 2023 found a fear of spiders the second most commonly reported phobia.

Evolutionary or learnt – the origins of arachnophobia have provided material for innumerable scientific papers, without ever reaching a firm conclusion. But no invertebrate has inspired such a rich vein of fiction and myth, from the spider protagonists of *A True Story*, a 2nd-century AD novella by the satirist Lucian of Samosata, regarded as the earliest known work of science-fiction, to the superhero Spider-Man.

Early depictions of spiders tend to be sympathetic: Ovid's account of Arachne, the virtuous weaver changed into a spider by the goddess Minerva, suggests the exiled poet's own plight (weaving was a common metaphor for literary composition in classical literature). Spiders appear as benign creatures in texts from the major religions – their webs offering sanctuary from foes, or as symbols of the universe.

But the legend of Robert the Bruce and the persevering spider, promulgated in the 19th century by Sir Walter Scott, was something of an outlier in an era when the image of spiders went into sharp decline. From Little Miss Muffet, frightened off her tuffet by an intrusive spider, to Hardy's Sue Bridehead, who spends her wedding night in a cobwebby cupboard – "What must a woman's aversion be when it is

stronger than her fear of spiders!" remarks her chagrined husband – it is a short scuttle to spiders as the embodiment of horror: the monstrous spiders of Tolkien's *Mirkwood* and the menacing arachnids of Stephen King's novella *The Mist*.

Even such engaging characters as Charlotte, the heroine of E B White's enchanting book *Charlotte's Web* (the source of my own arachnophilia), and Spider-Man, the engagingly gawky teenage superhero, have failed to restore the reputation of spiders as harmless, beneficial and beautiful.

For 30 years, London Zoo has been doing its best to change minds with its Friendly Spider Programme ("No animals, photographs or illustrations are used until the end part of the course"). This year's sessions are fully booked, but while waiting for dates in 2025, spider-phobes dreading the seasonal invasion of arachnids might follow the tolerant example of Laurence Sterne's *Uncle Toby*. Plagued by a maddening fly, he ushers it out of a window, remarking, "This world surely is wide enough to hold both thee and me."

◆ They put trigger warnings on all sorts these days – plays, films, television programmes. But not (yet) in newspapers. Which is how I came to have an alarming flashback on reading that teachers at Ryde Academy on the Isle of Wight are said to have spent two hours measuring the length of 70 female pupils' skirts. Back in the mists of time when I was at grammar school, our uniform list specified the length of our frightful grey flannel skirts ("no shorter than three inches above the knee when kneeling upright"). Inevitably, we used to shorten the hated garments by rolling them over at the waist, trading a lumpy sausage of fabric at the midriff for a fashionable flash of thigh.

But the school was having none of it, and thus it was that we found ourselves kneeling upright on the benches of the science lab, while the (male) biology teacher went round with a ruler (and, it was rumoured, a certain creepy relish). Good to know that some ancient academic traditions have survived all attempts at modernisation.



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Britain must reindustrialise – or condemn itself to permanent decline

Labour is economically illiterate. It is Conservatives who need to make the case for a low-migration model

NICK TIMOTHY



Every Labour government has left office with unemployment higher than when it began. Keir Starmer says this time it will be different: that he is more interested in wealth creation than levying taxes. Yet already we know this is untrue.

Government economic policy rests, supposedly, on industrial strategy – something often decried as 1970s corporatism, propping up failing companies, nationalising industries and outsourcing policy to the unions and corporations. But just as there can be good and bad education or health policy, there is good and bad industrial strategy.

Good industrial strategy creates the conditions for market-led growth by aligning policies and public investment to maximise the bang for their buck. Good industrial strategy aims to unleash competitive forces and innovation: through planning reform to get things built, energy policies to keep us competitive, infrastructure investment to improve transport and digital connectivity, education and training policies to give us the skills we need, and tax rules and regulations to encourage enterprise and investment. For too often red tape stops getting things built and done.

All this should be backed by

monetary and fiscal policies that provide stability, get us saving and investing more, and avoid perverse incentives, such as selling off promising businesses before they reach a critical size, or allowing strategically important industries to fall into distant, foreign hands. The scale of businesses, and who controls them, matters more than orthodoxy suggests.

This is where even good industrial strategy can become contentious. For it requires the rejection of the laissez-faire policies beloved in the Treasury. Our sustained trade deficit – which ballooned not under Margaret Thatcher, as often assumed, but Tony Blair – causes a vicious cycle of disinvestment and deindustrialisation. Britain has brilliant research universities and a culture of enterprise, but the balance of our economy – over-reliant on services, with elites too casual about the loss of manufacturing – is all wrong.

While we need a stable long-term policy environment, the state should work closely with particular businesses. If JCB, for example, envisaged a supply-chain cluster along the A50 in Staffordshire, we should be happy to designate a special zone, with lighter planning rules and investment incentives. And we should always take an interest in who owns what. As the Chinese owners of British Steel close the blast furnaces that make primary steel at Scunthorpe, they care nothing for the long-term consequences for the local community and for Britain.

Geopolitical change makes these questions more urgent. But we should anyway recognise that international trade has never been free nor fair. When countries suppress labour costs, subsidise production, dump goods in our markets, and erect tariffs and other barriers to trade, we need to get real. If

we want our exporters to be competitive, we will in some sectors need to consider subsidies of our own and even, on occasion, tariffs. The mass production of cheap Chinese electric vehicles, for example, will destroy Western capacity to manufacture our own, which is why we should be prepared to tax them.

Yet there is little such coherence to the Labour economic policy. Ministers blithely repeat lines such as "decarbonisation must never mean deindustrialisation", but have no idea what this means in practice.

For the truth is that the Government is already set up to fail on the economy. It plans to re-regulate the labour market, increasing the risk of employing new workers. It plans to tax jobs, by putting up employers' National Insurance contributions. It is empowering the unions, by scrapping laws that regulate strikes and handing out inflation-busting pay rises in the public sector and on the railways.

Its spending choices mean more money for the unions, and less for investment in the technology that will make the public sector more efficient, and less for the infrastructure that will help the economy to grow. The nationalisation of the railways will bring added costs, less funding and – looking at the publicly-owned Northern Rail, which cancelled up to 35 per cent of some services this summer – no improvement in services.

As the party of consensus and producer interest, the Government is already dismantling the education reforms that made English schools among the best in the world. For school leavers, it is reversing the Tory policy to restrict the number of low-quality university courses, and looks set to increase tuition fees to £12,500 and liberalise the rules for student visas. As



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a government driven by party politics, its housing targets prioritise not the cities – where demand is greatest and businesses need workers – but the green belt and countryside.

Policy is most confused when it comes to energy. With the zealotry of a monomaniacal ideologue, the Energy Secretary Ed Miliband is banning oil and gas licences in the North Sea, and looks set to abandon the new nuclear plant at Wylfa in Wales. His policy to decarbonise the National Grid in six years has been written off by experts as impossible and ruinously expensive. Having promised to cut household energy bills by £300 a year, ministers have now gone quiet – because they know their policies mean prices are only going up.

The spectre of Milibandism haunts the whole economy. At least partly because of net-zero policies, ministers are unable to say if the domestic manufacture of primary steel should be treated as a strategic industry that must be protected and guaranteed. Miliband's ban on the import of coking coal anyway makes the question redundant. Similarly, Britain is unlikely to impose tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, not just because of Treasury orthodoxy – which promotes open trade with China even as that trade is used to eat Western productive capacity – but because Milibandism demands net zero whatever the cost.

No country got richer generating less electricity at higher cost. But then no country has taxed its way to prosperity or achieved success by putting mass immigration before training its own people. These are the reasons why Labour will fail, but the Conservatives need to adopt a more muscular economic policy. The state should be small, but it also needs to be smart, strong and strategic.

Just as there can be good and bad education or health policy, there is good and bad industrial strategy

Starmer should learn from one of the great US presidents

The Labour leader is in danger of squandering his first 100 days in office. He may never recover

KAMAL AHMED



Unlike the UK in 2024, America in 1933 was in a dire economic position. One in four people were unemployed and millions lived on meagre charity handouts. The rural economy had collapsed, the stock market was down 75 per cent and the country was entering its fourth year of crippling recession.

"Will work for food" was a common sandwich-board plea carried by those desperate for work.

Franklin D Roosevelt, inaugurated as the new president in March, promised a New Deal and, to deliver it, obliged congress to sit in special session for nearly 100 days. Some 15 major acts were passed, infrastructure was built, banks were reformed, welfare transformed and savers encouraged to put their money back

into the desiccated financial system. "Wealth for all" was the government's mission, the president's popularity soared and by 1936 growth hit 12.9 per cent – a number only bettered once in the subsequent 88 years. He even threw in the repeal of alcohol prohibition laws.

Ever since, the mythology and practicality of the First 100 Days in power has obsessed new leaders. It should. The public is watching closely, one chapter (the party that has just lost power) has closed, and another (the new government) has opened. Misstep and it can take years to find a route back.

October 12 will mark Sir Keir Starmer's first 100 days in power. Thrilling it has not been. The approach – after an initial speech on the steps of No10 that spoke of national renewal – has been gloomy. The past and attacking the Conservatives have occupied ministers' minds to the detriment of laying out a compelling plan for Britain's future. Rachel Reeves spoke of the worst economic inheritance since the Second World War and then of a £22 billion "black hole" in the public finances – an odd analogy given that nothing can escape a black hole, not even thermo-nuclear stars.

The Prime Minister then doubled

down and said that things "would get worse". This week, a report on the NHS will say it is "beaten", despite record levels of investment. Reeves announced the scrapping of infrastructure projects and that 10 million pensioners – many on just £13,000 a year – would lose their winter fuel allowance of up to £300 a year.

In his first major television interview of the new political term, on Sunday, Starmer told the BBC the

A former Treasury official told me that there is much more scope to borrow than Reeves likes to admit

Government "is going to have to be unpopular" – one of the few things he has achieved with unalloyed success. His personal approval ratings have collapsed. At the same stage in the last Labour government of 1997, Tony Blair's approval ratings topped 60 per cent.

Starmer's election campaign was cautious, but even his backers have been surprised and disappointed by what has followed since July 4. Businesses in particular are worried. There has been little talk of backing

wealth creation and plenty of talk of taxes rising and more rights for working people, some of which are sensible – the ending of fire and rehire, for example – but all of which increase costs.

Firms are concerned that Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, is setting the tone for business-employer relations, not the Chancellor. Starmer floats above the fray and "doesn't appear to understand or care very much", according to one business leader I spoke to. "Who are we supposed to call?" said another small-business representative.

The Government, rightly, raised public-sector salaries after years of stagnation and decline. But many more people work in the private sector and chief executives and founders want to hear proposals to support higher margins and increase salaries. Labour prefers to explore raising capital gains tax on entrepreneurs than encouraging people to take risks and create prosperity.

This week, the Labour leader will speak at the annual Trades Union Congress. Firms are looking on with trepidation. A year ago, Starmer spoke approvingly of linking billions of pounds of public-sector procurement contracts to whether or not companies applying for the lucrative work

recognised unions. The minimum wage is set to rise more quickly than in previous years, particularly for young workers. Hospitality will be hit particularly hard. "Day-one rights" will mean smaller businesses facing more unfair-dismissal claims they cannot afford to fight.

It did not need to be this grim. With inflation pressures easing and interest rates on a downward path, markets are looking to invest in government debt. An auction of UK bonds last

Before the election, there were no plans to raise taxes, Labour said. Now, tax rises are on their way

week saw £110 billion of bids for just £8 billion worth of gilts, matching the demand record set just before Starmer was elected.

Never did Lucy Powell's claim that the winter-fuel allowance cut was necessary to prevent a run on the pound look more ridiculous. The Leader of the Commons should have ripped up her Treasury "line to take" notes and said something more sensible. The pound is at a 29-month-high against the dollar.

As one former Treasury official told

me, there is much more scope to borrow than Reeves likes to admit, particularly if the Government announces – as it should – reform of the way Bank of England debt is accounted for. That would bring down the official debt-to-GDP ratio, borrowing for expenditure and investment could be increased and the Chancellor would still comfortably hit her hallowed fiscal rules. Tax rises are a hill she has no need to die on.

So far, so mediocre. Many Labour supporters are biting their lip and saying "give the guy a chance". There is some merit in such an approach, with government sources telling me that theirs is a long-term project and the public will not trust easy answers and quick fixes.

But the public also does not trust politicians who say one thing and then do another. Before the election, there were no plans to raise taxes, Labour said. Now, tax rises are on their way. Ed Miliband said that energy bills would fall. They are going up. Starmer promised an "enduring partnership with business to deliver the economic growth we need". We have seen little evidence.

Enoch Powell said that all political lives end in failure. Sir Keir Starmer appears to be making a pretty good fist of ensuring his starts with one.



ESTABLISHED 1855

It is time for the PM to make tough choices

Political leaders rarely seek to make unpopularity a virtue, but Sir Keir Starmer has no such compunction. He has spent the first few weeks in office portraying himself as Mr Misery, able to reverse the failings of the previous government only by making things worse first.

Much of this is performative, something we know to be the case because Sir Keir spends so much time denying that it is. He hopes to benefit politically if decisions are not as bad as expected, or if matters improve markedly as a result.

His first unpopular action is not performative, however, but real, with significant repercussions for elderly people struggling to pay their heating bills this winter. The decision to scrap the winter fuel allowance has run into opposition from Tories and Labour MPs alike.

A vote to be staged in the Commons tomorrow will be won comfortably by the Government, not least because any rebels know they will be dealt with harshly. Sir Keir has made it clear that if he is to face opprobrium then his backbenchers can share the pain. Few are likely to vote with the Conservatives if the Prime Minister has made this a test of his own mettle.

However, he remains largely in campaigning mode, blaming the last administration for all the ills facing the country while giving precious few details of the policy changes he has in mind. Certainly, tax rises on the middle classes are in the offing, though where they will fall and on whom we will not know until the Budget next month.

Given the state of the public finances, are big cuts to Whitehall departmental budgets being planned? Above all, what does he have in store for the biggest spender of all, the NHS? Sir Keir has commissioned a report to be published this week that will set out what is wrong with the health service but will contain nothing we don't know already.

He now says the only solution to its never-ending difficulties is reform. But what does that mean? There is no indication that Sir Keir or Wes Streeting, the Health Secretary, understand that the fundamental flaw with the NHS is a 75-year-old taxpayer-funded nationalised model.

Until that is dismantled and replaced, no amount of tinkering will help and the permanent NHS crisis will continue. Such radical reform would be unpopular among a large swathe of his own party. Is he prepared to take them on?

Curb the protesters

Balancing the right to protest with the rights of others to go about their lawful business is an age-old conundrum. The recent spate of mass demonstrations against Israel's actions in Gaza have brought this once again to the fore.

There are laws against intimidation and extolling extremism that appear to have been broken on sundry occasions without action being taken. The police say they need to ensure public order and defend freedom of expression, and no one doubts they have a difficult job getting this right. But there is a sense that they err too often on the side of the protesters, especially when they claim to espouse so-called "progressive" causes.

A new report from the Policy Exchange think-tank suggests that the police have made mistakes in the way they have handled the pro-Palestine marches. The Met's assistant commissioner Matt Twist concedes that when the protests began, shortly after the Israeli invasion of Gaza, they did not move quickly enough to arrest people calling for "jihad", though he said this was on the advice of lawyers and the Crown Prosecution Service. Mr Twist says they are now much more focused on identifying reasonable grounds for arrest, acting where needed and detaining when necessary.

It is important that the police get this right. A poll for Policy Exchange shows the public overwhelmingly supports intervention in disruptive protests, including against people holding banners containing racist or derogatory slogans. The Government is undertaking a review of protest laws, which the report says have developed in an unduly "pro-protester" way, leaving ordinary members of the public unable to undertake their normal day-to-day activities as a result.

People unable to get to work because climate-change protesters have blocked the road or who cannot visit city centres because they have become regular weekend settings for mass demonstrations want to see this sorted out.

A first-class holiday

When Alan Bates was asked if there was anything he wanted after years battling for justice for Post Office colleagues wrongly accused of theft, he said: "If Richard Branson is reading this, I'd love a holiday." It turned out that the Virgin tycoon was not only reading it, but happy to oblige with an invitation to the now-knighted Sir Alan to stay on his private Caribbean island of Necker. It turned out to be more than just a well-earned break in a tropical paradise. Sir Alan married his long-term partner Suzanne, with Sir Richard officiating at the ceremony after they had been to the registrar to make it official. Past guests on Necker have included Barack Obama and Beyoncé. The Bateses were every bit as deserving of Sir Richard's generosity.

Starmer's justification for the winter fuel cut doesn't stand up to scrutiny

SIR – Sir Keir Starmer seems to be trying to convince the country that taking the winter fuel payment from pensioners is much more difficult than standing up to train drivers and junior doctors ("Sir Keir Starmer: We're going to be unpopular over winter fuel payment cut", report, telegraph.co.uk, September 8). Is anyone buying this propaganda? **Graeme Brierley** Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire

SIR – It would be interesting to know exactly when Labour decided to axe winter fuel payments. If it was before the election, why was this not in the manifesto, nor mentioned in campaigning? If afterwards, it suggests a knee-jerk reaction without proper analysis. Dishonest or incompetent? **Malcolm Whittle** Chieveley, Berkshire

SIR – We are to receive a £400 increase in the state pension next year (report, September 5). After a winter fuel

payment of £200 has been removed, this comes out at £4 per week. Inflation is running at 2.2 per cent, but, since my spending is mainly on food, fuel and council tax, I do not think that my £4 is going to go very far. Many pensioners will be in the same position, and I am very disappointed that the Government hasn't got the courage to admit that it has made a dreadful mistake. **J Roberts** Manchester

SIR – The last increase in the state pension, received this year, took millions of pensioners over their personal allowance. Unless the personal allowance is raised, any increase in the state pension will be subject to tax. Take this into account, as well as the loss of the winter fuel payment and the higher cost of living, and nothing will be gained. **Diana Batchelor** Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

SIR – With the imminent loss of the winter fuel payment, and the possible loss of council tax rebates for single occupiers, pensioners are being advised to wrap up warm in winter. How perverse, then, that everyday items such as woollen jumpers and cardigans are getting harder to find. A trip to two well-known retailers (one with the word *woollen* in its name) revealed that more and more products are acrylic-based. Not only are these nowhere near as effective as natural fibres, but each article has a warning to stay away from fire. One cannot win. It's time that retailers' marketing departments woke up to what's happening around them. **Michael Carrivick** Wokingham, Berkshire

SIR – Not all pensioners are poor. When my brother received his £300 winter fuel payment, he promptly booked a table at the Ivy. **David Parker** Leatherhead, Surrey



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Safety after Grenfell

SIR – Sir Tony Blair makes a good point: mistakes are inevitable, and will always be with us ("Pickles blames civil servants over Grenfell", report, September 7). Most are honest errors of judgment; some are due to reckless behaviour; others to system design or just plain bad luck. What matters is how potential mistakes with catastrophic consequences are detected and mitigated.

Industries that deliver mass transport, such as aviation, have long understood this. They place huge emphasis on systems design, regulation and – above all – workforce culture to deliver safe services. Failure to apply the science of safety, mistakenly downgrading the level of risk, or getting the balance wrong between efficiency and safety can all lead to catastrophe. Witness the recent problems with the Boeing 737 Max – a classic case study.

Surgeons involved in aviation called for many years for the establishment of a health services equivalent to the UK's Air Accidents Investigation Branch. This model has long proven the most effective for ensuring passenger safety across the globe. Backed by legislation, the Health Services Safety Investigations Body is now in operation and is expected to make a similar contribution to patient safety in the UK.

After the Grenfell tragedy, we should establish a similar body for the buildings industry. **Denis Wilkins FRCS** Liskeard, Cornwall

Customer focus

SIR – Not all managers ignore correspondence from customers (Letters, September 7). Some years ago, I sent a complaint to Lloyds Bank, addressing my letter to the chairman, Sir Brian Pitman. Several days later, while I was out in our garden, my wife called to say there was a telephone call for me. It was Sir Brian. **Rod Wilkins** Dinkley, Lancashire

SIR – My husband and I celebrate our birthdays on the same day in August. Our daughter kindly sent us a Fortnum & Mason birthday hamper. Unfortunately, the jar of strawberry and Champagne preserve was broken.

I sent Fortnum's an email along with a photograph of the broken jar, and within half an hour had a reply from a lovely lady called Sophie, who apologised profusely and said the preserve would be replaced. It arrived the next day. There is service for you. **Judith White** Mellor, Lancashire



Basket of Apples by Vincent van Gogh, one of a series of still lifes painted in Paris in 1887

The essential ingredient for authentic muesli

SIR – Hattie Garlick (Features, September 2) should be applauded for reminding us of the benefits of starting the day with muesli, and for naming Dr Maximilian Bircher-Benner as its inventor. However, her instructions for assembling it omit a fundamental ingredient: fresh apple. My Swiss mother lived opposite

Dr Bircher-Benner's clinic in Keltenstrasse, Zürich, in the 1930s, and well remembered his insistence that his muesli should include one grated apple per person. He was an advocate for the health benefits of eating raw fruit and vegetables. **Lady Mackworth-Young** London SW4

Let the fight begin to save hereditary peers

SIR – Charles Moore is absolutely right to defend the 92 elected hereditary peers in the House of Lords, now threatened with the axe by the Labour Government ("Stripping the Lords of the hereditaries would be an act of harm against our historical DNA", Comment, September 7). The clock is ticking, as the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill has been given its first reading in the Commons.

As Lord Moore rightly points out, this group works hard to improve legislation and "stand up for the rights of those who get pushed around". I was the House of Lords correspondent for the Press Association when more than 600 hereditaries were kicked out by Tony Blair in 1999. Opponents accused Labour of "class envy and spite". Yet all my attempts to encourage the angry and upset dukes, earls, viscounts and barons to put up a fight against the move fell on deaf ears, because they thought the Labour government

would not in the end have the nerve to go through with it. What the 92 hereditaries should do now is make a huge fuss, hold a big press conference and shout loudly about their ability to hold the government of the day to account, and take up issues that MPs do not have the time to deal with. The public owes the hereditaries a big debt of gratitude for their work over the years. Let the fight begin. **Amanda Brown** Formby, Lancashire

SIR – Many years ago I wrote to Tony Benn, suggesting that a reformed House of Lords should include a percentage of "ordinary" people who would be chosen to sit for a period of time, as jurors are. This would surely give a feeling of participation in the governance of our country and an insight into its workings. **Philip Hall** Petersfield, Hampshire

The Left is waging war on whiteness itself

Ireland is the latest nation to pursue an 'anti-racist' agenda, which in reality means exactly the opposite

TIM STANLEY



Ireland continues to thrive on the cutting edge of insanity. Last week, the Educational Company of Ireland (Edco) was forced to pull a section of a school textbook that, in seeking to promote diversity, came close to outright racism.

On one page, Family A: a cartoon of four, white, red-haired yokels who, we read, "have potatoes, bacon and cabbage every day", holiday in Ireland and play Irish musical instruments. "We get told off if we mix with people of a different religion... as they would be a bad influence."

On the other page, Family B: pictured holidaying in Italy and, by some miracle of online dating, composed of almost every racial group under the sun. Their favourite foods are "curry, pizza and Asian", they love "reggae and hip-hop", ski in France and volunteer in Syria (I hope MI5 is looking into this). "Which family is the more inclusive?" asks the textbook. "Which family [would] you choose to belong to?"

There's Edco's first error: you can't

choose your family. If we could, I'd be a Beckham, with Victoria's cheekbones and David's pecs, and never work again. But the liberal-Left is addicted to reinvention – of individuals and societies – and assumes rural Ireland must be populated by inbred leprechauns, desperate to escape. Family A have even banned their daughter from teaching yoga – one assumes this is code for "closet lesbian" – because "it is not a proper job and she must stick to what she knows".

Well, bravo! Family A are farmers: yoga is nice, but food production is more important, and I'd rather live in a country that is well-fed than flexible. Edco's second mistake is to think that we'd all run a mile from Family A, yet a lot of us crave the stability and traditions they maintain.

Family B, by contrast, are awful: self-absorbed tourists – even though they are depicted at the Colosseum, they are shown taking a photo of themselves – on a perpetual journey with no terminus. It's the idealised face of a new Ireland where one in five people were born abroad, and where there have also been a number of anti-immigration protests.

Irish politicians have condemned the textbook for its offensive stereotypes, but, as Edco points out, its goal was to introduce children to equality legislation and to "help students understand the importance of diversity". In short, it was following the cues sent by politicians, media and business, who have decided difference is good and homogeneity is bad. The

latter translates into old ways of being – old beliefs, tastes and attributes, including whiteness itself, which is sometimes evil, other times imaginary.

Here in the UK we are told that our history is intrinsically racist, because we once tried to own or eradicate other people. Yet universities are also dropping the phrase "Anglo-Saxon" to describe the locals because, they claim, it peddles the lie that an indigenous people exists at all. Britain is and always has been a nation of immigrants; Family B is what we've always looked like.

So, here we stand. You can be Punjabi British, Jamaican British, whatever; it's all authentic and you qualify for a parade. But the one thing you cannot be with ease, let alone official commendation, is Anglo-Saxon British, even though my people have been moaning about living here for 1,500 years (before migrating to Spain).

Racial sensitivity is cast through a political lens. No one cared about offending Jews during the Gaza marches, and a new report suggests the BBC has consistently linked Israel to alleged war crimes. The latter is unsurprising given the horror of the war; perhaps Netanyahu does belong in the dock. What is confusing and unfair is to live in a society that places a premium on kindness towards minorities, yet disregards the feelings of Jewish Britons and parodies the Irish as bigoted paddies. Probably because they are perceived as white by many, hence not regarded by the elite as especially interesting or oppressed

Singing the anthem

SIR – Many of the so-called golden generation of England footballers – David Beckham, Michael Owen, Rio Ferdinand and others – either did not sing the national anthem, or mumbled it – and they rarely achieved their full potential.

They compared poorly with opponents who sang with gusto, which I always felt fired them up and gave them an immediate advantage over the uninspired England team.

What a different attitude the present team displayed in their previous managers when led by their previous manager. For Lee Carsley to stand in silence (Sport, September 8) is not only an insult, but also poor leadership. **David Wilson** Cottingham, East Yorkshire

SIR – Jason Burt (Sport, September 7) writes that singing the anthem is required because it shows respect, and because the manager of the national team is an ambassador. Yet these points apparently do not apply if the manager is foreign.

He suggests that the manager has to be seen to do certain things because not doing them invites criticism. Are we really placing more importance on "doing the right thing" than having a manager who plays attractive football and wins games? **Paul Carr** Andover, Hampshire

Welsh welcome

SIR – Botwnnog community council has concerns about English-speaking people moving into an affordable-housing development, as they might present a "danger to the Welsh language and the fabric of the community" (report, September 6).

In 1947, our parents bought a farm on the Llyn Peninsula overlooking Porth Neigwl (Hell's Mouth), and Botwnnog was our postal address for 12 years. My three sisters attended schools in the village and learnt Welsh, while I taught myself. Now living in Shropshire, we practise our Welsh whenever we meet, and reflect on the many friends we made in those years.

Surely common sense, together with an attitude of "when in Rome", should suffice for all concerned in Botwnnog. **Stephen Bridgwater** Shrewsbury

National Trust venison

SIR – As a National Trust member, I am disappointed that it is attempting to promote veganism ("National Trust to vote on making half of its café menu vegan", report, September 7).

Vegans make up just 5 per cent of the population. The Trust claims that vegan offerings will help fight climate change. Wouldn't it be better to make the most of deer from its estates?

Deer are culled for conservation reasons, so this would encourage woodland health and the natural regeneration of trees, of which we need more. Venison is a sustainable, low-fat, low-cholesterol option, and would be very popular with members in pies, pastries and casseroles. **Erik Burger** Woodmancote, Gloucestershire

Cold discomfort

SIR – I also suffered many colds as a child (Letters, September 7). My mother would make me inhale the steam from hot Friar's Balsam, with a cloth wrapped round my face to make sure it went up my nose. This was a very unpleasant experience.

The doctor then decided to have my tonsils and adenoids out. I still had many colds. **Mary King** Farnham, Surrey

(this elite needs to read a history book). It smacks of inverted racism. We were supposed to be stumbling towards the ideal that race doesn't matter, that the individual should be judged on their character, yet the West has returned to saying it is the most important thing of all, embedded in our culture and history so deep that white people can never escape their Original Sin. In which case, some are bound to ask, why bother trying? Anyone who approximates to Family A will conclude that the system hates them – and the tragedy is that much of their anger will be directed towards anyone who vaguely resembles Family B.

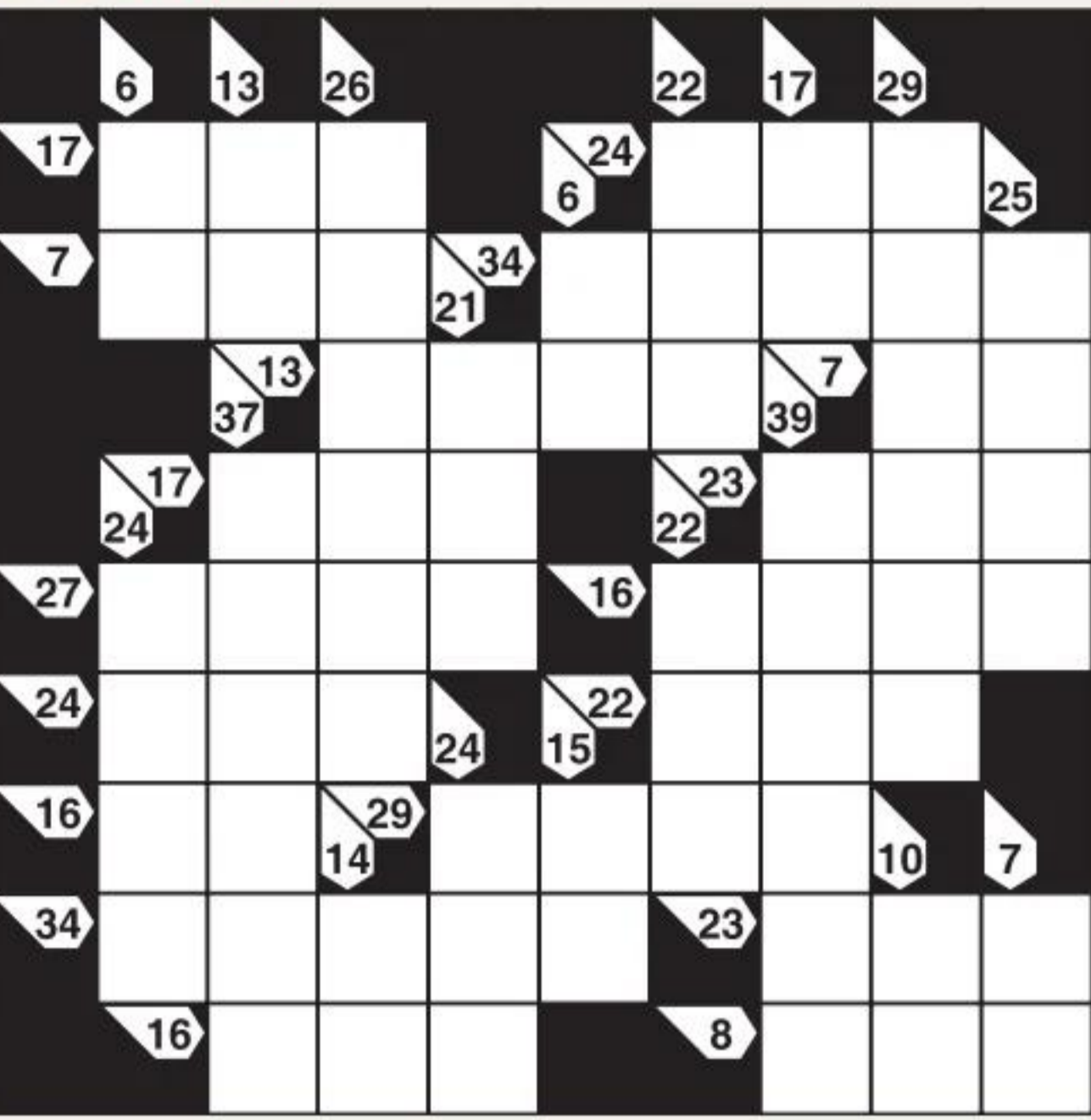
Of course, Edco's final mistake is to assume we must choose between the two families at all. The liberal-Left is obsessed with purging a world that died out 30-odd years ago. In the modern British isles, there are plenty of Irish farmers who have tried pizza, and blended families who delight in local custom. Britain has demonstrated that a strong, eccentric national culture is an antidote to racism, because it's so easy to opt in to – by visiting National Trust properties or collecting Spode china.

As for globalisation, it preserves as much as it disrupts. If the world of Family B, otherwise known as London, becomes so insufferably smug that I can't take it anymore, I can always find a Family A on Airbnb, move into their barn and swan about the area telling people it's good to be back in "the old country". The Irish love it when you do that.

KAKURO

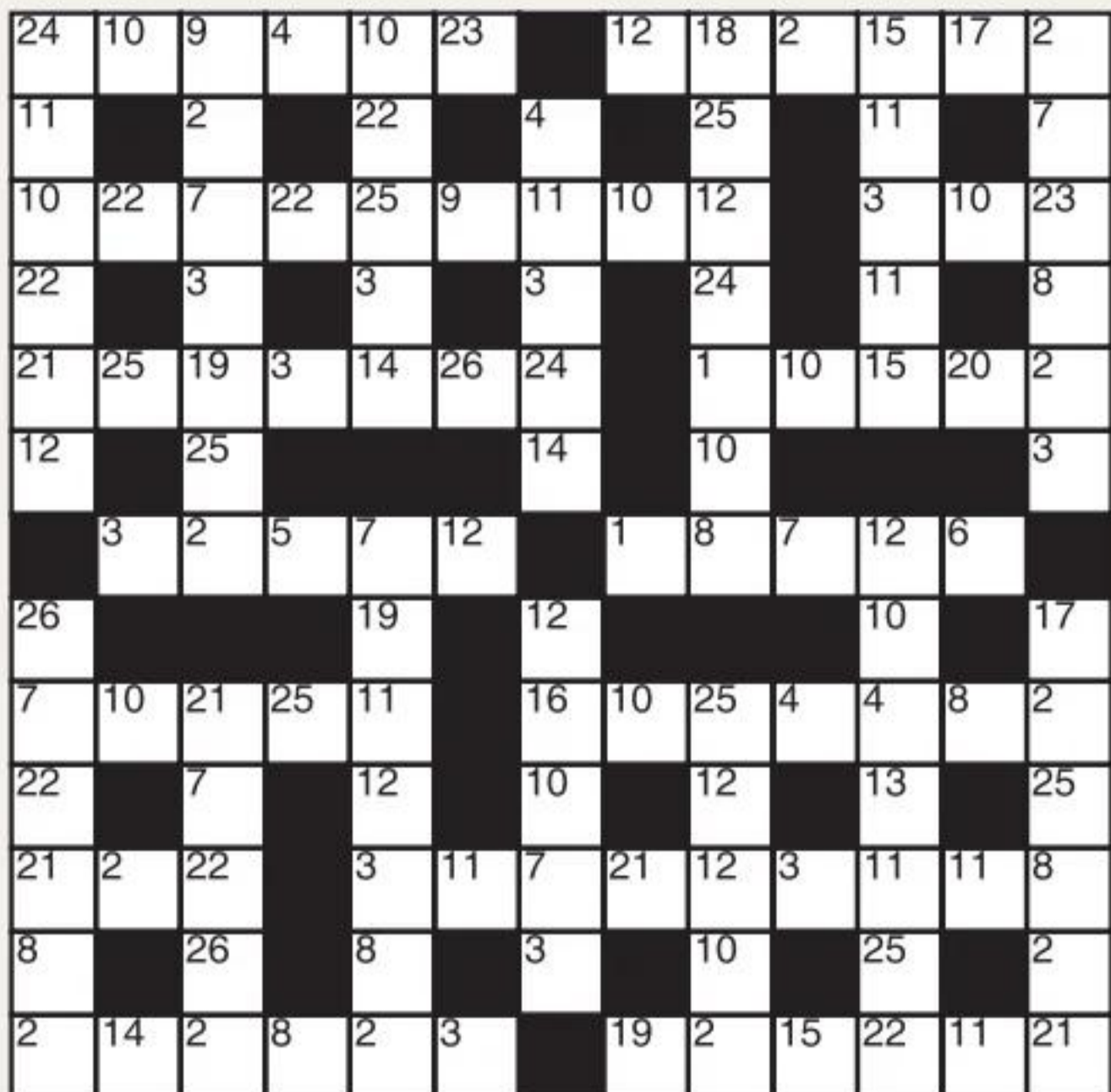
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as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

GENTLE NO 5138



CODEWORDS

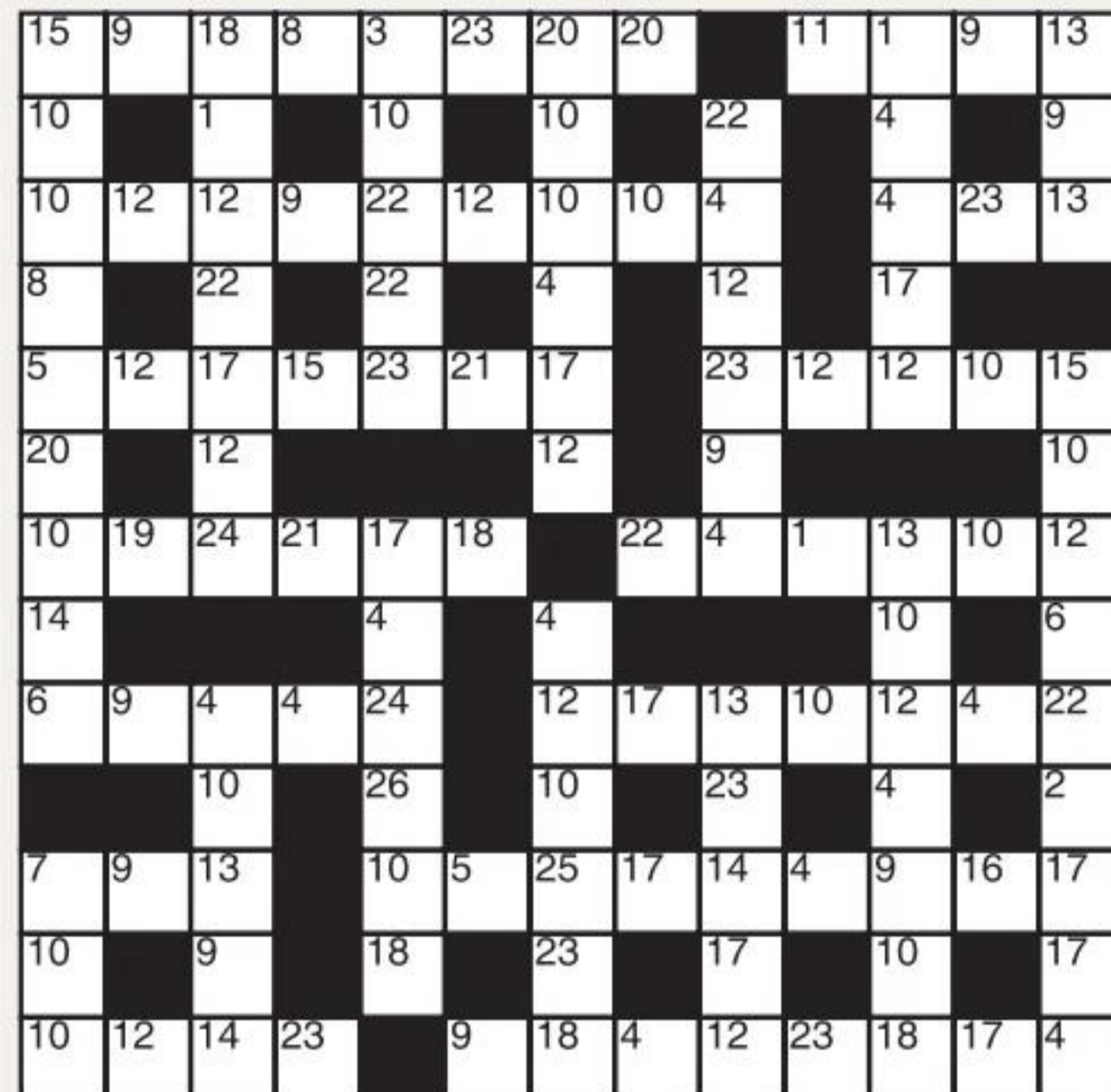
Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*



ABCDEF GHI J KLMNOPQRS TUVWXYZ



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



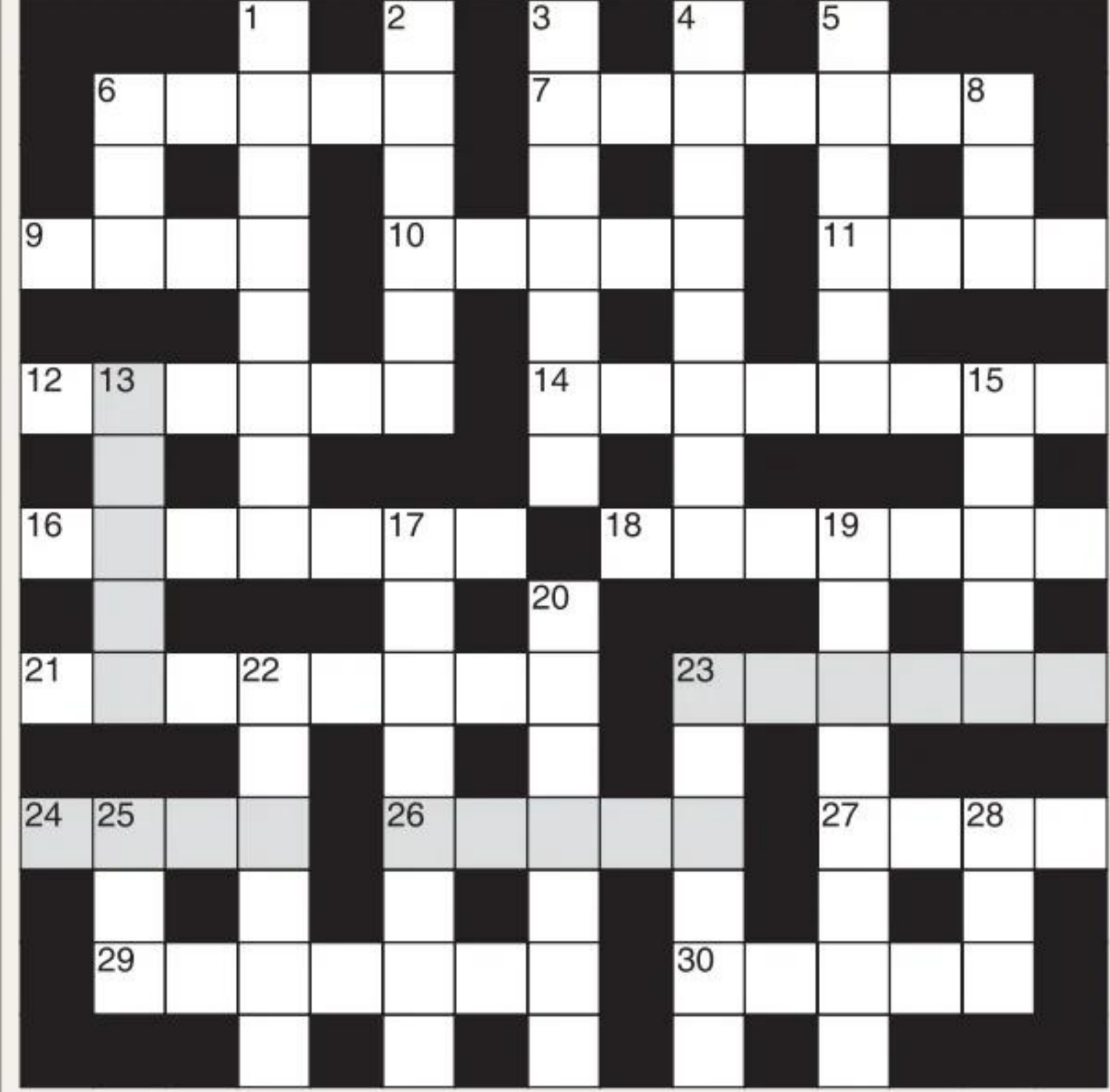
ABCDEF GHI J KLMNOPQRST UVWXYZ



Notes

HERCULIS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

WIN A £25 BOOK TOKEN



Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Solutions in the tinted squares with highlighted clues join with solutions in Saturday's Giant GK Crossword to make four well-known words or phrases. You can get Saturday's linked clues by phoning 0905 757 0140. Lines open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390. Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. For more information about how we use your data, please visit: telegraph.co.uk/privacypolicy.

ACROSS
6 Bestselling Irish author noted for novels including *Anybody Out There*, *Grown Ups*, *Lucy Sullivan Is Getting Married* and *Rachel's Holiday* (5)
7 Small metal cone on a handle for extinguishing a candle's flame; a wick trimmer; or, a tobacco snorter (7)
9 Forename of Thomas and Elizabeth Boleyn's daughter who was the second wife of Henry VIII and the mother of the last Tudor monarch (4)
10 From Scottish Gaelic for "light, fire" and Irish for "live ember", a dialect word for a fire, fireplace, flame or hearth (5)
11 Word for a block of wood to impede an animal's movement first, now a wooden shoe, such as a sabot; or, any encumbrance or impediment (4)
12 From "duty, favour, service", word for a place for transacting business (6)
14 Word for panopoly; an iron keeper placed in contact with the poles of a magnet to preserve its power; or, a wire-wound core of a dynamo (8)
16 From Gaelic for "white", word for a young sea trout, aka a whiting (7)
18 An archaic term, from 1 Samuel 25 and also Beaumont and Fletcher's *The Scornful Lady*, for a lady's-maid (7)
21 Word used to describe a mulish obstinate pertinacious person (8)
23 A triumphant person or thing (6)
24 *Twine*; or, the *medulla spinalis* or *navel-string*, reminiscent of this (4)
26 *Commerce*; or, a type of wind (5)
27 From Italian for "shore", a bathing beach or open-air swimming-pool (4)
29 French physician whose invention of the stethoscope is said to be inspired by his skill in carving flutes (7)
30 Country known as the "Jewel of East Africa" whose music, "benga", means "beautiful thing" in Luo (5)

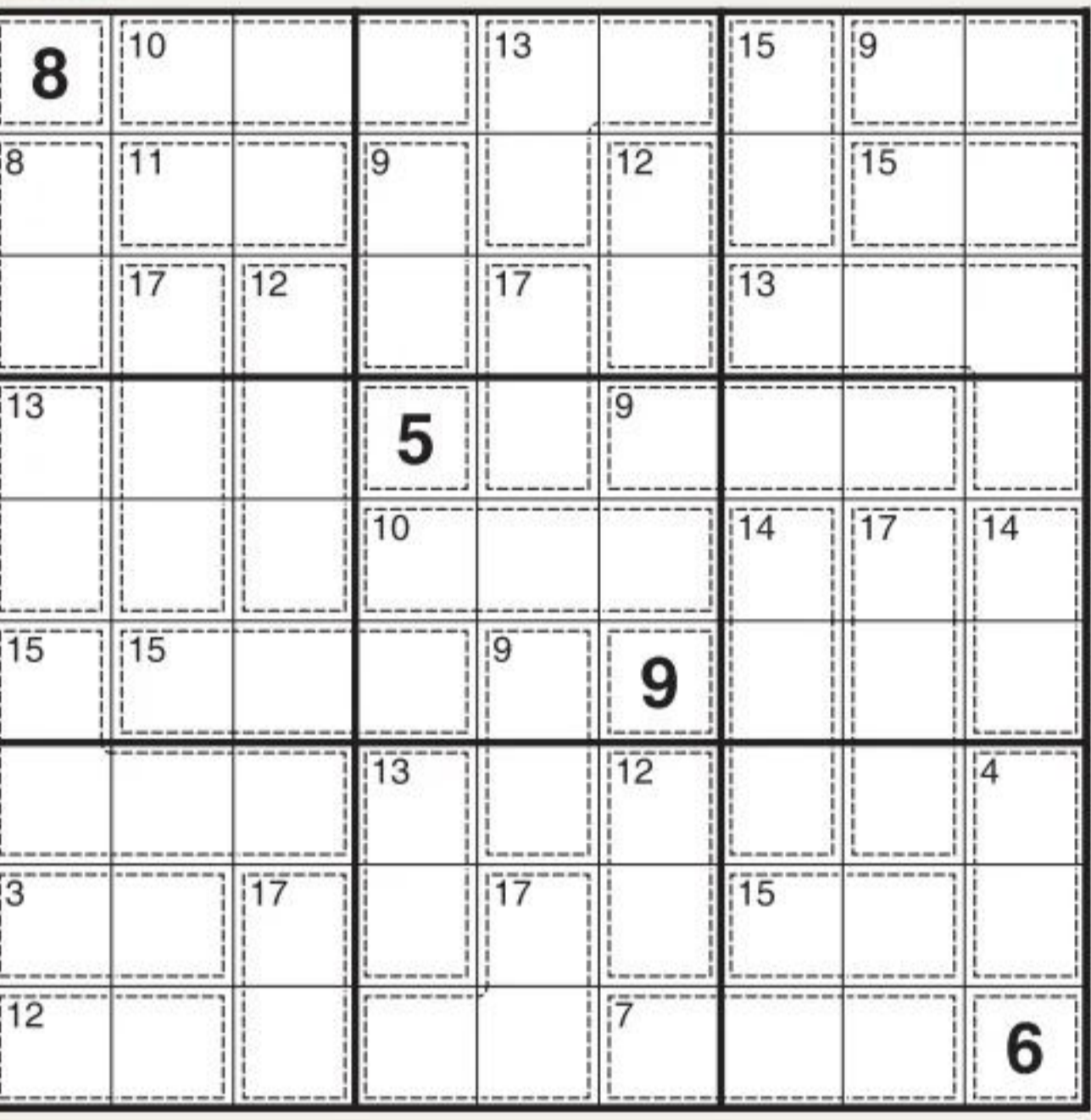
DOWN
1 One of 12 mythical Greek Titans; father of Eos the dawn, Helios the Sun and Selene the Moon (8)
2 From "to breathe upon", a word meaning aim, desire eagerly, ascend to a great height, strive for high things, shoot for or tower up (6)
3 A word, such as "ambidextrously", with no repeating letters; or, a contour line connecting points registering the same value of some quantity (7)
4 Fairies' midwife who delivers dreams in *Romeo and Juliet* (5,3)
5 A bit, end, leftover, odd, remnant, scrap or other clipping or snippet (6)
6 Familiar forename of the director of *Cathy Come Home* who shares his surname with a freshwater fish (3)
8 Informal name for an Australian wallaby-like marsupial or "kanga" (3)
13 A variety of chert; a flake of this used as a primitive tool or for striking fire; or, anything proverbially hard (5)
15 From "upright", an increase or lift, as opposed to a drop or reduction (5)
17 Italian bruschetta-like toasts, served with toppings as canapés (8)
19 A cocktail based on a juniper-flavoured spirit mixed with fruit juice, similar to a Singaporean variety (3,5)
20 Word for childhood, thus for any early stage of development (7)
22 Sett-dwelling brock whose name refers to the white mark worn like an emblem on its forehead (6)
23 Word for ships destroyed at sea, thus ruined people/things generally (6)
25 Last name of Popeye the sailor's love interest "Olive", in a comic strip created by Elzie Crisler Segar (3)
28 Abbreviated name of a double helix-shaped molecule carrying an organism's genetic code/material (3)

To enter by post Mark your envelope Herculis 13,062, 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 13,062 in the subject field. Entries must reach us by 5am Friday. Entry terms and conditions: telegraph.co.uk/prize-terms. Solution and winner's name next Monday.

KILLER SUDOKU

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

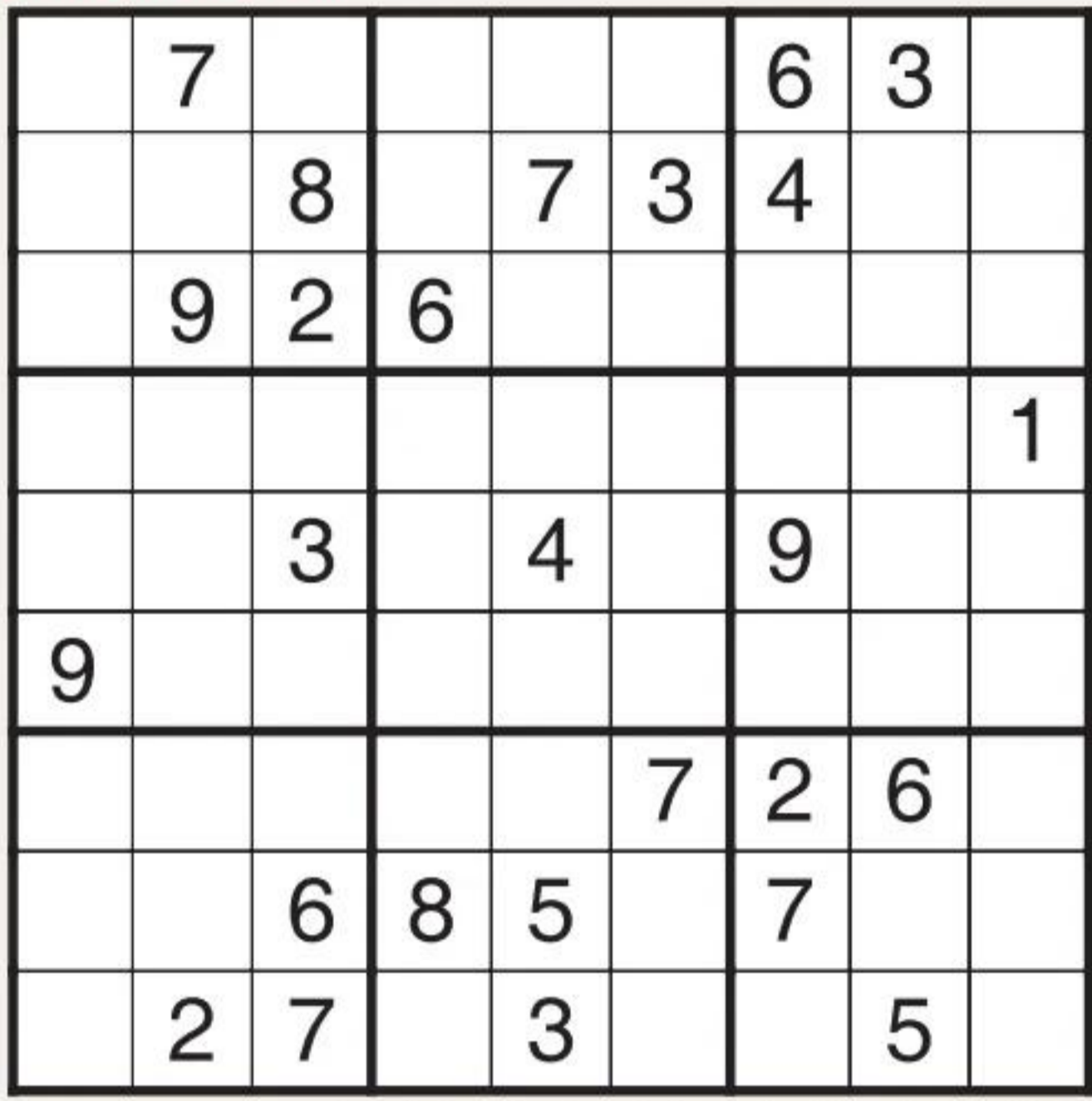
GENTLE



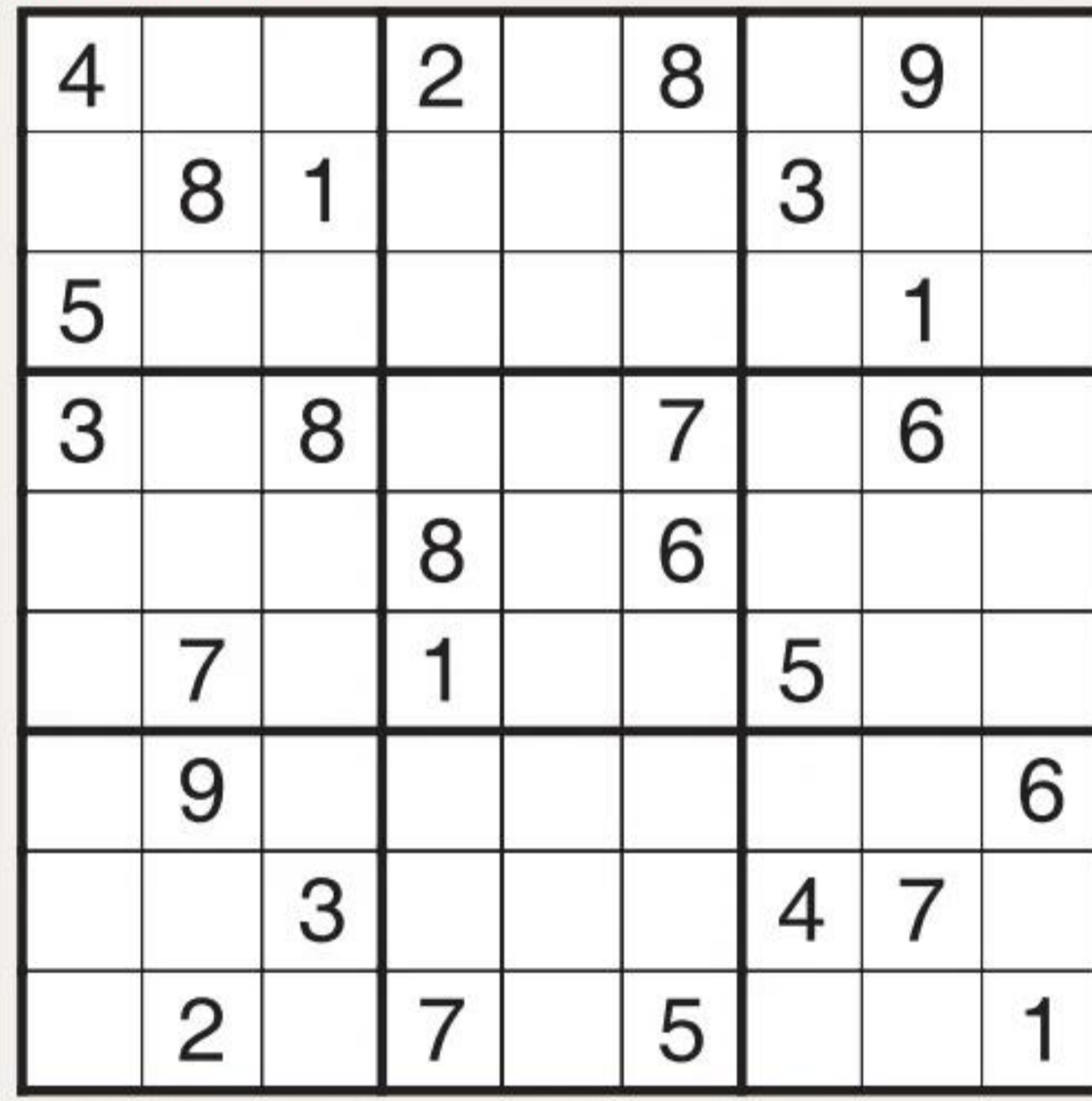
SUDOKU

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

REGULAR NO 6708



TOUGH NO 6708



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 6 words - Word Finder, 7 - Wordsmith, 14 - Word Wizard, 22 - Word Master, 29 - Word Genius, 37 - Word Perfect

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a synonym of the word party. *Solution tomorrow.*

- TEHRAN GIG
- THE OTTER EGGS
- RELOCATE BIN

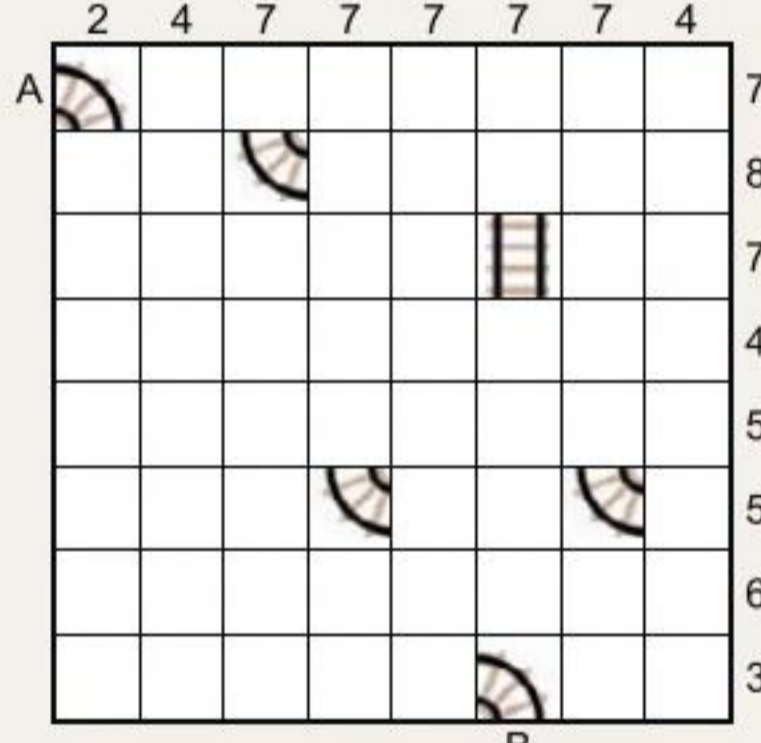
MIND GYM

NO 4406
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	32	÷8	x5.75	TRIPLE IT	+57	HALVE IT	÷9	X BY ITSELF	-25	2/3 OF THIS	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	102	12/17 OF THIS	÷8	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-61	HALVE IT	6/7 OF THIS	+43	√	ANSWER
ADVANCED	17	x9	TRIPLE IT	-235	5/8 OF THIS	45% OF THIS	2/3 OF THIS	x6.5	-126	÷7	ANSWER

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.*

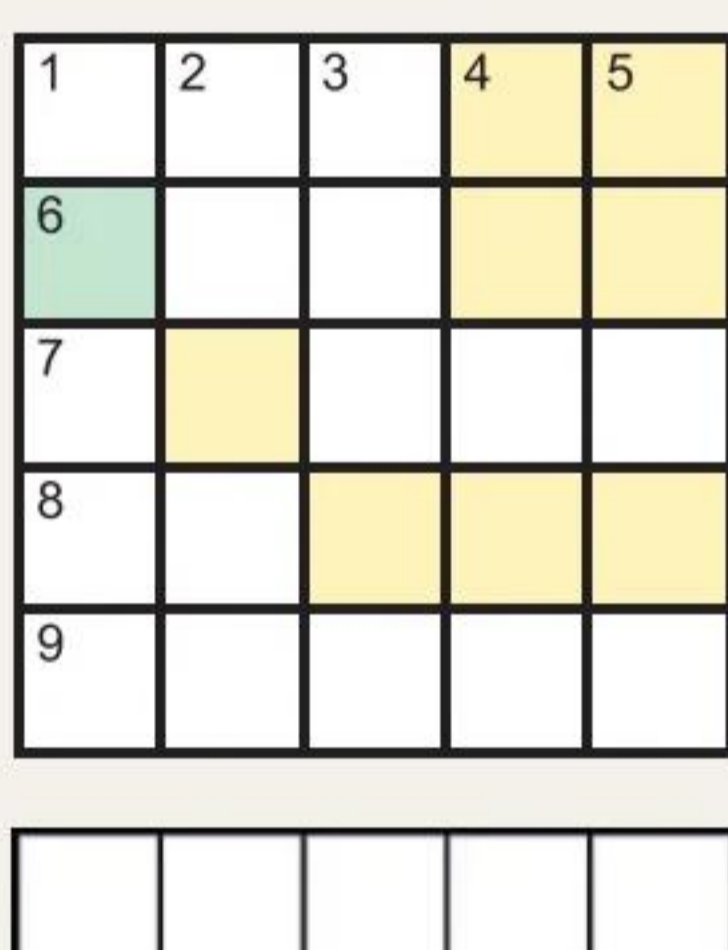


PLUSWORD

NO 841

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 ___ my previous email ...
6 Early New Zealander, e.g.
7 Where to find a map of New Zealand, say
8 Set of rooms
9 The dish ran away with the ___
- Down**
1 Gather
2 Paid sudden attention
3 Viral disease; I loop (anag.)
4 Greek muse; orate (anag.)
5 Like yeasted bread?



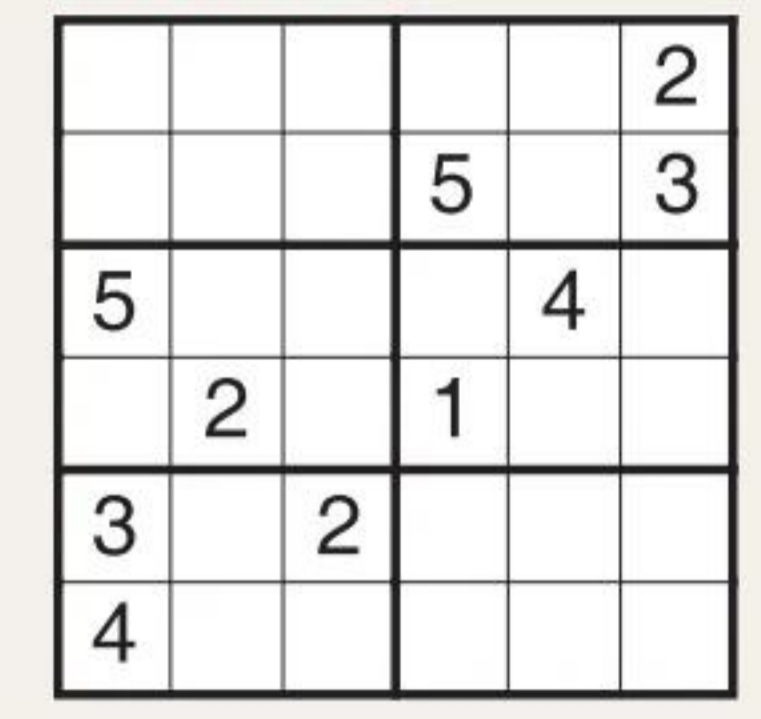
Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

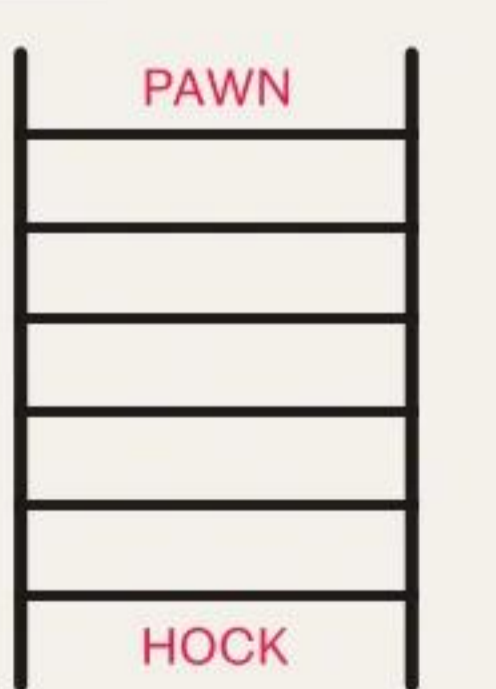
GENTLE NO 4173



WORD LADDER

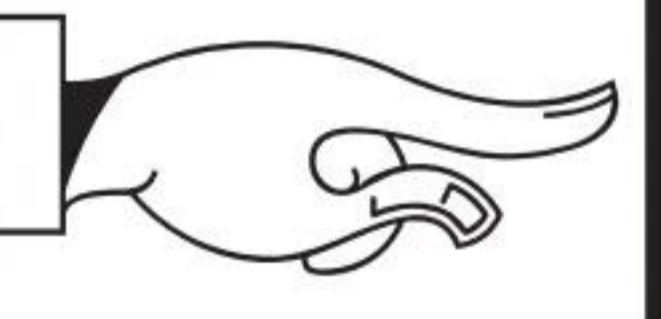
Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

- JOURNALIST, SUN-UP, SHADY, MEND, LISTEN



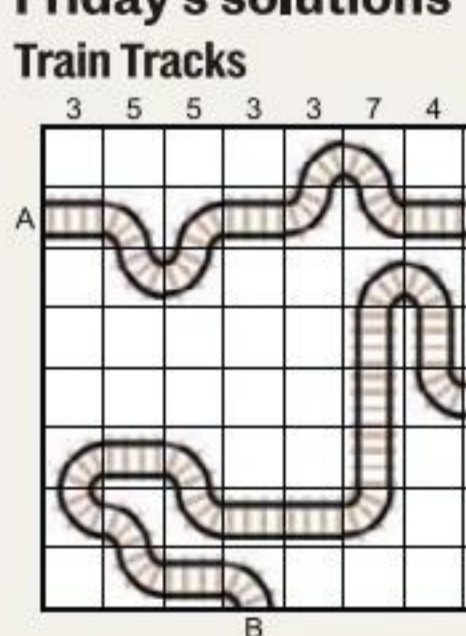
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THE SOLUTIONS

Friday's solutions



Kakuro No 5135



Killer Sudoku



Saturday's solutions



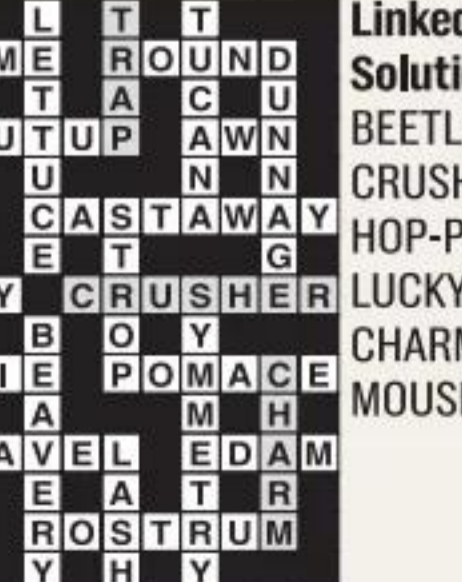
Mini Sudoku No 4172



Sudoku Tough No 6706



Last week's Herculis solution



Codewords 2



PlusWord 838



Word Ladder: Tune, tone, bone, bane, base, bass, mass.

Panagram: Outrunner, untruer, nurture, neutron, untune, untrun, unrent, turner, touner, runner, router, return, neuron, tuner, truer, tonne, toner, tenor, tenon, route, retro, rerun, outre, outer, noter, nonet, tune, true, tore, tone, tern, rune, rote, rent, note, none, neon, euro.

Today's Mind Gym

Beginner: 16 Intermediate: 11 Advanced: 21



The Telegraph Extra

Subscriber offers, events & competitions

Win a seven-night stay at the Constantinou Bros Asimina Suites Hotel in Cyprus

You and a guest can enjoy a luxury adult-only Mediterranean holiday on Paphos Beach, where you can spend your days shopping, sailing or simply admiring the view. Enjoy a full buffet breakfast each morning and a delicious dinner on one night at Kymata Restaurant. Return flights are included.



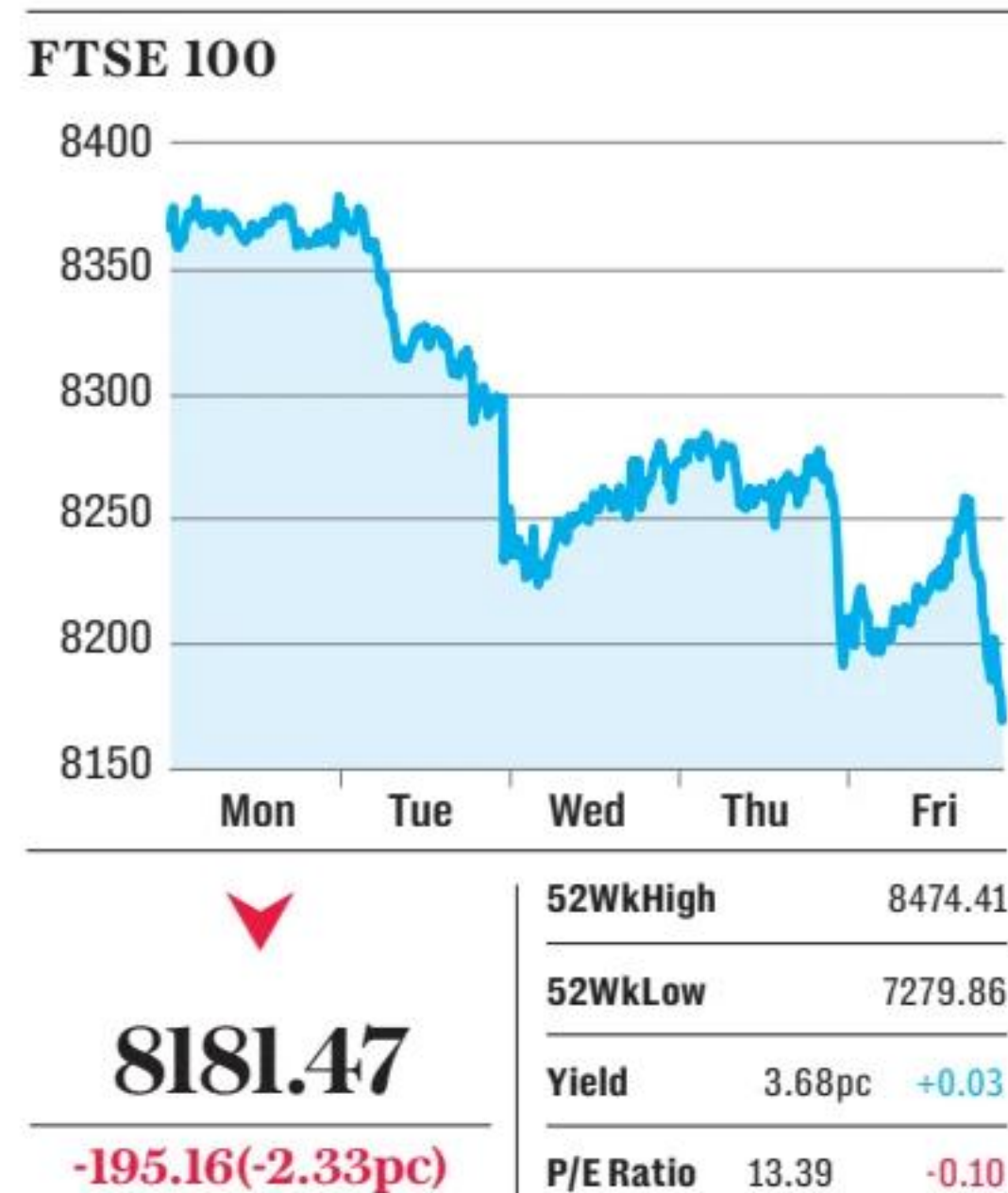
To enter, visit telegraph.co.uk/extra-competitions or scan the QR code

To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

Competition closes on 29 September 2024. Prize is valid from 1 October to 20 November 2024 or 2 April to 24 August 2025. Terms and conditions apply.

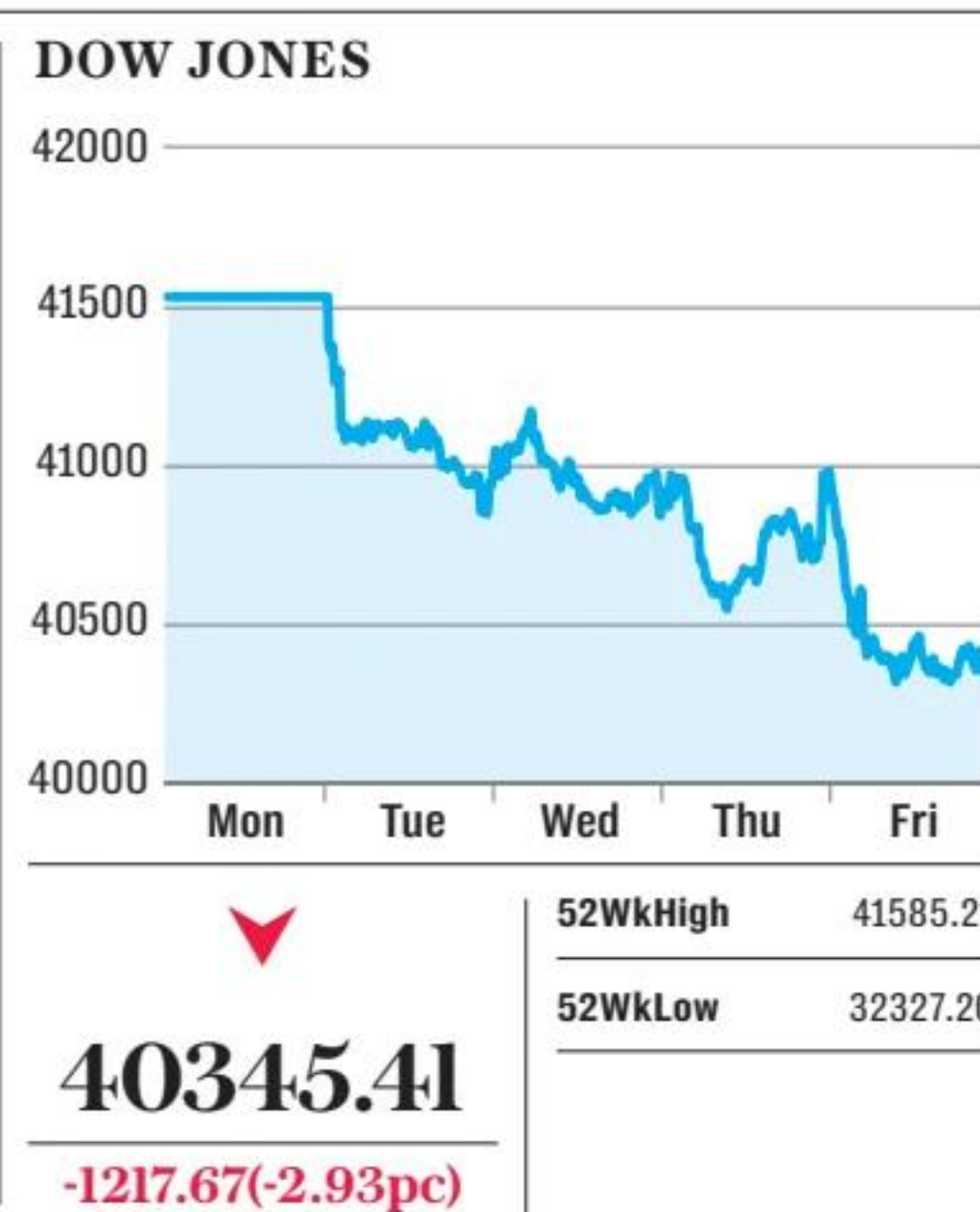


MARKETS Week-on-week change



BIGGEST RISER
Rightmove
653¾p
+98¼ (+17.67pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
Antofagasta
1638½p
-214½ (-11.58pc)



FTSE 250	20494.00
FTSE All Share	4467.47
FTSE All Share Yield	3.64
FTSE Eurotop 100	3970.84
Nikkei 225	36391.47
EURO STOXX 50	4738.06
S&P 500	5408.42
Nasdaq	16690.83

CURRENCIES Friday close

£\$
Rate **1.3180**
Change **+0.38c**

£€
Rate **1.1852**
Change **-0.21c**

COMMODITIES Week-on-week change

GOLD
\$2496.29
(£1897)
-5.83 (-0.23pc)

BRENT CRUDE
\$71.06
(November)
-7.74 (-9.82pc)

Brussels' war on tech
The EU has long sought to tame the American giants and make them bend to the bloc's diktats

Vous ne regrettez rien?
The new French PM, Michel Barnier, our old Brexit adversary, has been given a poisoned chalice

Thames debt crisis seized on by US hedge funds

Pack of American players have been scooping up water company's bonds at knockdown prices

By Ben Marlow and Michael Bow

A COMBATIVE US hedge fund is set to play a central role in the future of Thames Water after scooping up the company's loans at knockdown prices.

Florida-based Elliott Management is among a pack of aggressive US players to have hoovered up Thames debt at steep discounts in an attempt to capitalise on the financial uncertainty engulfing Britain's largest water supplier.

Elliott, which manages assets of about \$65bn (£50bn), has snapped up cut-price bonds running into hundreds of millions of pounds. It now ranks among the largest lenders in a pool of an estimated 90 financial institutions that Thames counts as senior creditors.

Elliott's position is said by City sources to be worth close to £1bn, placing it at the heart of a rescue attempt being prepared by a select group of the largest lenders.

A club of prominent creditors is poised to begin detailed work on a radical financial restructuring proposal that aims to repair Thames' stretched balance sheet by writing off a significant portion of its debt, at the same time as finding new shareholders willing to pump in fresh equity.

Billions of pounds of its senior bonds have been snapped up at a discount to their face value by hedge funds in trading over the summer. Blue-chip fund managers have been rushing to dump Thames debt amid fears that ministers will ultimately have to step in with a taxpayer-backed bailout package that would write off much of the value of the bonds. This has paved the way for more opportunistic debt investors to pile in on the cheap.

The hedge funds have a higher appetite for risk than the financial institutions offloading the debt and hope to make quick profit if Thames can be stabilised without writing off too large a portion of the senior bonds. Such a rescue would trigger a recovery in the value of the debt and enable Elliott to bank handsome returns. Elliott is one of

the world's most powerful activist investors, but it was its 15-year long battle with the Argentine government over outstanding debt payments that cemented its buccaneering reputation.

In an effort to force the country to settle its dues, Elliott seized the Argentine naval ship Libertad as it docked in a Ghanaian port and used it as a bargaining chip to collect on debt that had acquired at vastly reduced prices. The fund went on to recoup \$2.4bn for bonds that it reportedly paid \$117m for.

Elliott's UK assets include the Waterstones chain of bookshops. The company's London office is managed by Gordon Singer, son of its founder, the billionaire Paul Singer.

Those to have also built up large positions during the reshuffle of Thames creditors also include Apollo Management, another of the world's biggest players in the distressed debt arena.

Both Elliott and Apollo are part of a so-called steering committee that includes nearly 20 of the most

'Everyone who is anyone has been hoovering this stuff up but some will be the kingmakers'

influential lenders with the biggest exposure who will spearhead a restructuring plan.

One trader said: "Everyone who is anyone in the hedge fund community has been hoovering this stuff up, but there are some that will be the kingmakers."

Together, the senior "Class A" bondholders are owed around £10bn. Government analysis drawn up earlier this year estimated that together with banks owed roughly £1.5bn, this group will need to take a "haircut" of 5pc to 10pc in any restructuring. Sources close to the talks think it could be as much as 20pc.

A smaller band of creditors holding "Class B" debt of about £1.6bn would probably suffer losses of between 35pc to 40pc, but some debt market experts believe they could be wiped out entirely. One said: "They're probably toast."

A further £1.7bn of debt issued by Thames parent company Kemble is also not expected to be recovered.



Blue wall to red wall Television presenter and model Laura Whitmore attends the alicia + olivia by Stacey Bendet Spring 2025 Presentation at Highline Stages in New York City.

Reeves 'should charge CGT' on second homes and businesses

By Melissa Lawford

RACHEL REEVES has been urged to start charging capital gains tax on second homes and businesses after their owners die.

Scrapping relief that wipes out capital gains tax charges on death would simultaneously drive economic growth and raise £2bn a year for the Treasury as the Chancellor scrambles to fill a £22bn budget black hole, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

The think tank's head of tax, Helen Miller, said: "It is a bad tax relief and I would love it if the Government scrapped it."

Arun Advani, associate professor at the University of Warwick, said: "It would be good for growth. It would stop this problem of people hanging onto assets that they don't actually really want. And it would be good from a revenue perspective."

"It would be weird if HMRC and the Treasury weren't pitching this to the Chancellor."

Capital gains tax is charged on the profits on the sale of assets such as shares or second homes, at a rate of around 20pc for a higher rate taxpayer, depending on the asset.

However, under the existing system, if a person does not sell during their lifetime and instead holds the asset until they die, they can avoid paying the tax altogether because of a relief known as "uplift on death".

This means that no capital gains tax is charged on their period of ownership, although some assets are still liable for inheritance tax.

The person who inherits the asset does so at its current market value. This means that when they sell, they will only pay capital gains tax on the increase in value since they took ownership.

Any overhaul would trigger accusations that the Chancellor is double taxing inheritance.

However, speculation is growing that there will be a wide-ranging crackdown on capital gains in next month's Budget.

On Friday investment bank Citi said it was expecting a package of tax rises in the Autumn Statement on October 30 that would raise an extra £15bn to £25bn a year and include reforms to capital gains tax.

Ms Reeves could feasibly raise "high single digit billions" from an overhaul of the capital gains tax system, including bringing the headline rates in line with income tax rates, Ms Miller said. However, she added that if Ms Reeves increases the rates, she must also reform the tax to make it less distortionary. Ms Miller said the relief holds back economic growth because it encourages people to hoard businesses and property until they die. She said: "It is a massive incentive not to sell."

Challenger bank wind up threat

By Daniel Woolfson and Michael Bow

A START-UP BANK counting Lord Mandelson among its board members was hit by a winding-up petition from the taxman just days after its chief executive resigned.

His Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) slapped the Bank of London Group, a challenger bank set up to cater for businesses, with the petition last week over allegedly unpaid bills.

The legal action was disclosed just days after the departure of its chief executive and founder Anthony Watson, who has in the past donated money to the Labour party. He handed control to chief risk and compliance officer Stephen Bell.

On Sunday, the bank announced that it had raised £42m in August, from an oversubscribed funding round led by Mangrove Capital Partners. This fundraising was unrelated to the winding-up petition. A spokesman blamed the petition on "a simple administrative handling delay due to an internal miscommunication which has been addressed". HMRC were "updating the filing".

Sources told the *Financial Times* that directors were unaware of any unpaid debts until the petition was filed. The spokesman said the bank "has a strong liquidity and capital position and is well funded to deliver its strategic growth plan".

The Bank of London was founded by Mr Watson, a former Barclays executive,

in 2021. He is openly gay and a high-profile campaigner for LGBT rights who was once described as "one of the most influential gay men in the world" by *The Guardian*. He was awarded a CBE last year for services to the LGBT community.

He is a major Labour donor, giving almost £500,000 to assorted Labour MPs and the central party since 2015, according to Electoral Commission data. While he has given up the position of chief executive, he will remain as a senior adviser and be a non-executive board member.

Lord Mandelson is deputy chairman of the bank's board and sits alongside a handful of other banking veterans such as the former Goldman Sachs and Citi executive Harvey Schwartz.

Worst month for jobs in a decade

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE jobs market has suffered its worst month in more than a decade, according to new analysis that will add to pressure for a further interest rate cut.

A report by accountant BDO found that the strength of the jobs market declined for the 14th consecutive month in August, with a reading of 95.89. Anything over 95 signals growth, meaning recruitment is still just expanding, but this was the lowest score since January 2013.

The jobs market has faced a declining number of vacancies, with many businesses slowing or freezing hiring as they weather tougher economic

conditions. It suggests higher interest rates are starting to bite.

The BDO index - a "poll of polls", made up of data from the UK's most influential business surveys - is likely to be among data considered by Bank of England policymakers as they weigh up whether to cut borrowing costs again later this month.

There were also more people claiming unemployment-related benefits in August, at the highest level since December 2021, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics.

However, BDO found that output across the services sector rose to a two-year high in August with a reading

of 99.03. Growth was driven by an increase in new contracts, and summer tourism spurring more consumer and business spending, the report found.

Kaley Crossthwaite, a partner at BDO, said that services continued to be the "cornerstone of economic growth".

She added: "The coming months will be crucial in determining whether the UK can maintain its recovery momentum and fight back against these headwinds."

"No doubt all eyes will be on the autumn Budget and the Government's plans for helping business tackle persistent unemployment levels and the skills gap."

TalkTalk risks squeeze after bailout

By James Warrington

TALKTALK is facing a fresh financial squeeze after an 11th-hour rescue deal by its founder imposed punishing new debt costs.

The business received an emergency cash injection of £235m from billionaire founder Sir Charles Dunstone and other shareholders last month, helping to stave off a looming debt default. But details of the refinancing

show the company is still facing eye-watering interest payments on its debt pile. It also secured extensions to maturity deadlines on around £1.2bn of debt. But some of this was agreed at interest rates of almost 12.8pc, meaning the company is still facing annual interest payments of more than £130m.

The figures have raised concerns about the ability of TalkTalk, which generated free cash flow of just £84m in

its latest financial year, to keep servicing its borrowing.

James Ratzer, an analyst at New Street Research, said: "While the refinancing does help to secure the current cash position of the company, our concerns on the medium-term outlook for the business have increased."

Pre-tax losses at TalkTalk ballooned from £70m to £127m last year and bosses are now seeking a buyer for part or all of the business.



The French cockerel is coming home to roost

ROGER BOOTLE



Its new prime minister has picked up a poisoned chalice with things now about to go badly wrong

Barely a day goes by without some new scare story about how taxes are due to rise or some benefit is due to be cut. In fact, in our neighbourhood across the channel, things appear to be just as bad, if not worse. The new French prime minister, Michel Barnier, our old Brexit adversary, has picked up a poisoned chalice.

Several times in my career I have asked: "Why is France doing so well?" This has usually brought forth a torrent of protests from people saying that France is doing very badly.

Did I actually mean what I said? I did. For all the negative comments here about the French economy, for

most of the post-war period, it has done pretty well. Its per capita GDP has at times been notably higher than ours. This is despite the frequently bizarre policies pursued by its governments. That has been the force of my question. If we had pursued the sort of policies they have, we would surely have been bust decades ago. So how did they manage to thrive?

I have never come to a thoroughly satisfactory answer. There are a few candidates. For a start, France is what you could describe as a naturally rich land. It is a large territory, diverse in type and climate. It has a very strong agricultural base, a vibrant tourist sector and a strong position in a number of key industries.

The second factor, I have ventured, is that it has an extremely talented class of business executives and effective senior civil servants.

Some people have tried to suggest that French success is due to an innate closet protectionism. They are not wrong to suggest that this exists.

But in the Anglo-Saxon economic tradition at least, such protectionism brings no benefits. On the contrary, it

is impoverishing. My third suggested answer is a bit of a cop-out but I think it is cogent. For such a naturally rich country, imbued with talented business leaders and civil servants, and with many pressures bottled up as a result of its innate protectionism, it takes a long time for things to go badly wrong. But eventually they do. It seems to me that France is on course now for things to go badly wrong.

Weak public finances are a major problem. The outgoing finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, recently said that this year the government deficit could hit 5.6pc of GDP, well in excess of the government's goal of 5.1pc.

President Emmanuel Macron had pledged to bring the deficit below the EU target of 3pc of GDP by 2027. Achieving anything like this is going to require some combination of much higher taxes and severe spending cuts.

Doubtless this sounds familiar, but the French fiscal situation is more serious than ours. At 111pc of GDP, government debt is higher than our 101pc. This has not always been true.

In marked contrast to the UK, where public debt was very high in the early

post-war years as the result of massive borrowing in the Second World War, French public debt was averaging about 20pc of GDP right up to 1980, when it was the lowest in the G7.

Beginning in the late 1970s, however, the annual budget deficit started to climb, driven by large increases in government spending. In 1960, this was running at about a third of GDP. By 2023 it had reached 58pc.

'If we had pursued the sort of policies they have, we would surely have been bust decades ago'

At the root of France's high public expenditure is a very generous regime of state benefits and a high public sector wage bill. France's expenditure on public sector pensions alone amounts to 14.5pc of GDP, about twice the OECD average.

Several governments have tried to tackle the gathering public debt crisis but have failed. There simply isn't the political support for austerity in

France, and there is a long tradition of public protest to which governments typically surrender. President Macron wanted to be a radical reformer and he did succeed to some degree, notably in pushing up the retirement age. But he is now in a very weak position for the last years of his presidency.

Meanwhile, on both the Left and the Right of him are people who want to rescind his pension reforms and whose answer to France's economic problems is yet more public spending.

In these circumstances, it is unlikely that France is going to be able to make a major adjustment in fiscal policy before the next presidential election in 2027. And, unless a strong presidential candidate emerges from the centre, it seems likely that whoever wins that election will want to carry on with high state spending and borrowing.

Most British people don't understand French politics. They routinely describe the RN party and its leader, Marine Le Pen, as "far Right". There is a lazy assumption that she is a sort of Thatcherite, advocating a small state and low taxes.

At least until recently, that would

ordinarily be associated with the Right wing in the UK and the US, but in France this is not the case.

Marine Le Pen is an interventionist and believes in a large state. If the term "far Right" has meaning in relation to her policies on immigration and national identity, her inclinations on economics would be better described as "far Left".

The euro has been a key factor enabling France to carry on its slow progress towards a fiscal crisis.

In the old days, a run on the franc would have precipitated a bout of fiscal tightening. Now that cannot happen. French bond yields have risen in relation to their German equivalents but not by much. France is still perceived as a core member of the eurozone, bracketed with Germany.

But in the absence of a major fiscal retrenchment, this market insouciance cannot continue. Fiscally, France has more in common with Italy and Greece. There may be trouble ahead.

Roger Bootle is senior independent adviser to Capital Economics. roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com



Loop deck Artist Alex Chinneck with his sculpture of a canal boat on the Sheffield & Tinsley Canal. The artwork is made from 9 tonnes of steel and aluminium, painted in traditional colours.

Our most valuable secrets are being exposed to a million eyes

ANDREW ORLOWSKI



No wonder Microsoft's CoPilot has earned the nickname CoParrot – it just repeats what it hears

Every day our businesses and government organisations are being clobbered by cyber attacks. So what's the last thing we want them to do? Probably make the attacks easier, and park the most valuable secrets in front of the house with a "Take What You Want" sign.

As companies experiment with artificial intelligence (AI), they are flinging open doors that really should be locked very tightly, and in many cases, don't even know they've done

it. To picture the potential damage, security expert Michael Bargury talks me through an example using Microsoft's own demonstration site for Microsoft 365. He quietly alters the firm's bank details – staff are oblivious to the change.

Bargury, chief technology officer of Tel Aviv-based security firm Zenity, is one of the leading experts in exploring how business AI can be used for mischief.

The attacks exploit one of AI's key selling points to business: automating repetitive tasks. Previously, getting a hack to work required knowledge of a scripting language. Now anyone can create a bot with a couple of clicks, and it's turning hacking into a public sport.

Many hacks also required hundreds of hours of social engineering – tricking an individual into clicking on something – but with Microsoft's CoPilot and other business AI bots, people can simply say a set of words and open Pandora's Box. Bargury calls

it "promptware". The typical Fortune 500 firm already runs around 3,000 CoPilot AI bots, Zenity found, and some 63 per cent of private business chatbots can be operated by the public. "All of the defaults are insecure," an astonished Bargury has discovered.

Things are about to get much worse. While Microsoft has changed the defaults, the underlying problem is not fixable, which is that AI can't distinguish between data and computer instructions. I may send you a one-line message wishing you Happy Birthday that contains hidden hacking instructions – and the AI will obviously let it happen.

Microsoft says it is constantly revising the "guard rails" on its large language models, but Bargury isn't impressed. "Guard rails aren't enough because it's not a solvable problem," he tells me.

No wonder CoPilot has earned the nickname "CoParrot" – it simply

repeats what it hears. Worse, companies are being encouraged to pour everything they have into the pot. An AI model devours everything it can: supplier contracts, employee salaries, redundancy lists, strategy papers, or the directors' very private Teams chats.

AI breaks down boundaries we have traditionally maintained in the offline world, where information was privileged, and was only shared on a need-to-know basis. Now we're making everything accessible to anyone. Rather like the cartoon monster in The Beatles' movie *Yellow Submarine*, the Suckophant, AI devours all the other monsters, then the Beatles, and eventually the screen itself.

In summary, it's a lethal combination: we're allowing far more people to do more stupid things, far more easily, while exposing far more private information to the bad people.

Incredibly, Microsoft is also capturing private information we have not intentionally committed to a system, just so it can all be fed to an AI model.

A new feature of Windows called Recall silently takes a snapshot of your computer screen every few seconds, and stashes it away. Recall doesn't care if what's on your screen is your sales

forecasts, a banking app, passwords or pornography – it remembers everything.

In truth, the technology industry has never been very good at respecting boundaries, or even basic security, and this goes back a long way.

One industry veteran who helps define international security standards told me: "The people building software and networks do not think security is something valuable – it gets in their way, and they won't do it."

'I may send you a one-line message with hidden hacking instructions – and AI will let it happen'

"Enterprises are left picking up the pieces. The attitude is very much, "F-k security, f-k intellectual property, and let's fix it with lawyers afterwards."

Google's former chief executive, Eric Schmidt – now a major investor in AI and one of the most influential figures in US science policy – admitted as much in a talk to undergraduates at Stanford, according to reports last month.

Quizzed about the ethics of stealing IP to build a start-up, Schmidt advised

students to go ahead and worry later: just "hire a whole bunch of lawyers to go clean the mess up".

Schmidt was merely "saying the quiet part out loud", noted the tech publication *The Verge*. The video of the talk has been deleted.

Ministers need to stop fantasising that AI automation will save the NHS and improve public service efficiency. The House of Representatives has already banned CoPilot, deeming it "a risk to users due to the threat of leaking House data".

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Daron Acemoglu, author of the book *Why Nations Fail*, was recently asked to predict the potential impact of AI on business and society on a scale of nought to 10.

It could go up to seven he thought, if all went well, but on its current trajectory, it was heading for a "minus six".

His interviewer, who moves in rarified high status policy and media circles, sounded astonished.

Well, he said, your mistake is only to look at the good stuff AI can do, but you've failed to look at any of the bad stuff. Or count the costs.

Perhaps his next book can be called "Why Civilisations Fail". We're doing all we can to hasten their demise.

The sad fact of the matter is that retail has relied on underpaid women for far too long

LUCY BURTON



One of the worst jobs I've had was working on the shop floor of a well-known department store in London. As well as putting up with archaic rules forcing women to wear high heels, tight skirts and a full face of make-up (policies which have since been scrapped), the job was hard and monotonous.

"Smiles were made for sales," a room full of women were told in one bizarre training session. The only reason I stuck it out was because it was better paid than other retail jobs and completely flexible. Everyone I worked with (all women) felt the same. So I

empathise with the thousands of shop floor staff who joined retail for perks such as flexibility but are now fed up being underpaid and undervalued.

Department stores "once provided invaluable opportunities for ambitious women," author Julie Satow wrote in her book *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue*. But that was a different era, when a retail job felt more stable, there weren't many alternatives for someone seeking flexibility and there was less violence against staff.

A study by trade union GMB found earlier this year that Asda workers have been attacked with syringes and chased by customers.

Delivery drivers said they have been chased by people in cars and confronted by customers in the nude, while store workers had watermelons and joints of shopping thrown at them. The rise of shoplifting has led to an

increase of attacks on staff, who faced 1,300 cases of violence and abuse every day over the year to August 2023, according to the British Retail Consortium, compared with about 870 the previous year. That's equivalent to 54 cases of violence or abuse towards retail staff across the country every hour, or almost one episode of aggression every minute of the day.

Like many female-dominated industries, retail has relied on the cheap labour of women for too long and many have had enough. The issue will be brought into sharp focus today as 60,000 Asda shop workers take their equal pay case to the employment tribunal in what will be the biggest private sector equal pay claim ever. At the centre of the case is a claim that shop workers should be paid the same as warehouse staff, an argument which Next store staff made successfully last

month. Next plans to appeal the ruling. There are more than 112,000 store staff across not only Asda but also Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Co-op who have filed similar claims.

Women's work has always been undervalued, although the tribunal acknowledged in the Next case that this was about cutting costs rather than any sex discrimination.

The Next ruling certainly has its flaws – surely just because someone is underpaid, it doesn't mean they should earn exactly the same as a colleague in a completely different job? Aside from the skills being different, the draw of a shop floor job is flexibility and location – attracting carers, students and working parents who want to work part-time and close to home.

Flexibility and location is why I put up with working in a shop many years before I could begin to appreciate how

vital a flexible job like that might be for a parent. That doesn't justify poor pay.

The country's (mostly female) store staff have realised that they've been short-changed and overlooked. The demise of the high street, as well as the rapid expansion of flexible working in other industries, means a retail job no longer carries the appeal it once did.

For those early in their careers with caring responsibilities, a part-time job in a physical store is no longer the obvious choice. Those who have been stacking shelves for decades are likely to be wondering why they haven't spoken up before. Retailers have to up their game. The industry is already under pressure to treat female workers in factories better, with investors and customers boycotting fast-fashion brands which sell dirt-cheap clothes made by exploited workers overseas.

The Government has been urged to

block a proposed listing by fast-fashion brand Shein due to allegations around its labour practices. The vast majority of garment workers (about 80pc) are women, according to the Clean Clothes Campaign, which argues that employers take advantage of cultural stereotypes that portray women as passive and flexible. Women who adhere to these stereotypes and so don't speak out or have time to look for a job elsewhere are the "ideal employees in management's eyes," the organisation says.

Women's work is considered less valuable everywhere. Even Oscar-winning actress Olivia Colman said this year that if her name was Oliver she'd be paid a "f-k lot more than I am" – but jobs which are flexible can be more easily exploited. Fed up after Covid and amid a rise in violence, shop workers have found their voice.

How Brussels has declared open warfare on technology

Today's new iPhone launch will see Europeans lose out on AI – but Britain could cash in, writes **Matthew Field**

As he unveils the new iPhone 16 to millions of Apple fans today, Tim Cook is expected to emphasise one feature above everything else. Apple's latest device will harness the power of artificial intelligence to give users willing to part with close to £1,000 access to powerful digital assistants and voice controls meant to make life easier and more productive.

At least, that is what consumers in the US can hope for. Unfortunately for Cook, Apple's boss, European customers will be forced to wait until at least next year amid a regulatory battle with Brussels.

The European Union has long sought to tame America's tech giants and make them bend to the bloc's diktats. By and large, Silicon Valley businesses have paid their fines or tweaked their products to suit the whims of MEPs and the European Commission.

But now, US tech giants are threatening to cut Europe off from their latest innovations, blaming its new digital rules which they say threaten innovation and users' security. Apple's AI features are the latest casualty of that war.

"The danger now is we move quickly towards a two-speed Western global economy," says Louis Mosley, executive president of UK and Europe at US software giant Palantir.

"The EU risks putting itself firmly in the slow lane."

Technology companies already spend hundreds of millions of pounds on compliance and legal advice. But an industry source says the EU's new rules even have these battle-scarred advisers complaining "holy s*** – this is a lot to deal with".

Wonkish debates over regulation are normally fought in the corridors of power in Brussels, but the latest split is having an immediate impact on consumers and the tech giants.

Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, said the lack of new AI products on Apple's EU iPhones could delay about 10m phone sales to 2025, a significant dent in its revenues.

Apple has claimed the EU rules could "compromise the integrity of our

products in ways that risk user privacy and data security".

In response to questions about Apple's decision, a European Commission spokesman said: "The EU is an attractive market of 450m potential users and has always been open for business for any company that wants to provide services in the European internal market. All companies are welcome to offer their services in Europe, provided that they comply with EU legislation."

It is not just Apple withholding the latest AI mod cons from Europe.

In June, Meta said it would not be launching its new Meta AI assistant in Europe after Ireland's data regulator objected to the Facebook owner using European's personal data, including billions of historic posts, to fine-tune its chatbot service.

Stefano Fratta, an executive at Meta, said Europe was at a "crossroads" with Europeans likely to miss out thanks to "activists... advocating extreme approaches to data and AI".

Google, meanwhile, has repeatedly delayed new updates to its Gemini digital assistant, meaning European customers get the latest updates months after the US.

The tech giants blame a web of new digital rules – the Digital Services Act, Digital Markets Act and the AI Act – for complicating the process of launching new products and slowing innovation.

The bloc has wasted no time enforcing the strictures, launching compliance investigations into companies including Apple, Google, Meta, X and TikTok.

For years, the internet giants have largely had to make do without operating in China or else severely limit their services in order to remain in the market.

Apple, for instance, bows to demands of Chinese censors to block WhatsApp.

In other markets, such as India and Indonesia, tech giants have clashed with officials over censorship but largely remained operational.

Now, there are concerns that Europe is emerging as a new front. "The big companies see it as really political," an industry source says. "They see it as protectionism by stealth."

Industry insiders say there is frustration that Europe is increasingly an outlier on AI rules. Already, the UK has pushed back introducing an AI Act.

Daniel Friedlaender, the European head of tech lobby group the CCIA, adds that the "huge volume of EU tech and digital rules" has left tech companies facing "inconsistent, and sometimes outright conflicting, demands from regulators every day".



'US giants threaten to cut Europe off from their latest innovations, blaming its digital rules'

However, bosses at smaller technology companies have welcomed the EU's rules, which they believe will finally break the dominance of a handful of US players.

Andy Yen, chief executive of private email app Proton, says the concerns of tech giants were "just spin to hide Big Tech's real objections". He says: "It's not about security, but instead about finding ways to avoid playing fair."

But industry insiders say the technology is too strategically important to bury in regulation just

yet. Tommy Stadlen, founder of venture investment firm Giant Ventures, says: "If EU regulation starts to become prohibitive you will see the top AI companies in Europe and the top AI talent quickly move to the US."

However, the EU's crackdown could be an opportunity for Britain.

The UK has so far held fire on an all-out crackdown on AI deals or data gathering.

Mosley, of Palantir, adds: "The UK has important choices to make, with encouraging signs that it will get them

'The UK has important choices to make, with encouraging signs that it will get them right'

right." Last week, there were signs of a rapprochement, as the EU, the UK and the US signed up a new "legally binding" AI convention, which made the nations accountable for the harmful effects of the technology.

Yet it may be too late.

"Europe probably just can't have the American internet anymore," wrote Sam Lessin, a partner at Slow Ventures and a former Facebook executive, on Threads. "At some point, the tech companies will just say that Europe isn't worth it."

Kremlin claims \$235m from Google for flouting censorship bans

By **James Titcomb**

THE Kremlin is seeking \$235m (£180m) from Google's bankrupt Russian entity after repeatedly fining YouTube for hosting videos banned by the regime.

US court records showed that Russia's tax authority, on behalf of Vladimir Putin's government, had demanded 21.5bn roubles, equivalent to \$235m.

Google continues to operate YouTube and other services in Russia, despite its local entity declaring bankruptcy, saying it is one of the few

remaining ways people in the country can access information freely.

Keeping services online in Russia has led to the company being hit with millions in fines for refusing to delete what the Kremlin calls "false content".

The government is unlikely to be able to seize the funds, with Google's bankrupt Russian entity having assets of just 3.5bn roubles, about \$38.2m.

Google Russia declared bankruptcy in 2022. It has subsequently said that Russian authorities seized around \$100m of its assets, some of which has

since gone to pro-Putin broadcasters. The fines have emerged in US court documents as part of an international legal battle between Google and three Russian broadcasters including the state-owned RT, previously known as Russia Today.

RT and the pro-Kremlin channels Tsargrad TV and NFPT are pursuing legal action against Google in jurisdictions including Turkey, South Africa and Spain. They are seeking to force the company to pay Kremlin-ordered fines that cannot be recovered from Google's

bankrupt Russian entity. Google is suing the broadcasters in the UK and US, seeking a ruling that action in the other countries is void.

If Russia's claims are successful, it might mean Google Russia's remaining funds being distributed to the Kremlin instead of creditors and employees. A bankruptcy hearing is scheduled for next month.

Google removed RT and other broadcasters from YouTube shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It has been ordered to pay the channels

\$38.2m

Total assets held by Google's bankrupt Russian entity, leaving the government unlikely to be able to seize the funds

compensation.

Russia has frequently issued fines against Western technology companies for refusing to take down material with which the government disagrees.

Avoid sending weekend emails, top lawyers told

By **Adam Mawardi**

A CITY law firm boss has urged partners to avoid sending non-urgent weekend emails amid concerns that junior lawyers are working too much.

Segun Osuntokun, global senior partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner (BCLP), said that he schedules emails to avoid disturbing staff out of hours.

It comes amid a debate over the culture in the legal industry, where junior staff typically work frequent nights and weekends, after the death of a partner at another firm following an "acute mental health crisis".

Mr Osuntokun said: "I know that if I send an email to a team member on a weekend and I'm not expecting them to do anything about it, they won't know that. I know that their weekend is going to be impacted severely."

When working during the weekend, he said that he almost always delays the delivery of emails which do not require a response until Monday.

The Nigerian-born lawyer makes an exception in cases where colleagues have agreed to communicate during the weekend, for example, in preparation for a court hearing or meeting filing deadlines for time-sensitive deals.

Mr Osuntokun, previously BCLP's UK managing partner, emphasised the importance of considering the welfare

of colleagues especially as a pay war for City lawyers risks junior talent feeling pressured to overwork. Some firms offer a starting salary of £180,000.

The death of Pinsent Masons partner Vanessa Ford last year also triggered a period of soul-searching within the wider industry.

Ms Ford had been working 18-hour days before being struck by a train. At her inquest, a coroner found that she had "consumed a significant amount of alcohol while undergoing an acute mental health crisis".

Mr Osuntokun said: "Every major law firm is in the business of making a profit. But for me, it's just as much about how you make that profit as about as much profit as you make."

Labour plans to give workers the right to ignore emails and calls outside working hours as part of a sweeping overhaul of workers' rights championed by Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister.

British businesses that repeatedly contact staff out of hours could be taken to an employment tribunal and face thousands of pounds in fines. Mr Osuntokun declined to comment on the plans until further details are released.

BCLP, formed from a 2018 merger of Missouri's Bryan Cave and London's Berwin Leighton Paisner, employs nearly 1,300 lawyers in 31 global offices.

Candy shops drive £1bn rise in small business tax evasion

By **Tim Wallace**

AMERICAN candy shops and illicit online retailers have driven a £1bn boom in small business tax evasion since the pandemic, the National Audit Office (NAO) has warned.

Evasion cost the Exchequer £5.5bn in 2022-23, the watchdog said. Of that, £4.4bn was driven by small businesses, up from £3.1bn before Covid, an increase of £1.3bn. The NAO said HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has launched campaigns at "some high risk retailers" including takeaways, souvenir and candy shops but worries were still growing. It said that new and evolving evasion risks were appearing on the high street and online.

The NAO added: "Examples include fraudulent company registrations, overseas sellers evading VAT through online marketplaces, and businesses understating sales figures or companies artificially declaring themselves insolvent and setting up a new company."

It criticised HMRC for potentially giving too little priority to evasion through electronic sales suppression, in which companies use software that records artificially low sales volumes. "Weaknesses in company registration requirements and tax processes have left the UK too open to tax evasion," the NAO said, warning that recent steps to tighten the rules "will take time to implement". It added: "Significant



A King Charles figurine is displayed in a souvenir shop on London's Oxford Street

gaps remain in checks around online retailers, and overseas companies can falsely present themselves as UK-based to evade VAT."

Where HMRC has acted, it has had successes. New rules requiring VAT payments on sales made online rakes in an extra £1.5bn per year, five times the amount expected, the NAO said.

A HMRC spokesman said: "We generated a record £843.4bn in tax revenues last year. The UK has one of the lowest tax gaps reported in the world, but the Government is committed to reducing it further. We will continue to use our civil and criminal powers against the determined minority who refuse to play by the rules. Such action helped us protect £41.8bn in the last 12 months."

2m self-employed workers face pension crisis, says IFS

By **Tim Wallace**

ALMOST 2m self-employed workers face a pensions crisis unless they urgently start to save more, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has warned.

Just 500,000 self-employed people earning more than £10,000 a year are paying into a pension at all, according to the IFS, with 1.8m failing to do so.

It represents a collapse in savings rates over the past 25 years. Back in 1998, almost two-thirds of the self-employed saved into a pension.

Most of those who work for themselves have never paid into a pension.

It means that three-quarters of the self-employed can expect to retire on an income, including their state pension, of less than £15,000 per year, according to the report from the IFS and the Abridged Financial Fairness Trust.

At current savings rates, 55pc of the self-employed will have no private provision at all in their retirement.

A typical self-employed person aged 25 to 34 can get back on track by saving 9pc of their income per year, while someone in their 50s would need to put aside 18pc to try to achieve an adequate income in retirement.

David Sturrock, an IFS economist, said the Government should consider either prompting the self-employed to invest in a pension as part of their tax

return, or automatically enrolling them into a pension unless they opt out.

He said: "Policymakers have two key options to help the self-employed save for retirement. Both build on the fact that self-employed people have to fill in a tax return at the end of each year.

"Using that system, the Government could either get the self-employed to make an active choice over whether to save into a pension or Lifetime ISA, or enrol them automatically into a long-term savings plan they could opt out of."

The share of private sector employees with a workplace pension has soared from just over 40pc to more than 85pc since 2012, driven by the introduction of auto-enrolment where employees are automatically signed up unless they opt out. However, the self-employed are not covered by this scheme.

Mubin Haq, chief executive of the Abridged Financial Fairness Trust, said: "The self-employed make up an increasing share of the UK's workforce but far too many are on track to have a poor retirement. More than half have no private pensions savings."

"Auto-enrolment was a sea-change for employees. We now need to use similar methods for the self-employed."

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: "We welcome this report and will carefully consider its findings and conclusions."

Court & Social

Court Circular



BALMORAL CASTLE
September 7th
The King, Patron, the Braemar Royal Highland Society, and The Queen this afternoon attended the Braemar Gathering at the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park, Broombank Terrace, Braemar, and were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Mr Alexander Maudslayi) and the President of the Society (Mr Peter Fraser).
Mr John Swinney MSP (First Minister of the Scottish Government) and Mrs Elizabeth Quigley have arrived at the Castle.

Mr John Swinney MSP was received in audience by The King this evening.
KENSINGTON PALACE
September 7th
The Duchess of Gloucester, Royal Patron, Cathedral Music Trust, this morning attended "the Sixteen", a Choral Day Promenade Concert, at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7.
Her Royal Highness, Royal Patron, Cathedral Music Trust, this evening attended Handel's "Messiah", a Choral Day Promenade Concert, at the Royal Albert Hall.
BALMORAL CASTLE
September 8th
Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning.
The Right Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson (Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland) preached the Sermon.
Mr John Swinney MSP (First

Minister of the Scottish Government) and Mrs Elizabeth Quigley have left the Castle.
The King was represented by the Earl of Rosslyn (Lord Steward and Personal Secretary to the King and Queen) at the Installation of Sir Nicholas Coleridge as Provost of Eton College which was held in the College Chapel this morning.
For more details about the Royal family visit the Royal website at www.royal.uk
Today's birthdays
Dr the Hon Shirley Summerskill, former Labour minister, is 93; **Mr Richard Sharp**, former England rugby international, 86; **Mr Patrick Prenter**, Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian, 2003-13, 85; **Sir Anthony May**, President of the Queen's Bench Division, 2008-11,

84; **Prof Sir Adrian Smith**, President, Royal Society, 78; **Prof Sir Keith Willett**, Professor of Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery, University of Oxford; Director for Emergency Planning and Incident Response, NHS England, 2018-22, 67; **Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax**, 66; **Mr Hugh Grant**, actor, 64; **Prof Richard Pentry**, Professor of Photonics, Department of Engineering; Head, School of Technology, University of Cambridge, 60; **Mr Nigel Baker**, Ambassador to Slovakia, 58; **Miss Julia Sawalha**, actress, 56; **Ms Natasha Kaplinsky**, newsreader and television presenter, 52; **Mr Michael Bubl**, Canadian singer, 49; and **Mr Graham Onions**, cricketer, Lancashire, 2018-20; England, 2009-12, 42.
Today is the anniversary of the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513, the Marne Victory in 1914 and the Allied landing at Salerno in 1943.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr T.W.G. Abbott and Miss P.B. Froud
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Karen Abbott, of Wandsworth, London, and Christopher Abbott, of Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, and Philippa, daughter of Andrew and Lynda Froud, of Childrey, Oxfordshire.
Online ref: W0028074

Legal news

Judge Richards has retired as a Circuit Judge with effect from Aug 16 2024.
Judge Richard Roberts has been appointed as a Senior Circuit Judge, Designated Civil Judge based at Central London County Court, with effect from Sept 30 2024.
Mr Justice Timothy Mould has been appointed as the Planning Liaison Judge for a period of three years, from Aug 1 2024 to July 31 2027.
Judge Maria Lamb has been appointed as Resident Judge at Oxford Crown Court for a period of four years commencing from Oct 4 2024.
Mr Justice Michael Green has been appointed as the Supervising Judge of the Business and Property Courts for the Wales, Western and Midland Circuits with effect from Oct 1 2024 for a period of three years.

Prize-winners of crossword 30,707

Three first-prize winners: Mrs Liz Young, Newtonabbey, County Antrim; Bill Neville, Musswell Hill, London; G 9 B, Thame, Oxfordshire.
Five runners-up: Sue Furr, Frome, Somerset; Tim Dumbreck, Guildford, Surrey; Greg Eaton, Reading, Berkshire; Colin Falder, Cirencester, Gloucestershire; Mary Griffiths, Tywyn, Gwynedd.

Bridge news

The Northern Ireland Bridge Union holds national online matchpoint pairs events on Thursdays and Sundays, writes **Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**. During August the highest score on these two days of the week was as follows:
Thursday - 65.00% achieved by Robin Burns and Drew Lindsay on the 22nd.
Sunday - 67.70% achieved by Maureen Murray and Ronnie Morrow on the 11th.
August was the month for the Ciara Burns Gala Pairs, with winners as follows:
1st Sharyn Williams & Margaret Proctor 62.20%.
2nd George Harper & John Forsyth 61.89%.
August was also the month for the Sonia Britton Trophy, a joint event with the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, with winners as follows:
1st CBAI Open: Paul Delaney, David Dume, Tomas Roche and David Ryan 127.50 VPs.
2nd NIBU Intermediate A: John Forsyth, George Harper, Brian Mulligan and Toni Bradley 113.89 VPs.
3rd CBAI Women: Joan Kenny, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Siobhan Part and Teresa Rigney 112.90 VPs.

Bridge Hand

Prayers answered

By Tom Townsend
Dealer North
Vulnerability East-West
♠ J 5 3
♥ A K 6 5 4
♦ Q 5
♣ J 4 3
♠ K Q 2
♥ 8 3 2
♦ K J 10 9 3
♣ A 7
♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ J
♦ 4 2
♣ K 8 6 2
West North East South
dble(2) 2♥(3) pass 2♣
3♦ pass pass(4) pass 3♣(5)
pass pass pass
(1) Sound pass (2) For take-out (3) Good raise (4) Said his piece (5) Worth another try with the 5-5
Contract 3♣
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♠10
FIRST up in the Toronto Nationals was the three-day Von Zedtwitz Life Masters Pairs, won by Ami Zamir and Oren Toledano (Israel). Top Brit was David Gold, who came 10th with Marty Fleisher.
Baron Waldemar von Zedtwitz (1896-1994) served in WW1 as a German cavalryman, and then moved to New York. He toured Europe in 1930 with Ely Culbertson, and invented the forcing two-bid. In 1970, nearly blind, he won the World Mixed Pairs with Barbara Briers.
Professionally, the Baron was a linguist and lexicographer. This helped him riddle a scam in a home game. A player was singing

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph

LONDON, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1924

THREATENED STAGE WAR.

TRADE UNION CAMPAIGN.

FAMOUS ARTISTS' POSITION.

In view of the effect on employment, which would ensue from the closing down of places of amusement, the theatrical industry is much concerned as to the outcome of the threat of the Actors' Association to boycott certain managers who will not give way on the question of employing non-union artists. Action has so far been limited to two cases. Sir John Martin Harvey at Newcastle and Miss Eva Moore at Huddersfield. In both cases a trade union boycott has been threatened if the parties do not come to terms with the Actors' Association within a few days. For his part, Sir John Martin Harvey has declared that he will leave the members of his company free to join any association they think fit. It will be recalled that the Stage Guild was formed a short time ago for the express purpose of combating the aim of the Actors' Association to "unionise" the profession.

The members of Sir John Martin Harvey's company, it has been stated, are about equally divided between the guild and the association. In the case of Miss Eva Moore, whose engagement with her "Mary, Mary, quite Contrary" company, opened yesterday at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, the decision of the Actors' Association was conveyed to the management of the theatre in the following terms on Aug. 30:

Dear Mr. Wareing.
Re Miss EVA MOORE, "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" Co.
The above-mentioned lady, we understand, is visiting your theatre on Sept. 8, and it is our regrettable duty to inform you that, in view of the fact that Miss Moore has been engaged during the last few months in undermining the position of this Association in devious ways, we consider ourselves in dispute with her, and we propose to take trade union action against her on the 8th prox.

We are indeed sincerely sorry that there should be any prospect of causing trouble at your theatre, but unless Miss Moore is willing to agree to our terms before opening there we are left with no other alternative.

With all good wishes, believe me, yours truly,
(Signed) GILBERT HALL (Asst. Secretary).
COERCION OBJECTED TO.

Mr. Louis Casson, seen by a representative of The Daily Telegraph at the offices of the 'Stage Guild' yesterday, said that there was no dispute about wages or conditions at the back of the trouble at Newcastle and Huddersfield. "It is simply due to the attitude of the Actors' Association when they say, 'We will force all the people in the profession into our ranks.' They say they will boycott all companies which have not 100 per cent. of Actors' Association members. Now, in the case of Miss Eva Moore's company every member save one is a member of the Stage Guild. The terms which she is required to concede, nevertheless, are that she will use the Actors' Association contract and bring her company up to '100 per cent. A.A.' The Stage Guild say we have no concern as to the association or union an artist belongs to, but we want to stop interference with the freedom of actors. The guild has been brought about solely by this coercion. The artists will not have it."

Mr. Casson said that the "trade union action" apparently contemplated by the association and carried into effect on a previous occasion at Barrow was the calling out of the "front of the house" staff, the stage hands, and the musicians. The association had threatened such measures in any centre where in their view they had a fair prospect of success. They tried in effect to prevent the opening of a house, and if that failed and the house opened they tried to make the visit of the particular company a failure. In this campaign for complete unionisation of the theatre, according to the opinion of counsel, they had made a demand far exceeding anything put forward on behalf of other trade unions. He did not think the Actors' Association would get a very strong following from among their fellow-trade unionists in the course they had set for themselves in this matter. Any such policy carried into effect on a large scale would create an enormous amount of unemployment.

The Week in Westminster

Monday, September 9
Commons: Oral questions: Education. Motions: Motion to approve the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2024; Motion to approve the Syria (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2024; Motion to approve the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel obligations (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) Order 2024; Motion to approve the Draft Human Medicines (Amendments Relating to Naloxone and Transfers of Functions) Regulations 2024; Business of the House (Today). Modernisation Committee. Adjournment. Availability of housing in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
Lords: Introductions: Lord Cryer and Lord Sharma. Oral questions: Claimants of Pension Credit in the past three financial years; Hate crimes against Muslims in Britain; The 2022 Independent Review of Children's Social Care; Providing longer-term support to the local bus sector. Legislation: Budgetary Responsibility Bill - second reading and remaining stages. Debate: Industry and Regulators Committee report: "Who watches

the watchdogs? Improving the performance, independence and accountability of UK Regulators."
Tuesday, September 10
Commons: Oral questions: Justice. Motions: Debate on a motion relating to the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2024; Debate on a Motion in the name of the Official Opposition (subject to be announced). Adjournment. Dynamic ticket pricing.
Westminster Hall: Debates: UK priorities for Cop29; Winter Fuel Payment; Illegal immigration; Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange; Exempt supported accommodation.
Lords: Introductions: Baroness Batters and Baroness Harman. Oral questions: Ending the practice of cash retentions in the construction sector; Assessment of the 'Making the grade: Prioritising performance in Whitehall' report, published on 1 May; The Buckland Review of Autism Employment. Legislation: Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015 (Extension) Bill - second reading. Short debate: Measures to implement to attract more foreign direct investment to the United Kingdom.

Wednesday, September 11
Commons: Oral questions: Wales Office. At noon, questions to the Prime Minister. General debate: Building safety and resilience. Adjournment: Support for democracy in Bangladesh.
Westminster Hall: Debates: Adequacy of planning policy for Traveller sites; Bus services in rural areas; Depopulation in rural areas; Oswestry to Gobowen railway line; Impact of financial fraud and economic crime.
Lords: Introductions: Lord Beamish and Lord Grayling. Oral questions: Updating the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998; Number of people with diagnosed HIV in England who are not accessing HIV care; Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020-2025 and plans for the road network. Legislation: Arbitration Bill - committee stage; Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill - committee stage. Orders and regulations: Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2024 - motion to annul; Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2024 - motions to regret.

Chess

Wadsworth misses norm

By Malcolm Pein
SWEDISH IM Seo Jung Min held IM Matthew Wadsworth to a draw to tie for first on 6.5/9 at the Northumbria Masters, alongside GMs Frode Urkedal and Oleg Korneev. Wadsworth's 6/9 was insufficient for his third GM norm.
Alongside a very competitive Masters, leading north-east organiser, Tim Wall, also staged GM and IM closed tournaments at the event in central Darlington.
The GM section was won by Ukrainian GM Eldar Gasanov with 6.5/9, finishing a point ahead of IMs Jonah Willow and Conor Murphy, as well as Czech FM Ondrej Svanda, who made an IM norm.
Former RGS Newcastle pupil FM James Moreby dominated the IM event, racking up 7/9 to earn a norm. IMs Gavin Wall and Peter Large shared second on 5.5/9.

gx16 (For today's first puzzle, why not 11... Qxf6?) 12.Qh5! Rg8 13.f4 15 14.N3 Qc7 15.Rae1 Be6? (15... Qf6 16.Qxh6 Be7 17.Qh3 Rh8 18.Qg3 Nh4 was a better try) 16.Bxf5 0-0 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Qxh6 Rg7 19.Qg5 Qf7 20.Qg4 Qe8 21.Ng5 (White dominates the board and is two pawns up) 21... Nf8 22.e4 dxe4 23.Rxe4 Kb8 24.Qe2 Rg6 25.Re1 Qg7 26.Qf2 Qd7 27.Rle2 Ba5 28.Na4! Qd5? 29.Re5 Qxa2 30.Rxa5 b6 31.f5! Rg5 32.Qf4+ 1-0

R Webb - Seo Jung Min
Sicilian Kan
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.g3 h5 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bb7 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0!? (A tricky pawn sacrifice, but Black isn't bluffed!) 8...b4! 9.Na4 Bxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxe4 11.Re1 Nc5 12.c3 Nxa4 13.Qxa4 Qb6 14.Qd1! bxc3 15.bxc3 Be7 16.Nf5? (16.Qf3 Nc6 17.Be3 Qc7 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Qxc6 dxc6 20.Ra1 and Rb7 should be tenable) Can the sacrifice be accepted?

E Gasanov - O Svanda
Queen's Gambit Declined
1.d4 d5 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nd2! (Cutting across Black's intended: 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 g5! 9.Bg3 Ne4) 7...c6 8.e3 Nf8 9.Bd3 Ng6 10.0-0 h6? (10...0-0 11.a3 Bd6 12.f4 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 was acceptable for Black in Narayanan - Gukesh, Doha 2023) See board above. 11.Bxf6!

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk Book online: announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Deaths

BIGGART—Anna Macdonald (née McTae) of Reigate, died on 1st September 2024, aged 98. Widow of Dr Sam Biggart, mother of the late Katrina Biggart and the late Dr Simon Biggart. Funeral at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on Monday 14th October at 12.30 p.m. No flowers; donations, if desired, to the charity of your choice. *Online Ref: W0028224*

CAMINADA—Charles Jerome died peacefully on 4th September 2024. Devoted father to Lucy and Eliza, loving brother, loyal and generous friend to so many. A good life, well lived. A celebration of his life will be held in Spring 2025. *Online Ref: W0028226*

DICK-READ—Felicity Mary (Flic), peacefully on 25th August. Beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother of Tuffy, Sara (deceased) and Giles. Grandmother and great-grandmother. Memorial Service on 20th September at 2 p.m. at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Castleton Road, Sherborne, DT9 3SA. *Online Ref: W0028205*

JONES—Margaret Hughes (née Withey). Died peacefully on 28th July 2024 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Devoted sister to John, adored aunt to Simon, Richard, Caroline and Sarah and much loved great aunt to Hector, Monty and Lorcan. She will be hugely missed by all who knew her. Her Funeral Service will be held on Friday 13th September at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian, Cowbridge CF71 7AS at 2 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Vale Community Resource Service, cheques payable to Cardiff and Vale UHLB Fund 9102, and sent to Andrew Turton, Cardiff and Vale UHLB, Finance Dept, Woodland House, Maes-y-Coed Road, Cardiff CF4 4HH. All enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend CF31 3AP. Tel: 01656 653156. *Online Ref: W0028184*

PAUL—W.T.F. Tom, peacefully at home aged 95 on Saturday 31st August. Widower of Ande, much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Cremation private. A Celebration of Tom's life will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Ayr on Tuesday 17th September at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Jc Walters Trust c/o M.L. Williams Funeral Directors. Tel: 01292 429235. *Online Ref: W0028229*

PHILLIPS—David John "Chair" late of Bognor Regis, passed away peacefully on 19th August 2024, aged 62 years. Beloved husband of Angela. Enquiries to Reynolds Funeral Service. Tel: 01292 864745. *Online Ref: W0028195*

Personal

Text for the day

MY DEAR friends, as a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg you to get along with each other. Don't take sides. Always try to agree in what you think.
1 Corinthians 1.10 (CEV)

Birthdays

DOMINIC JOHNSTON
Happy Birthday to you. Love and best wishes from Sandra, Billy, Matt, Amy and Leo xxxxx
Online Ref: W0028236

MATTHEW TOMLINSON IS 50!
Wishing you a lovely day and look forward to spending the day with you. Love always Gemma xx
Online Ref: W0028217

General personal

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Ron Yeats

Scottish footballer who as Bill Shankly's 'colossus' led Liverpool to its 1960s run of triumphs

RON YEATS, who has died aged 86, was fundamental to the rise to greatness of Liverpool Football Club in the 1960s, as Bill Shankly's captain and, in the great manager's words, "colossus"; during 10 seasons at Anfield, Yeats led the side in more matches than any has except Steven Gerrard, and claimed not only two league titles but also Liverpool's first FA Cup.

Yeats, a left-footed centre-half, had at 23 helped to propel Dundee United back into Scotland's First Division for the first time in almost 30 years, when told in 1961 that Liverpool wanted to sign him, and instructed to meet Shankly at Edinburgh station.

Then serving in the Army, Yeats stood 6ft 3in and weighed 14½ stone, his physique filled out by work as a slaughterman. The only uniform that fitted him dated from the Great War. "Some size you are!" said Shankly admiringly. When Yeats was unveiled to the press, the manager invited reporters to walk around him, quipping: "The man is a mountain!"

Shankly would observe that it was the arrival of Yeats and of another Scot, Ian St John, that sparked the team's renaissance. Reputedly, he had asked Yeats where Liverpool was, the answer being: stuck in the Second Division. "But with you," Shankly said, "we'll be in the First next season."

Dominant in the air and persuasive in the tackle, if never comfortable on the ball, the wholehearted Yeats helped form the spine of the side, with Tommy Lawrence in goal behind him and Roger Hunt upfront with St John. In 1962, with Yeats having succeeded Dick White as captain, Liverpool duly won promotion to the First Division, having been champions of the Second by a margin of eight points.

With the addition of youth-system discoveries such as Ian Callaghan and Tommy Smith, who often partnered Yeats in defence, the team won the league in 1964, the club's first such title for almost 20 years. That matched Everton's haul of six, but taunts still came from their neighbours over the Reds' failure to win the FA Cup.

That was rectified the following year against Leeds at a cacophonous Wembley, where Yeats stood a full foot taller than his counterpart as captain, Bobby Collins. With the match 1-1 after 90 minutes, St John scored the winner in extra time with a glancing header. Yeats had been told beforehand that should it be he to whom the Queen presented the trophy, he should confine his remarks to "Yes, ma'am" and "No, ma'am".

But when the monarch opened the conversation by saying: "You must be exhausted", Yeats replied: "Absolutely knackered", drawing a smile from the sovereign. Some 300,000 people turned out to watch the trophy parade through Liverpool, with the club becoming as integral to the city's sense of self as were The Beatles.



Yeats carried aloft by jubilant team-mates at Wembley after Liverpool won the 1965 FA Cup final against Leeds; his fellow Scot Ian St John, who scored the winner, is holding up the trophy

"Big Ron" or "Rowdy" (after Rowdy Yates, Clint Eastwood's character in the Western TV series *Rawhide*) led Liverpool into Europe for the first time. Before their match against Anderlecht in 1964, Shankly had the idea of making his players seem more imposing by dressing them in a single colour.

The team had until then played in white shorts and socks. Shankly had Yeats swap these for red and told him: "You look about 7ft!" In their new strip, the side seemed poised to reach the European Cup final in 1965, only to lose the second leg of their semi-final to Inter Milan after contentious refereeing decisions.

They did get to the final of the Cup Winners' Cup a year later: the match, against Borussia Dortmund, was staged at Hampden Park, but his homeland proved unlucky for Yeats, who conceded the decisive score when a long shot over his

head rebounded from the frame of the goal and off him into the net. Indeed, in an era when playing outside Scotland was frowned on, Yeats went unappreciated by its football establishment and was only picked twice for the national side.

Liverpool finished second in the league in 1969, but defeats to Johan Cruyff's Ajax and then in 1970 to lowly Watford in the FA Cup prompted Shankly to rebuild the side. As the likes of Larry Lloyd, John Toshack and Kevin Keegan came in, Yeats was pushed out. He had made 454 appearances for Liverpool - 417 as captain - and scored 16 goals.

The third of four children, Ronald Yeats was born in Aberdeen on November 15 1937. When he was five, the family were bombed out of their house after the city was blitzed by the Luftwaffe. Ron played his first games of football on streets still cratered by the blasts.

At Causewayend Primary School, his abilities were spotted by his teacher, Miss Allen, whom he credited with ensuring that he was picked for his first team. He went on to play for Aberdeen Lads' Club and represented Scotland at Under-15 and Under-19 level. Ron had left school at 15, however, training as a mason before following his father into Aberdeen's slaughterhouse, the city being historically the centre of the Scotch Beef trade.

After a cartilage operation eased a painful knee, allowing him to move more freely, Yeats was scouted by Celtic. He heard nothing from the club, however, only learning years later that the scouts who had watched him had then been the victims of a car accident. Instead, he was signed as a 19-year-old by Dundee United, who played as part-timers.

On a Saturday, Yeats - already married to his first wife, Margaret, with whom he would have three daughters - would rise as usual at 3am to work in the slaughterhouse. He would finish his butchering by 9 o'clock and then take the train 70 miles to turn out at Tannadise Park. When called up for National Service, in which he served with the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) for two years, he was stationed at Aldershot. None the less, Dundee United obtained dispensation for him to keep playing for them, and each week he would travel 1,000 miles to do so.

More important for his continued development as a footballer, Yeats later reflected, were his games as captain of the Army team, alongside established stars such as Alex Young. It was in a match for the side against Liverpool that Shankly first saw Yeats play.

After leaving Anfield, Yeats had three years as player-manager at Tranmere Rovers. He described this afterwards as the worst decision of his life. He did not see eye-to-eye with the owner, who (he felt) was not prepared to fund the purchase of new players and sold Steve Coppell cheaply to Manchester United.

Thereafter, Yeats had spells playing for Stalybridge Celtic and Barrow, and then a stint in California, where in 1976 he won the ASL championship with LA Skyhawks. He hung up his boots two years later, aged 40, while at Rhyl.

After a decade running a fruit and vegetable shop in Liverpool, he returned to Anfield as the club's chief scout. He retained the post for 20 years, serving from the era of Kenny Dalglish to that of Rafa Benitez. Among the players he spotted were John Aldridge and another centre-half who would captain the team, Sami Hyypiä. Lately, however, like many players of his generation, he had been living with Alzheimer's disease.

Ron Yeats is survived by his second wife, Ann, and by his children.

Ron Yeats, born November 15 1937, died September 6 2024

Sérgio Mendes

Grammy-winning Brazilian jazz supremo who melded uptempo bossa nova with varied music styles

SÉRGIO MENDES, who has died in Los Angeles aged 83, created a string of worldwide hits by combining bossa nova, the jazz-infused samba music of his native Brazil, with funk, hip-hop and other genres; recognition included three Grammy awards and an Oscar nomination for his role as co-writer of the song *Real in Rio* for the animated film *Rio* (2012), which traces the culture of his home city.

In a career stretching back more than half a century Mendes opened for Frank Sinatra at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1980, sang for presidents Nixon and Reagan at the White House, and recorded with the rapper will.i.am from the hip-hop band Black Eyed Peas. Paul McCartney, moreover, once wrote a letter saying how much he enjoyed the Brazilian's uptempo version of the Beatles' standard *The Fool on the Hill*.

Mendes's career included two big hits with the same song, *Mas Que Nada*, an upbeat cover of a Jorge Ben number: his original version, released in 1966, became the first song sung entirely in Portuguese to reach the Top Five of the US Billboard charts; the 2006 recording was part of his will.i.am collaboration.

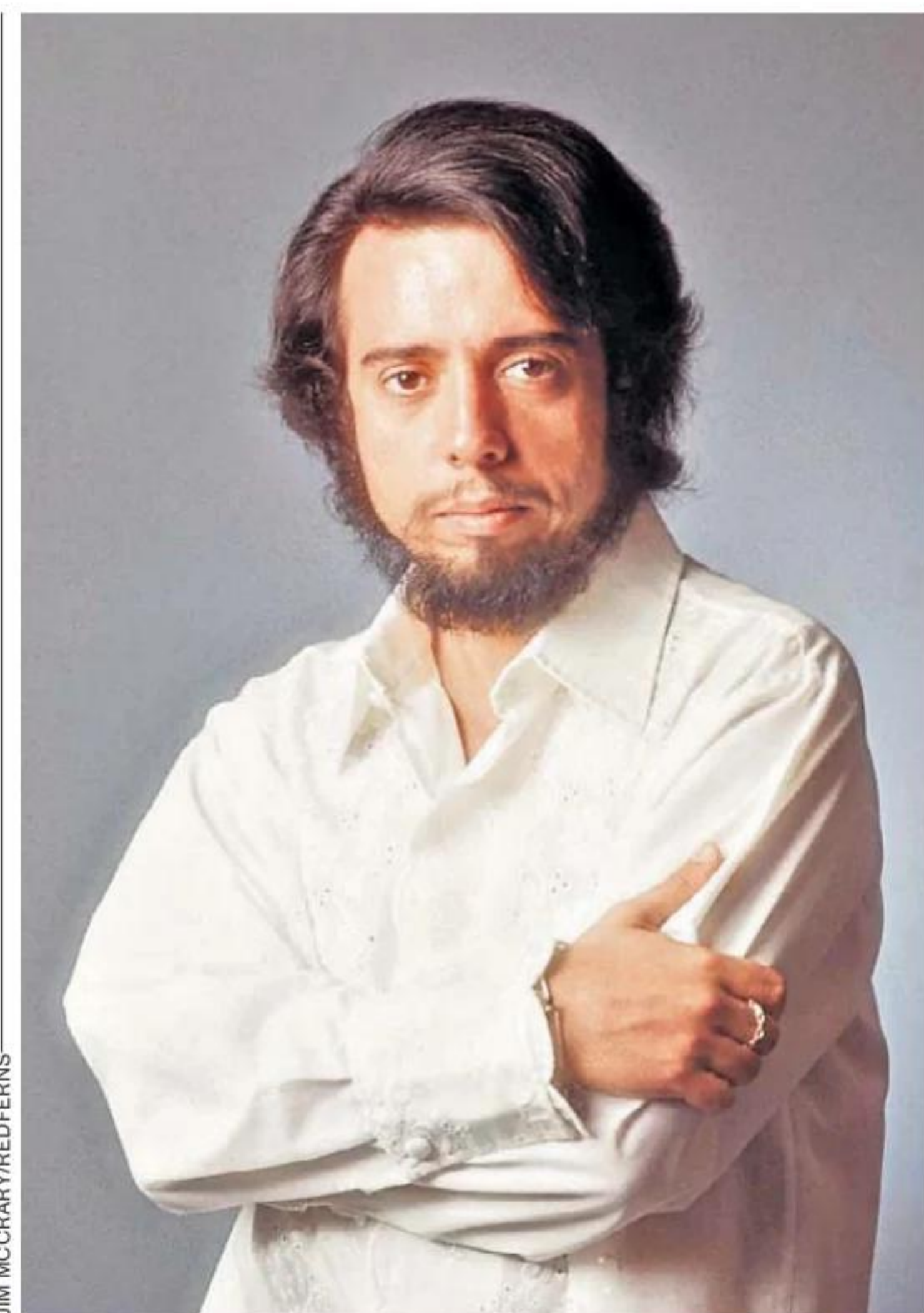
It mattered little to Mendes if someone else had used a number first, or had even turned it into a hit. With his band Brasil '66 he had the confidence to give a fresh slant to any song, as was shown in the sparkle he brought to Simon and Garfunkel's *Scarborough Fair*, his Brazilian treatment of Burt Bacharach's *The Look of Love* and his lilting version of the Beatles' *With a Little Help From my Friends*.

Despite Mendes being the best-known Brazilian musician outside the country, not everyone appreciated his work. Purists accused him of dumbing down the native beat, while others suggested he was producing smoothly reupholstered cruise-liner music. For some Brazilians, he had spent so long out of the country - more than half a century - that he had lost touch with his roots.

"I've heard it all - I'm 'retro', 'louge', 'easy listening'," he told *The Daily Telegraph* in 2008. "I think what happened was that the feel-good tunes of bossa nova were used as Muzak in supermarkets and elevators because the melodies were so strong. But that's a kind of praise for the music to me."

Sérgio Santos Mendes was born in Niterói, across the bay from Rio de Janeiro, on February 11 1941. His father was a doctor who used penicillin to treat his sickly young son for osteomyelitis, thought to be the first time the drug had been used in the country.

Having spent three years incapacitated, the young Sérgio was too frail for outdoor sports. Instead, his mother introduced him to classical piano lessons at the local music



school. He recalled "a middle-class life... [in] a calm little town where we went to the beach every day and the movies at the weekend".

His fascination with jazz emerged after hearing the Dave Brubeck Quartet's album *Take Five* at a friend's house. Music by Art Tatum, Horace Silver and Oscar Peterson followed. Soon Mendes had formed a group of jazz aficionados. "It sounded so different from anything I had ever heard before," he told an interviewer.

Within a couple of years he was working with local bands, playing for parties, proms and dances. On one occasion he took a ferry to downtown Rio to step in for a friend at Bottles Bar, a lively nightclub in the rough Copacabana area, an experience that opened his ears to the musical possibilities of bossa nova.

He formed the Bossa Rio Sextet with two trombones, tenor saxophone, bass, drums and himself on piano. Their first album, in 1962, was *Você Ainda Não ouviu Nada!* (You Haven't Heard Anything Yet!), which became a major landmark in Brazilian instrumental music. They gave performances across Brazil and were hired by the country's biggest textile company to be the opening act for its fashion tours, a gig that took them to Europe, the Middle East and Japan, where their brand of music was known as "Latin Rock".



Mendes, left: his albums were typically lively, sunny and carefree, although he had lived through dark times in his homeland



In 1962 Mendes performed with his compatriot and mentor Antônio Carlos Jobim in a bossa nova festival at Carnegie Hall, New York. At the Birdland Jazz Club the following day he met the saxophonist Cannonball Adderley, who not only invited him on stage, but also announced that he wanted to collaborate on an album together. The result was *Cannonball's Bossa Nova* (1963). The following year Mendes recorded *The Swinger from Rio* under his own name for Atlantic Records, though it was not released until 1966.

Meanwhile, a coup in his homeland in 1964 coincided with the day that his son was born. His cryptically worded telegram to a friend about beers and children's nappies was intercepted by the military who, suspecting a coded message, detained him for several hours. "How crazy is that?" Mendes recalled. "Brazil was in dark times. I packed my bags and I was gone."

Settling in California, he built a new career and a new band, Brasil '64, which became Brasil '65 the following year. "I got there without knowing anyone, auditioned for jazz clubs in Los Angeles and just kept going," he said. Before long he was listening to the Beatles and Bacharach. "They had such beautiful melodies that I thought, 'If I can Brazilianise them it will sound totally different,'" he told the music critic Will Hodgkinson.

Leonard Riggio

Entrepreneur who made Barnes & Noble a bookstore behemoth

LEOARD RIGGIO, who has died aged 83, bought a struggling Manhattan bookshop called Barnes & Noble in 1971 with a \$1.2million loan and transformed it into America's biggest bookstore chain.

Riggio was no great bookworm, admitting that he could as easily have sold household goods. But his empire of more than 600 literary superstores, combining discount deals and huge shelf and display space with couches, armchairs, cafés - and even crèches - appealed to consumers, and by the late 1990s one in eight books bought in America was bought at a Barnes & Noble.

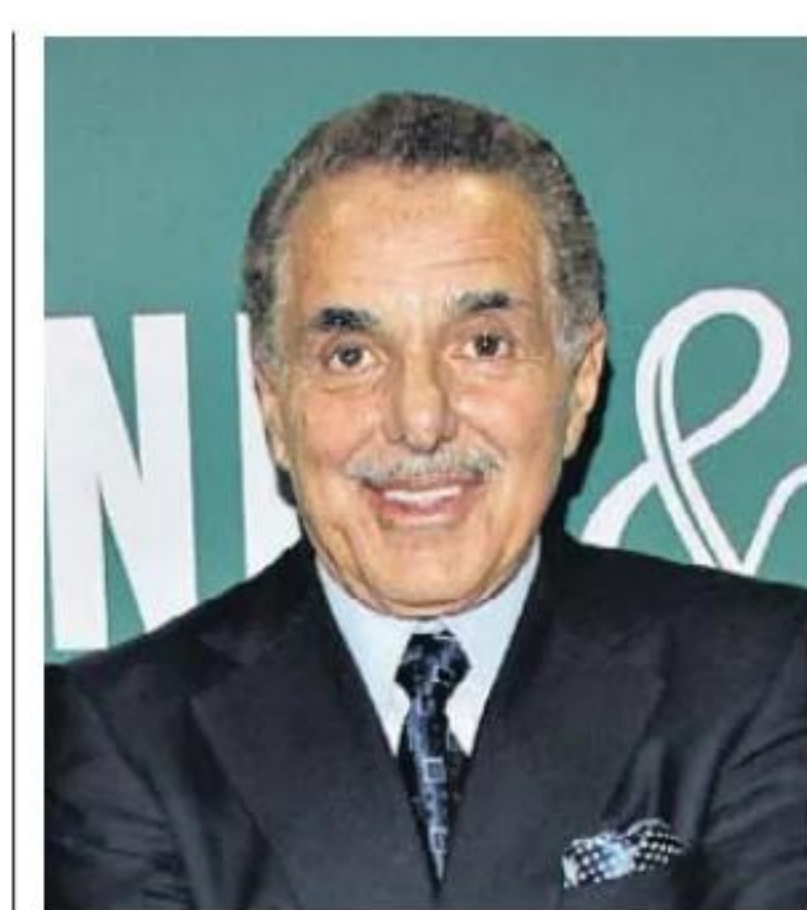
Along the way, Riggio was accused of breaking antitrust laws, bullying publishers and caring nothing for the small local businesses he destroyed. He accused his critics of elitism. "Our bookstores were designed to be welcoming as opposed to intimidating," he said. "You could go in, get a cup of coffee, sit down and read a book for as long as you like, use the restroom."

The line could have come from Nora Ephron's 1998 romcom *You've Got Mail*, and although the writer-director denied basing the character of Joe Fox (played by Tom Hanks), a cocksure book-chain executive bent on out-competing Meg Ryan's struggling family bookshop, on Riggio, the parallels were obvious. "We are going to seduce them with our square-footage, and our discounts, and our deep arm chairs, and our cappuccino," Fox declares. "They're going to hate us at the beginning, but we'll get 'em in the end."

Riggio asked the *Wall Street Journal* in 1992: "Why am I the predator, but if a nice independent bookstore opens a branch, it's like welcome to the Messiah?" He admitted that his nature was "to be a ball-buster", but insisted that he wanted "to help people".

From the early 2000s, however, sales at Barnes & Noble began to slide, as the new big beast, Amazon, encroached and Riggio found himself battling to stay afloat alongside his erstwhile foes in the book trade.

His immediate response was to try to innovate, expanding into games and toys and spending heavily on developing Barnes & Noble's own e-reader, the Nook, to compete with Amazon's Kindle. Arguably, though,



Riggio: armchairs and coffee appealed to book browsers

innovation was where Barnes & Noble went wrong. Other big booksellers, such as the UK giant Waterstones, tackled the Amazon juggernaut and turned loss to profit by, as its chief executive James Daunt put it, going back to "good old-fashioned bookselling".

Barnes & Noble, however, was said to have lost \$1.3billion on the Nook before abandoning it. In 2010 its board announced that the company was for sale, but there were no takers. Riggio had stepped down as chief executive in 2002, but four CEOs left in five years and between 2015 and 2018 its stock dropped by 60 per cent.

Riggio remained chairman, presiding over the closure of some 150 shops, until 2019 when the company was acquired for approximately \$500million by Elliott Advisors, and Daunt was appointed to run it in addition to Waterstones.

Leonard Stephen Riggio was born in Little Italy, Lower Manhattan, on February 28 1941. His mother was a dressmaker and his father a cab driver and former prize fighter who had twice defeated Rocky Graziano.

Riggio dropped out of an engineering course at New York University to work as a floor manager at a campus bookshop. In 1965 he opened his own rival shop, SBX (Student Book Exchange), in Greenwich Village, gaining credibility among the student population by allowing anti-war protesters to print leaflets on the shop's copying machine. By 1971, when he bought Barnes & Noble, he had opened several more campus bookstores.

He is survived by his second wife, Louise, by their daughter, and by two daughters from an earlier marriage.

Leonard Riggio, born February 28 1941, died August 27 2024

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Television reviews Keith Watson

Sherwood's mix of issues and action is beginning to wobble



David Morrissey as reluctant copper Ian St Clair in BBC One's twisty crime drama

If Ken Loach and Quentin Tarantino ever got together to collaborate the chances are they'd come up with something akin to *Sherwood* (BBC One) which, as it reached the penultimate episode of an enthralling, if not always entirely convincing, second run, continued its merry mash-up of political grandstanding and clan-mob violence with gritty aplomb. One minute you get David Morrissey's reluctant copper, Ian St Clair, using a police press conference as a rallying cry for social action, then it's over to the blood feud between the Bransons and the Sparras (Sparrows to non-Nottinghamshire natives) where, at current mortality rates, it's unlikely that anyone will get out of there alive. It makes for an uneasy mix, but perhaps that's the point. St Clair's impassioned state of the nation address ("We have lost control, if we don't admit that we'll never get it back") felt eerily timely given the shockwaves from the recent rioting that has rocked British cities. Losing control here means the likes of Ann Branson (Monica Dolan in truly terrifying form) taking the law into her own hands and giving it a good throttling. There are many plates spinning here and writer James Graham doesn't

quite keep them all in the air. Throwing in a paternity twist courtesy of Robert Lindsay's self-made millionaire businessman felt like it had been filched out of the *EastEnders* waste bin, while the police procedural elements – the discovery of a vital piece of evidence stretched credibility until it all but snapped – gave this house of cards a mighty wobble. But when it comes down to the human emotions caught up in *Sherwood's* thicket of storylines, Graham plays to his strengths. There's a whole lifetime of anguish in Lorraine Ashbourne's riveting portrayal of one-time undercover cop Daphne (not her real name) Sparrow, a woman who is a moral maze unto herself. "It never ends, does it," she snaps at the latest twist of cruel fate. One episode to go Daphne, you might just make it yet. Everyone has their cultural blindspots. In the interests of full disclosure I'll own up to Oasis, Las Vegas and Fl as things that, though I'm well aware are hugely popular, I just don't get. To that list I'll add, though it's tantamount to heresy for a TV reviewer, *The Sopranos*. Yes, the critically acclaimed mob drama that routinely goes toe-to-toe with *The Wire*

and *Mad Men* in heated "best show of all time" debates. *Mad Men* for me, since you ask. Because for all the admittedly skilled acting and sharp writing, there was something so innately alienating about building a show around a violent middle-league New Jersey mobster – and expecting the viewer to empathise with him (and millions did) – that turned me off. So the prospect of two hours plus of show creator David Chase running us through an exhaustive history of anti-hero Tony Soprano, a character who struck a chord (it felt) with everyone but me, was far from enticing. Which made the fact that Alex Gibney's two-part documentary, *Wise Guy: David Chase and The Sopranos* (Sky Documentaries) simply flew by, something of a turn up. Built around an in-depth interview with Chase but packed out with *Sopranos* ephemera, true fans would have lapped up the casting footage featuring a host of alternative Tonys, Carmelas and more giving it their best (and worst) Noo Jersey Italian. But this was fun even for a non-*Soprano* diehard as the sliding doors of casting fate played out. Chase had the power to make or break careers in his hands. And it was certainly make for James Gandolfini, who made Tony Soprano his own. At no little personal cost that became clear, as Chase and assorted cast members recalled the toll the role took on the actor, who died six years after the show ended at the age of 51. Chase, part-Tony, part-puppet master – he earned the nickname "Master Cylinder" from the show's cast thanks to his iron grip on every word in the script – proved an intriguing if somewhat irascible interviewee. Because it became clear that *The Sopranos*, full of unresolved mother issues, was all about Chase, who'd poured a lifetime's frustrations as a journeyman TV hack – he wanted to be Scorsese but ended up on *The Rockford Files* – into the project. Did it turn this doubter into a *Sopranos* disciple? Not quite. It's not a world I'd want to linger in. But you had to respect the integrity of all involved. **Sherwood** ★★★ **Wise Guy: David Chase and The Sopranos** ★★★★

What to watch



THE TEACHER Channel 5, 9pm



Will Mellor and Kara Tointon star in the second series of this schlocky but gripping thriller

Schlocky but gripping thrillers, stripped across the week to maximise pull, are Channel 5 drama's stock in trade (see recent offerings *Coma*, *The Night Caller* and *Finders Keepers*). This school-based example didn't enjoy universal praise the first time out in 2022, though commentators agreed that the plot (Sheridan Smith played a teacher accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-old pupil) was winningly meaty – if

only the execution had lived up to its potential. In this second series, Kara Tointon and Will Mellor, who previously appeared in supporting roles, take the foreground as teachers Dani and Jimmy, who give into lust while away on a school trip – with tragic consequences. Once again, it's a premise that gets its hooks in quick. Whether it succeeds, really, depends on how credible you like your drama to be. There's

an uptick in quality, with the entire cast, including those playing the student cohort (Joni Morris, Forrest Bothwell and Cal O'Driscoll) putting in sterling performances. Emmett J Scanlan as Dani's mercurial husband does especially well; his well-honed shiftiness instantly draws the finger of suspicion in his direction, despite not having been on the trip. Continues until Thursday. **Gerard O'Donovan**

the first time to tell how the scandal brightened their lives and careers.

24 Hours in Police Custody: Murder on Prescription Channel 4, 9pm

A gripping two-part special following an investigation into the murder, in Wisbech, of a disabled woman found in her own kitchen with her throat cut. With no murder weapon or obvious motive, police are stumped. But it's not long before the rumour mill throws up a name. Concludes tomorrow.

Trump: Should We Be Scared? Channel 4, 10pm

Journalist Matt Frei heads to Miami and Milwaukee to learn what a second Trump



Should America (and the world) be scared of Trump?

presidency could mean for America. Former Trump advisors John Bolton and Fiona Hill make up most of the doom-mongering camp, although it's what the pro-Trump true-believers are praying for that offers the most frightening vision of what the country's future could turn into.

ARTS

In My Own Words: Alison Lapper

BBC One, 10.40pm; Wales, 11.10pm; NI, 11.30pm Disabled artist Alison Lapper – who found wider fame 20 years ago as the model for Marc Quinn's Trafalgar Square fourth-plinth statue *Alison Lapper Pregnant* – looks back at her life and talks about coming to terms with the death of her son, Parys, in 2019.



Pickle Storm: Kassidi Roberts leads the pre-teen comedy

COMEDY

Pickle Storm CBBC, 5.35pm

A charming new pre-teen comedy following the

adventures of nine-year-old Pickle (Kassidi Roberts) who, when her parents flee the fantasyland of Klefania, must get used to living in the real world. Fortunately, she manages to smuggle her

cheeky pet warthoffle out with her – apparently, an easy way to make new friends.

DOCUMENTARY

Mr Bates vs the Post Office: The Impact ITV1, 9pm

Few television dramas have raised public awareness (and bolstered fury) like ITV's *Mr Bates vs the Post Office*, which thrust the Horizon scandal to the top of the news agenda and finally achieved some justice for its victims. Here, some of the sub-postmasters portrayed in the show talk about its impact, while others come forward for

FACTUAL

Jamie: What to Eat This Week: Autumn Channel 4, 8pm

Jamie Oliver makes delicious autumn-ready pickles, pies, jams and chutneys, sticky tarts and chunky soups and stews. Tonight, he gets creative with savoy cabbage, mixes beans, herbs and feta cheese for a smoky sweetcorn burger, and rustles up a tasty tomato galette. All three episodes are available to stream now. **GO**

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The Daily Telegraph

A Telegraph Podcast

Radio choice



Book of the Week: The Story of a Heart Radio 4, 11.45am

Dr Rachel Clarke's poignant and inspiring story follows the journey of a transplant

organ from a tragic accident in Devon to renewed life and hope. Read by its author, there's so much immediacy – and so much at stake – that it manages to grip throughout the week.

Elsewhere, the story of a lonely mathematician who subverted a major dating app to meet a perfect partner is the amusing focus of today's edition of **Uncharted with Hannah Fry (Radio 4, 1.45pm)**, which returns to brighten up lunchtimes this week with more examples of the wondrous ways in which maths impacts real life. **Gerard O'Donovan**

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz
6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12:45 **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat @ 17:45 **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show with Daniel P Carter **1.00am** BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe **2.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **3.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

Composer of the Week: Schoenberg **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music **7.30** BBC Proms 2024. BBC Symphony Orchestra plays Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 **10.00** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

Today in Parliament **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: The Story of a Heart **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

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 2

FM 88-90.2MHz
6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **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** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio 2 **7.30** Jo Whitley. Music and chat **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. Nashville-based teenage guitar blues prodigy Grace Bowers joins Cerys **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes **12.00** DJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with DJ Borg **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198KHz
6.00am Today **9.00** The Artificial Human **9.30** How to Play **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Complex **11.45** Book of the Week: The Story of a Heart See Radio choice **12.00** News **12.04pm** You and Yours. Consumer affairs **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague **1.45** Uncharted with Hannah Fry See Radio choice **2.00** The Archers. Susan fears the worst, and Chris has the rug pulled from under him **2.15** Drama: Plum House. The curator Peter Knight helps Derren Brown trace his roots to the museum **2.45** Wolverine Blues. By Graeme Macrae Burnet **3.00** Great Lives **3.30** Extreme. As the authorities close in on the steroid dealing ring, loyalties are tested **4.00** American Socialist. The life of Eugene V Debs and the legacy of his socialist politics **4.30** The Kitchen Cabinet. Jay Rayner presents the culinary panel show from Stoke-on-Trent **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** The Unbelievable Truth. With Miles Jupp, Holly Walsh, Lou Sanders and Marcus Brigstocke. Last in the series **7.00** The Archers. Harrison struggles to keep control **7.15** Front Row. Richard O'Brien and Jason Donovan celebrate 50 years of Rocky Horror **8.00** The Briefing Room. The current state of the UK economy. **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 View from Castle Rock **11.00** The System **11.30**

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909KHz
6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Leila Nathoo **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Monday Night Club. Alistair Bruce-Ball and guests discuss the weekend's international football **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket. Discussion on day four of the Third Test between England and Sri Lanka **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz
7.00am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Presented by Zeb Soanes **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** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness

The British Art Prize is an international competition. Entries must be received by 5pm on 26th September 2024 in order to be considered. Each Artist may enter up to 20 artworks into the competition. All styles, media and techniques will be considered, except for submissions that have been generated by AI which shall not be considered. Full competition rules can be found here: <http://artistsandillustrators.co.uk/britishartprize24/rules>.

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) 9.30 Morning Live (S) 10.45 SAS: Catching the Criminals (S) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (R) (S) 12.15 pm Bargain Hunt (AD) (S) 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 1.35 Regional News; Weather (S) 1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 2.00 Doctors (AD) (S) 2.30 Make It at Market (AD) (R) (S) 3.00 Escape to the Country (S) 3.45 Antiques Road Trip (S) 4.30 The Answer Run (S) 5.15 Pointless (S) 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S) 6.30 Regional News; Weather (S) 6.55 Party Political Broadcast (R) (S)

BBC Two

6.30 am Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S) 7.15 Antiques Road Trip (R) (S) 8.00 Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (AD) (R) (S) (SL) 9.00 News (S) 12.15 pm Politics Live (S) 1.00 Head Hunters (R) (S) 1.45 Bridge of Lies (R) (S) 2.30 My Unique B&B (AD) (R) (S) 3.00 MasterChef: The Professionals (AD) (R) (S) 4.00 Home Away from Home (R) (S) 4.45 More Creatures Great and Small (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)

ITVI

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 Lingo (S) 4.00 Tipping Point (S) 5.00 The Chase (S) 6.00 Regional News; Weather (S) 6.25 Party Political Broadcast (S) 6.30 News; Weather (S)

Channel 4

6.20 am Cheers (R) (S) 6.50 Cheers (R) (S) 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 8.35 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 9.05 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 9.35 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.05 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.35 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 11.05 Come Dine with Me: The Professionals (R) (S) 12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S) 12.10 Narrow Escapes (AD) (R) (S) 1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) (R) (S) 2.10 Countdown (S) 3.00 Chateau DIY (AD) (R) (S) 4.00 A Place in the Sun (S) 5.00 Help! We Bought a Village (S) 6.00 A Place in the Sun (S) 6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

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 (R) (S) 2.15 FILM: You Killed My Husband! (2021, TVM) Thriller starring Dey Young (S) 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (AD) (S) 5.00 5 News at 5 (S) 6.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (R) (S) 6.55 5 News Update (S)



In My Own Words: Alison Lapper



Forensics: The Real CSI



Mr Bates vs the Post Office: The Impact



Jamie: What to Eat This Week: Autumn



Police Interceptors

Film choice



Napoleon: The Director's Cut (2024) Apple TV+ ★★★★★

Got three-and-a-half hours to spare? Here's Ridley Scott's expanded version of his already-sprawling, gloriously macho war epic. Spanning 32 years of his life, from the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 to Napoleon's (Joaquin Phoenix) death in 1821, it charts his rise, reign and downfall. Phoenix is terrific, but it's Vanessa Kirby's turn as his fiery wife, Joséphine, who steals the show.



Fury (2014) Film4, 9pm ★★★★★

David Ayer's study of the habits and habitats of the American killer male makes for an astonishing drama. We're in Germany in 1945, and Sgt "Wardaddy" Collier (Brad Pitt) and his team are grinding towards Berlin in a battered tank. There's no rescue mission and no dolled-up heroism - just an agonising rumble from one brush with death to the next. Shia LaBeouf and Logan Lerman co-star.



Escape from Alcatraz (1979) Sky Cinema Greats, 10.20pm ★★★★★

The fifth and final collaboration between Don Siegel and Clint Eastwood was another box-office winner. Based on the true story of Frank Morris (Eastwood) who attempted to escape the prison island in the 1960s, it's all rapid action. Eastwood perfects his quiet intensity, Patrick McGouhan broods as a sadistic warden, and Danny Glover makes his film debut.

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Roman Kemp present (S)

7.00 Today at the Test England v Sri Lanka (S)

7.30 Emmerdale Moira and Ruby find themselves in a life-threatening situation (AD) (S)

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

7.00 Traffic Cops Officers search for a car reportedly swerving all over a dual carriageway (R) (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

7.30 EastEnders A familiar face returns to the square (AD) (S)

8.00 Only Connect Too Many Cookies take on the Pipe-Dreamers (S)

8.00 Coronation Street Billy faces a race against time to say a final goodbye to Paul (AD) (S)

8.00 Jamie: What to Eat This Week: Autumn New series. Jamie Oliver demonstrates Autumn recipes See What to watch (AD) (S)

8.00 Police Interceptors Officers pursue a dangerous driver (S)

8.00 The Teacher New series. Return of the drama anthology starring Kara Tointon See What to watch (S)

8.00 Andrew Tate: Accused - Panorama Andrew Tate's webcam business (S)

8.30 University Challenge St Catharine's College, Cambridge takes on Wadham College, Oxford (S)

9.00 Mr Bates vs the Post Office: The Impact Former subpostmasters and subpostmistresses talk about the impact of the drama See What to watch (AD) (S)

9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody: Murder on Prescription Part one of two. How a disabled woman was found dead at home with her throat cut See What to watch (AD) (S)

9.00 The Railroad Killer: I Escaped a Murderer (AD) (S)

11.05 Child Snatchers: A Day at the Fair 12.05am Child Snatchers: A Day at the Fair 1.00 Live NFL: Monday Night Football. San Francisco 49ers v New York Jets 4.30 Entertainment News on 5 4.40 Wildlife SOS 5.05 Divine Designs 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures! 5.45 - 6.00am Paw Patrol

8.30 Scam Interceptors A man who has been told he has accidentally taken out a subscription (R) (S)

9.00 Forensics: The Real CSI The victim of a knife attack is unable to tell the police what happened (AD) (R) (S)

9.05 News; Weather (S)

10.00 Trump: Should We Be Scared? The possible outcomes of Donald Trump winning the US presidential election See What to watch (AD) (S)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

9.00 Sherwood The Sparrows are on the warpath and Ann is their target. Last in the series (AD) (S)

10.00 We Might Regret This (AD) (S)

10.05 News; Weather (S)

10.00 Trump: Should We Be Scared? The possible outcomes of Donald Trump winning the US presidential election See What to watch (AD) (S)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)

10.25 Laugh Lessons An average girl having an identity crisis dreams of becoming a "Karen" (R) (S)

10.35 Regional News; Weather (S)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.30 Newsnight (S)

10.50 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport A Border Force officer decides whether to allow a holiday-maker into the UK (AD) (R) (S)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

10.40 In My Own Words: Alison Lapper her work and archive materials See What to watch (AD) (S)

11.05 The Zelensky Story 12.05am Sign Zone: Countryfile 1.00 Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef 2.00 Sign Zone: In My Own Words: Billy Connolly 2.45 Sign Zone: Amol Rajan Interviews 3.30 - 6.30am This Is BBC Two

11.15 Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends 12.05am Shop on TV 3.00 The Best of Saint & Greavesie 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05 - 6.00am Lingo

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.05 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)

11.25 Have I Got News for You 11.55 The Journey to Scotland's Remotest Pub 12.30 - 6.00am News

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with Camilla TOMINEY and Kamal AHMED



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FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

7.00 pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8.00 Meet the Ancestors 8.30 Meet the Ancestors 9.00 Call My Bluff 9.30 Going for a Song 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 The Brits Who Designed the Modern World 11.30 Buddha: Genius of the Ancient World 12.30 am Great American Railroad Journeys 1.00 Meet the Ancestors 2.00 Meet the Ancestors 2.30 - 3.30am The Brits Who Designed the Modern World

ITV3

11.25 am Heartbeat 12.30 pm Heartbeat 1.40 Classic Emmerdale 2.10 Classic Emmerdale 2.40 Classic Coronation Street 3.15 Classic Coronation Street 3.50 Foyle's War 6.00 Heartbeat 7.00 Heartbeat 8.00 Vera 10.00 Redemption 11.00 Redemption 12.00 Lewis 2.00 am Unwind with ITV 2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

11.30 am The Motorbike Show 12.30 pm Robin of Sherwood 1.40 Kojak 2.45 Kojak 3.50 Minder 4.55 The Professionals 5.55 The Motorbike Show 7.00 Junk and Disorderly 8.00 MotoGP Highlights 9.00 FILM: Coogan's Bluff (1968) Crime drama with Clint Eastwood 11.00 pm FILM: Cop Land (1997) Police thriller starring Sylvester Stallone 12.55 am Motorsport UK 1.50 Minder 2.45 Unwind with ITV 3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

Noon Portrait Artist of the Year 2014 1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Sky Arts Book Club 3.00 Discovering: Richard Harris 4.00 Watercolour Challenge 4.30 Watercolour Challenge 5.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2014 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected 7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 8.00 Andre Rieu: Live in Maastricht III 10.45 Len Phillips Swing Orchestra's 100 Years of Big Bands 12.00 Romeo and Juliet 1.40 am Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly 3.15 - 5.05am Easter in Art

Sky Atlantic

11.30 am Westworld 12.30 pm Game of Thrones 1.30 The Sopranos 2.35 The Sopranos 3.35 Boardwalk Empire 4.40 Boardwalk Empire 5.40 Westworld 6.50 Westworld 7.55 Game of Thrones 9.00 Mare of Easttown 10.10 The Last of Us 11.15 Succession 12.25 am Euphoria 1.35 I Know This Much Is True 2.50 - 4.00am Game of Thrones

Film4

11.00 am Ten Tall Men (1951) 12.55 pm It Should Happen to You (1954, b/w) Comedy starring Judy Holliday 2.40 The Admirable Crichton (1957) Comedy starring Kenneth More 4.30 The Last Hurrah (1958, b/w) 6.50 The Italian Job (2003) Crime thriller remake starring Mark Wahlberg 9.00 Fury (2014) Second World War drama starring Brad Pitt See Film choice 11.40 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) 2.00 - 3.55am Stage Mother (2020) Comedy drama starring Jacki Weaver

U&Drama

11.40 am The Bill 12.40 pm Classic EastEnders 1.20 Classic EastEnders 2.00 London's Burning 3.00 Soldier, Soldier 4.10 Howards' Way 5.20 One Foot in the Grave 6.00 'Allo 'Allo! 6.40 Last of the Summer Wine 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 Classic Holly City 3.10 - 4.00am Birds of a Feather

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm Dead and Buried 11.30 In My Own Words: Alison Lapper 12.15am Have I Got News for You 12.45 The Journey to Scotland's Remotest Pub 1.15 - 6.00am BBC News BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Eadai SOS 11.05 We Might Regret This 11.30 Cuckoo 12.00 - 1.00am The Zelensky Story 12.45pm View from Stormont 11.40 - 12.05am Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK 2.00pm Extreme Fishing with Robson Green 3.00 Top Gear 5.00 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul 7.00 QJ. With Joe Lycett, Zoe Lyons and Liza Tarbuck 7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games 9.00 QJ XL. With Ruby Wax, Ross Noble and Sean Lock 10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Charlie Brooker hosts, with Emma Barnett and Phil Wang 11.00 Taskmaster 12.00 Mock the Week 12.40am Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish 1.40-4.00am Room 101

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress 1.00pm Wheel of Fortune 2.00 Supermarket Sweep 3.00 Charmed 4.00 Dawson's Creek 5.00 Dress to Impress 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase 7.00 Family Fortunes 8.00 Bob's Burgers 9.00 Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends. The women are stunned when Olivia puts the men in charge 10.00 Family Guy 10.30 American Dad! 11.30 Family Guy 12.30am American Dad! 1.00 Bob's Burgers 2.00 The Stand Up Sketch Show 3.00-6.00am Teleshopping

PBS America

11.45am SAS: Rogue Warriors 1.00pm Rise of the Clans 2.15 The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family 3.30 Living in the Shadow of World War Two 4.35 SAS: Rogue Warriors 5.50 Rise of the Clans 7.10 The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family. Documentary charting the rise and fall of the Boleyns 8.20 Living in the Shadow of World War Two. Documentary exploring everyday life during the conflict 9.30 SAS: Rogue Warriors. The history of the British Army special forces unit 10.45 The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family. Documentary charting the rise and fall of the Boleyns 12.00 Living in the Shadow of World War Two 1.00am Beautiful Serengeti 2.00-6.00am Teleshopping

drama starring Louis Hayward 10.50 FILM: Waterfront (1950, b/w) Melodrama starring Robert Newton 12.25am FILM: The Bogamist (1953, b/w) Drama starring Edmond O'Brien 2.00 Maigret 3.55-5.00am FILM: Big Boy Rides Again (1935, b/w) Mystery Western starring Guinn "Big Boy" Williams

U&Yesterday Noon WW2 - Battles for Europe 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash 4.00 War Factories 5.00 The World at War 6.00 Antiques Roadshow 7.00 Canal Boat Diaries 8.00 Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch 9.00 Train Truckers 10.00 Bangers & Cash 11.00 Abandoned Engineering 12.00 Great American Railroad Journeys 1.00am Tony Robinson's Marvellous Machines 3.00-6.10am Teleshopping

Open and the Guadalajara Open Akron 10.00 Live Tennis. The Guadalajara Open Akron 1.00-5.00am Live NFL. San Francisco 49ers v New York Jets (Kick-off 1.15am). Coverage of the inter-conference match from Levi's Stadium

Sky Sports Premier League Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox 1.00pm Premier League Years 3.00 PL Retro 5.00 Premier League Best Goals 6.00 Premier League 100 Club 6.30 Premier League 100: David James 7.00 Newcastle - The Entertainers 7.30 The Tyler Archives 8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox 9.00 David James: The One and Only 10.30 Premier League Icons 11.00 Premier League Years 1.00am PL Retro 3.00-4.00am PL Greatest Games

Sky Documentaries Noon FILM: Jane Fonda In Five Acts (2018) 2.30pm Time Bomb Y2K 4.00 The Directors 5.00 Discovering: Buster Keaton 6.00 The Movies 7.00 The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst 8.00 Elizabeth Taylor: The Lost Tapes 10.00 Mission to Burnley 11.00 Brazil 2002 12.50am An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th 2.50-5.00am King in the Wilderness

GOLD

11.40am Last of the Summer Wine 1.40pm Keeping Up Appearances 2.20 Open All Hours 3.00 Dad's Army 3.40 Hi-de-Hi! 4.20 Last of the Summer Wine 5.40 Open All Hours 6.20 Keeping Up Appearances 7.00 Dad's Army 8.20 The Thin Blue Line. Grim tracks down criminal carol singers 9.00 Gavin & Stacey. The day of the wedding arrives 9.40 Not Going Out 10.20 The Cleaner. Wicky heads to the country to clean up a nasty mess in a holiday home 11.00 Inside No 9 11.40 Toast of London 12.15am Gavin & Stacey 12.55 Not Going Out 1.30 The Cleaner 2.20 Inside No 9 2.50 Toast of London 3.15-4.00am The Fosters

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. Kevin McCloud revisits an award-winning Islington property 9.00 Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad. Matt, Mike and Janice attend the 191st Durham Regatta 10.00 999: What's Your Emergency? Crimes involving women being targeted by predatory males 11.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics. Medical staff use battlefield dressings to try to stop a man battling to death 12.00am Matt Baker: Travels with Mum & Dad 1.15 999: What's Your Emergency? 2.20 Emergency Helicopter Medics 3.25-3.50am A Place in the Sun

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: 11.35am The Outer Limits 12.40pm Look at Life 12.50 FILM: City of Bad Men (1959) Western starring Dale Robertson 2.30 Four Star Theatre 3.00 The Saint 4.00 FILM: The Lady Craved Excitement (1950, b/w) Hammer comic mystery starring Hy Hazell 5.20 The Writing on the Wall 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: Walk a Crooked Mile (1948, b/w) Crime

Sky Sports Main Event

10.15am Live Test Cricket. England v Sri Lanka. Coverage of the fourth day of the Third and Final Test in the series from The Kia Oval, London 7.00pm Live Tennis. The Jasmin Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 250 hard court tournament at Hotel Skanes in Monastir, Tunisia 8.00 Live Tennis. Coverage of day one from the Jasmin WTA tournaments - the Jasmin

TNT Sports 1

Noon World Rallycross Championship Highlights 2.00pm America's Cup 6.00 Between the Lines 6.15 Fight Night 6.30 Live: Ultimate Pool. Coverage of Group 13 of the Ultimate Pool Pairs Cup 9.30 Original Documentary 10.45 Fight Night 11.00 WWE Raw Highlights 12.00 WWE SmackDown Highlights 1.00-4.15am Live: WWE Monday Night Raw. Wrestling coverage

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers 1.00pm Alaska: Homestead Rescue 3.00 Hoffman Family Gold 4.00 Edge of Alaska 5.00 Salvage Hunters 6.00 How Do They Do It? 7.00 Gold Rush 8.00 Wheeler Dealers 9.00 Shorty's Dream Shop 10.00 Last Chance Garage 11.00 Supertrucks 12.00 Expedition Bigfoot 1.00am Shorty's Dream Shop 2.00 Last Chance Garage 3.00-4.00am Gold Divers

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at: 11.20am The Three Musketeers: Milady (2023) Thriller Moving On (2022) Comedy starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin 3.00 Migration (2023) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Kumail Nanjiani 4.35 If You Were the Last (2023) Romantic comedy starring Anthony Mackie 6.15 Barber (2013) Mystery drama starring Aidan Gillen 8.00 The Three Musketeers: Milady (2023) Swashbuckling sequel starring Francois Civil and Eva Green 10.00 Arcadian (2024) Horror thriller starring Nicolas Cage 11.35 Head Count (2023) Thriller starring Aaron Jackson 1.05am If You Were the Last (2023) Romantic comedy starring Anthony Mackie 2.45-4.20am Arcadian (2024) Horror thriller starring Nicolas Cage

Wales

BBC One: 8.00pm Rookie Cops 8.30 - 9.00 Panorama: Andrew Tate: Accused 10.40 Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop 11.10 - 11.55pm In My Own Words: Alison Lapper BBC Two: No variations ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITVI Regions

No variations

S4C

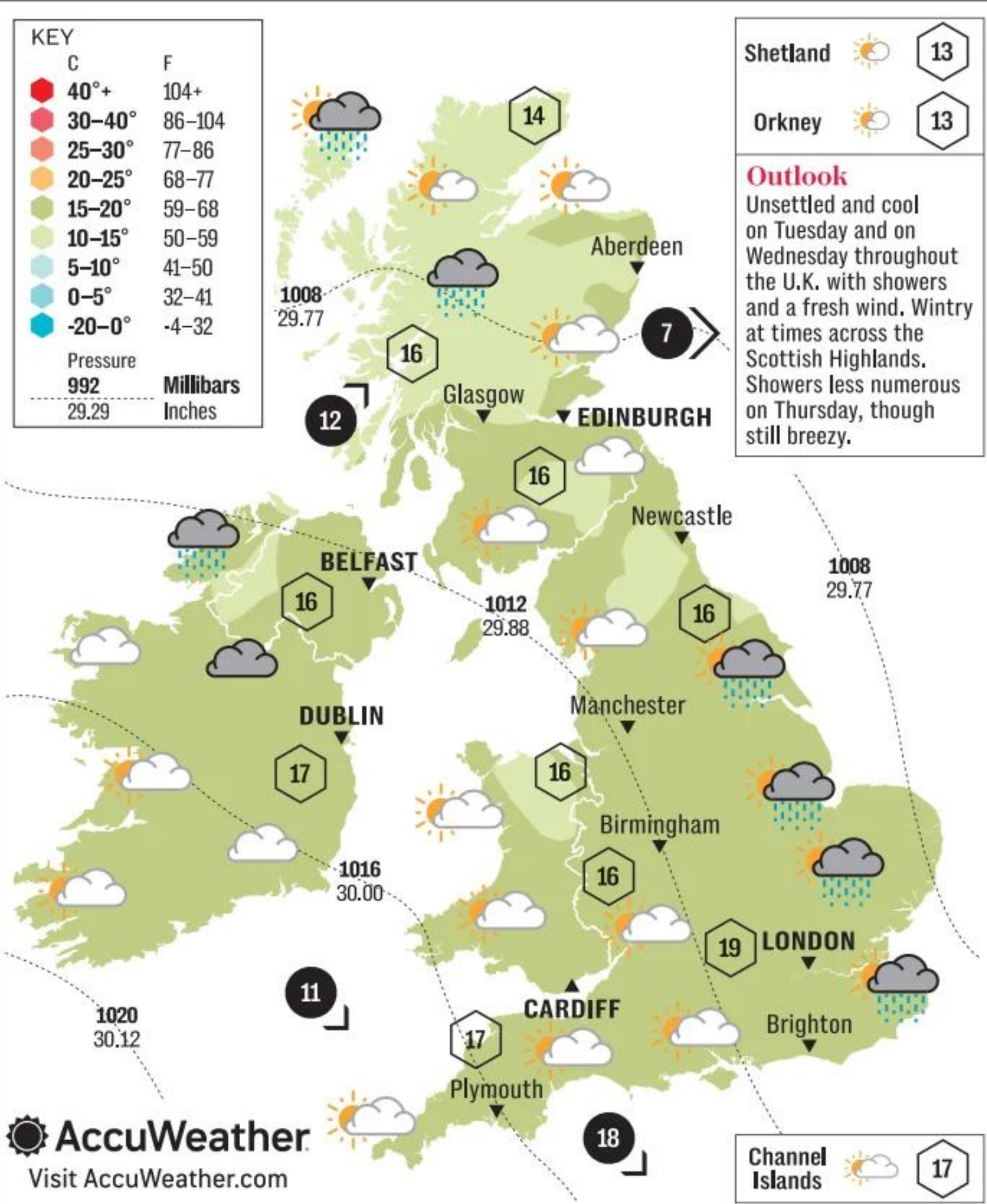
6.00am Cyw 12.00m Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 12.05pm Sgwrs Dan y Lloer 12.30 Heno Aur 1.00 Y Sgubor Flodau 2.00m Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 2.05 Prynhaun Da 3.00m Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 3.05 Pridod Pum Mil 4.00m Awr Fawr: Y Tralalas 4.05m Awr Fawr: Tomos a'i Ffrindiau 4.15m Awr Fawr: Sion y Cefn 4.30m Awr Fawr: Pentre Papur Pw 4.45m Awr Fawr: Deian a Loli 5.00m Stwnsh 6.00m Cegin Bryn 6.30m Bywyd y Fet 7.00m Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 7.20m Sgorio Rhyngwladol 10.00m Rallio - Groeg 10.35m Sgorio 11.05 - 11.40pm Y Sin

Forecast

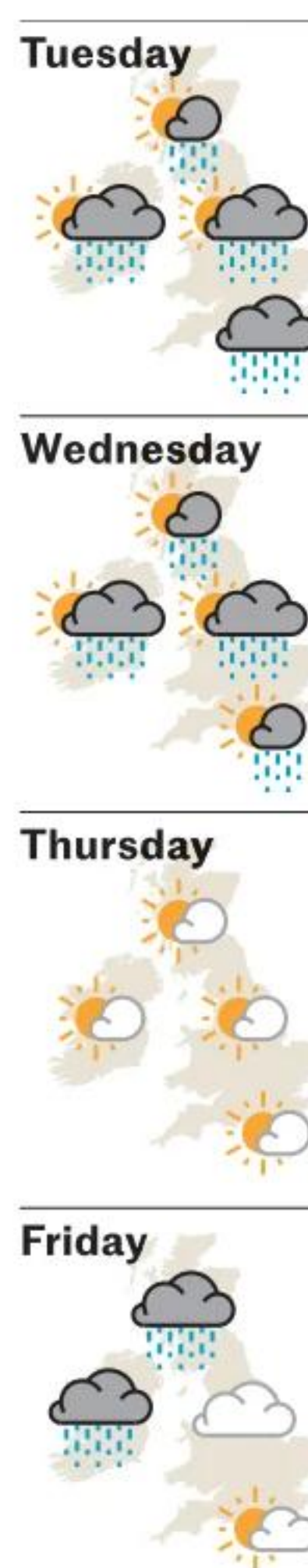
General situation

A rather cloudy start today with isolated showers across the southeast. Drying out and trending brighter during the afternoon. Rain in western Scotland by the afternoon. Breezy throughout.

- ♦ London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Isolated showers in the southeast early today, then sunny intervals. A moderate NW breeze. Max 60-66F (16-19C). A few showers in the Midlands later tonight. Min 48-56F (9-13C).
- ♦ NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England: Cloudy early today, then sunny intervals. A fresh NW wind. Max 50-63F (10-17C). A few showers tonight. Min 43-56F (6-13C).
- ♦ Wales: Sunny intervals today. A moderate NW breeze. Max 52-62F (11-17C). A few showers late tonight. Min 45-58F (7-14C).
- ♦ N Ireland: Isolated showers during the afternoon. A fresh W wind. Max 55-62F (13-17C). Showers tonight. Min 45-52F (7-11C).
- ♦ SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Firth, Orkney, Shetland: Rain in the west during the afternoon today. A moderate W breeze. Max 42-62F (6-16C). Rainy spells tonight. Min 32-50F (0-10C).

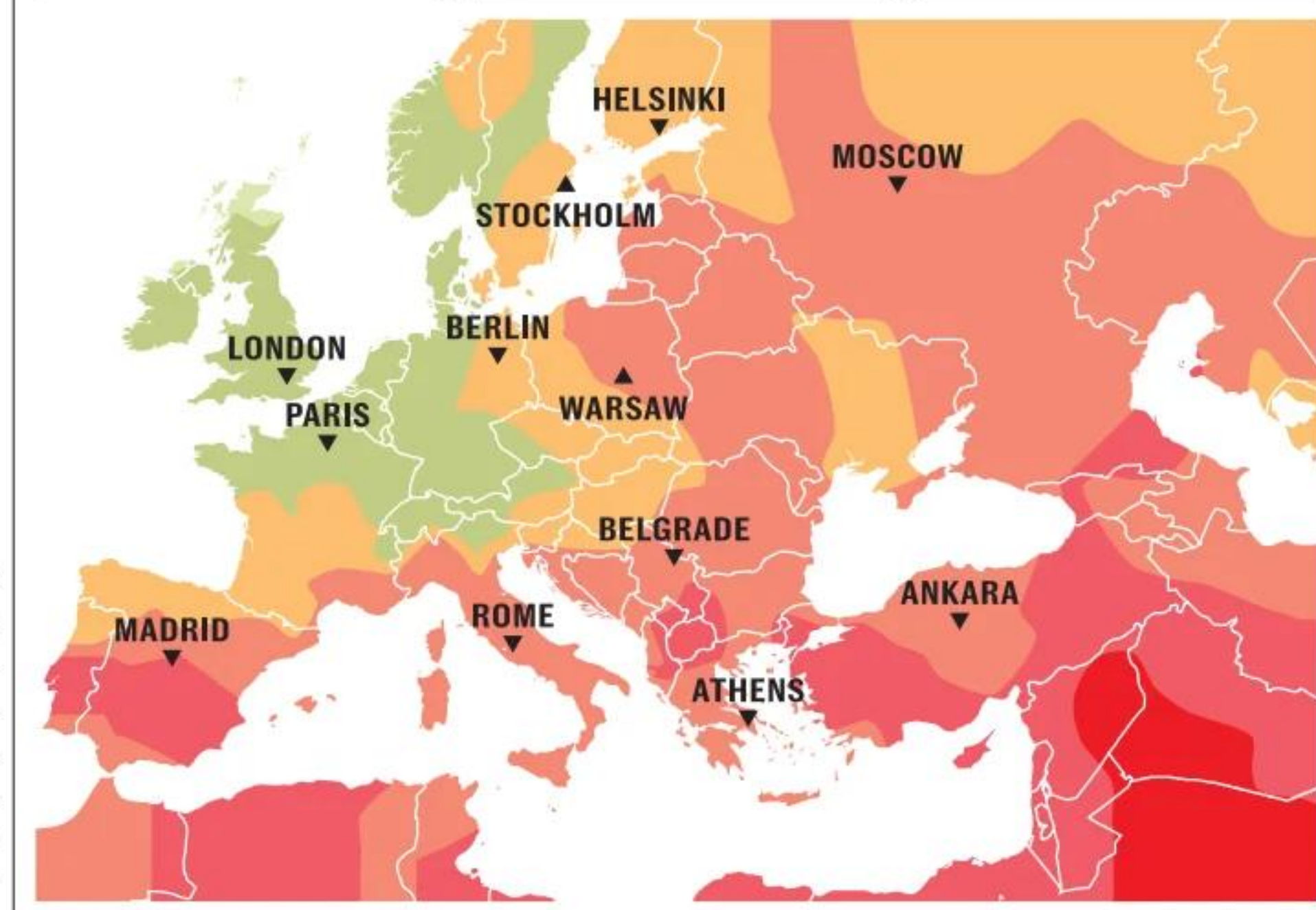


Four day forecast



European readings

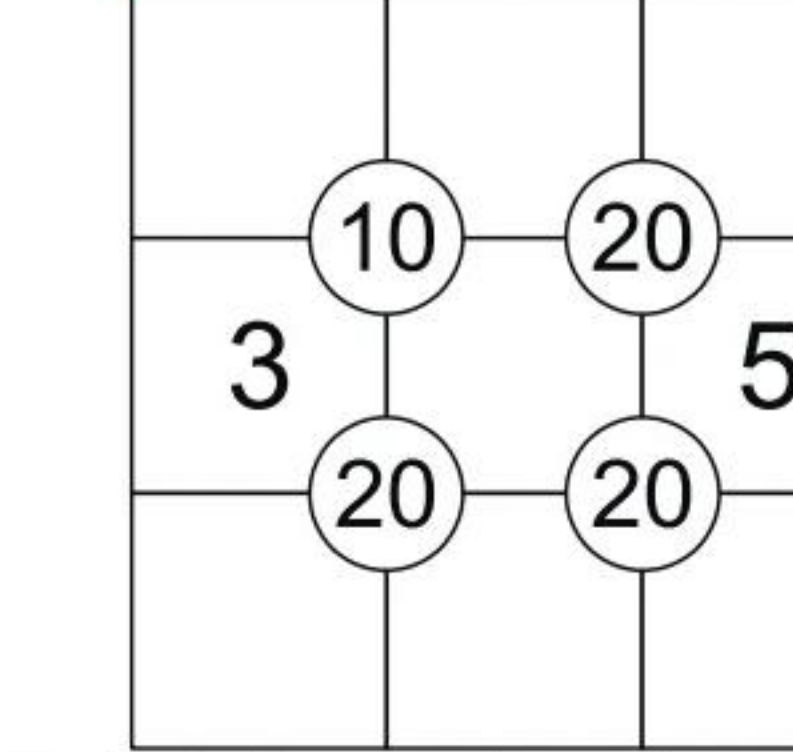
City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Akrotiri	31	24	sunny	Frankfurt	23	18	showers	Oslo	19	13	showers
Alicante	30	23	rain	Funchal	24	18	showers	Palermo	35	26	p/cldy
Amsterdam	23	17	p/cldy	Gdansk	28	17	sunny	Paris	22	12	showers
Athens	32	24	p/cldy	Geneva	23	16	storms	Perpignan	26	17	rain
Barcelona	25	20	drizzle	Gibraltar	29	18	p/cldy	Prague	29	16	p/cldy
Bari	31	21	p/cldy	Hamburg	28	17	showers	Reykjavik	8	7	showers
Belgrade	33	19	windy	Helsinki	24	11	sunny	Rhodes	31	27	windy
Benidorm	30	21	showers	Innsbruck	26	14	storms	Riga	26	13	sunny
Bergen	22	15	rain	Istanbul	27	21	rain	Rome	32	22	p/cldy
Berlin	32	19	sunny	Kyiv	26	9	sunny	Saint Malo	18	14	showers
Biarritz	21	11	showers	La Rochelle	22	16	showers	Salzburg	28	18	showers
Bodrum	33	25	sunny	Lisbon	26	15	sunny	Santander	22	13	p/cldy
Bordeaux	22	12	showers	Locarno	21	15	drizzle	Santiago/Comp.	21	8	p/cldy
Brest	18	14	showers	Luxembourg	20	15	p/cldy	Sofia	28	14	sunny
Brussels	21	15	p/cldy	Madrid	28	12	sunny	St. Petersburg	24	11	sunny
Bucharest	29	15	sunny	Majorca	28	23	showers	Stockholm	25	15	p/cldy
Budapest	32	19	sunny	Malaga	31	20	sunny	Strasbourg	23	18	drizzle
Cagliari	33	26	p/cldy	Malta	32	24	p/cldy	Tenerife	27	21	p/cldy
Chamonix	18	13	drizzle	Marseille	26	21	storms	Tirana	34	19	sunny
Copenhagen	26	18	p/cldy	Menorca	26	23	showers	Toulouse	21	12	showers
Corfu	33	22	sunny	Milan	23	20	showers	Valencia	34	19	p/cldy
Cork	19	14	showers	Monaco	26	20	storms	Venice	27	21	rain
Corsica	30	23	showers	Moscow	25	11	sunny	Vienna	30	20	windy
Crete	29	23	p/cldy	Munich	25	12	storms	Vigo	21	11	p/cldy
Dublin	19	11	cloudy	Naples	32	23	p/cldy	Vilnius	24	14	sunny
Dubrovnik	31	22	sunny	Nice	25	20	storms	Warsaw	29	17	p/cldy
Faro	23	16	sunny	Nicosia	36	21	sunny	Zagreb	33	16	showers
Florence	30	21	storms	Oporto	20	11	sunny	Zurich	19	16	showers



World readings

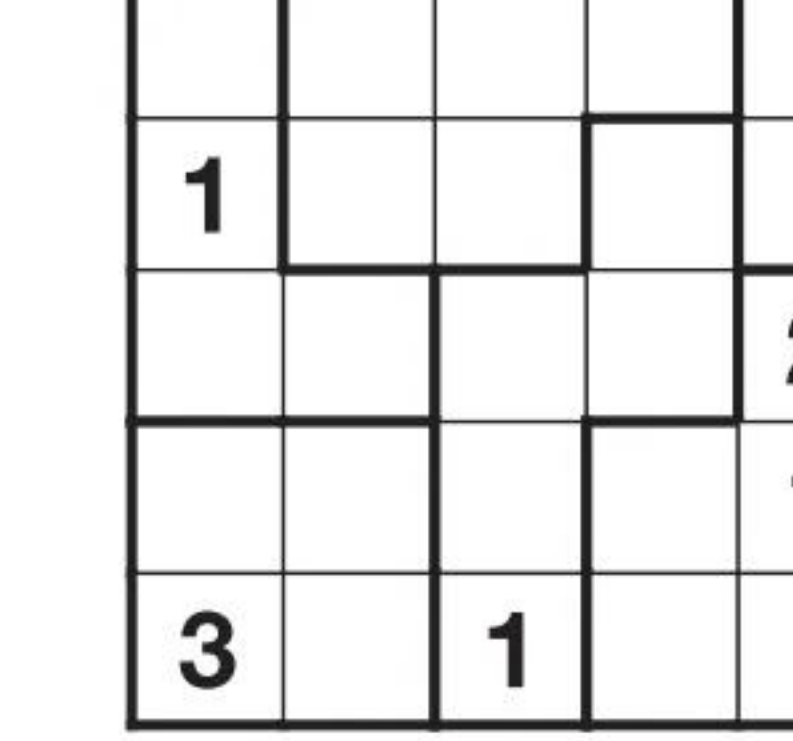
City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Accra	29	24	p/cldy	Damascus	36	20	sunny	New Orleans	27	23	storms
Addis Ababa	22	12	showers	Dar es Salaam	31	21	p/cldy	New Delhi	31	26	rain
Adelaide	17	8	showers	Dhaka	35	28	storms	New York	18	13	sunny
Alexandria	31	26	sunny	Dubai	41	31	sunny	Ottawa	11	5	showers
Algiers	30	23	showers	Falkland Is.	10	4	windy	Perth	20	8	p/cldy
Amman	32	21	sunny	Harare	29	13	p/cldy	Port-of-Spain	34	26	p/cldy
Ankara	27	14	p/cldy	Havana	32	23	showers	Rio de Janeiro	28	22	sunny
Ankara	27	14	p/cldy	Hong Kong	33	28	rain	Riyadh	42	29	sunny
Ascension Is.	27	22	showers	Honolulu	25	24	p/cldy	San Francisco	15	11	p/cldy
Auckland	16	10	showers	Jakarta	36	26	p/cldy	Santiago	17	5	p/cldy
Baghdad	44	29	haze	Jeddah	39	28	sunny	Seattle	20	14	showers
Bahamas	32	28	sunny	Jerusalem	29	20	sunny	Seoul	32	21	p/cldy
Bahrain	38	31	sunny	Johannesburg	26	8	sunny	Seychelles	29	24	storms
Bamako	30	24	storms	Kabul	38	14	sunny	Singapore	31	26	cloudy
Bangkok	33	28	showers	Karachi	31	27	p/cldy	Sydney	26	15	p/cldy
Beijing	25	18	showers	Kolkata	33	28	storms	Taipei City	32	26	rain
Beirut	31	26	sunny	Kuala Lumpur	31	26	storms	Tangier	24	18	sunny
Bermuda	30	27	showers	La Paz	16	-1	p/cldy	Tel Aviv	31	26	sunny
Bogota	18	9	cloudy	Lahore	37	26	sunny	Tokyo	32	27	p/cldy
Bridgetown	32	27	storms	Lima	19	15	p/cldy	Toronto	17	7	showers
Brisbane	28	13	windy	Los Angeles	36	24	sunny	Tunis	38	28	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	12	sunny	Maldives	32	28	cloudy	Vancouver	20	16	p/cldy
Cairo	36	25	sunny	Manila	33	26	p/cldy	Washington	21	14	sunny
Canberra	19	-2	p/cldy	Marrakesh	30	21	p/cldy	Wellington	16	9	sunny
Cape Town	16	10	p/cldy	Melbourne	19	9	showers	Winnipeg	22	9	p/cldy
Casablanca	27	18	p/cldy	Miami	32	28	storms				
Chicago	19	9	haze	Montego Bay	32	25	storms				
Christchurch	16	2	p/cldy	Mumbai	30	26	p/cldy				
Colombo	31	27	storms	Nairobi	28	13	cloudy				

Sujiko® GENTLE NO 4958



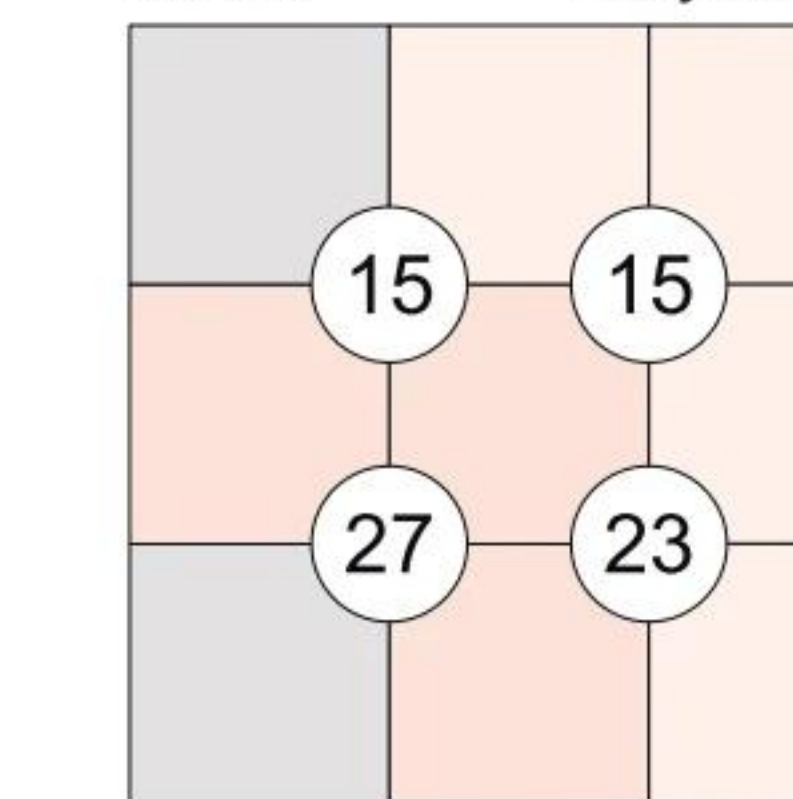
To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares.

Suguru NO 2046



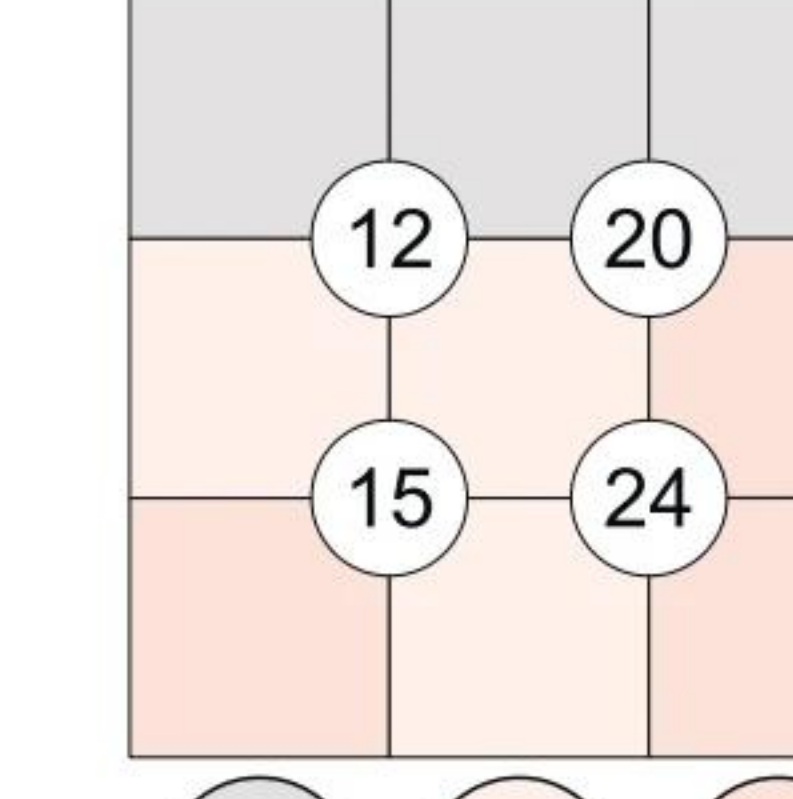
The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Suko NO 979 Every Monday



13 14 18

NO 980



13 9 23

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 4957: 367, 128, 459
Suguru 2046: 3 5 2 4, 2 4 3 1 3, 1 2 4 2, 4 3 1 5 1, 1 5 4 2 3

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British readings

City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
			°C	weather				°C	weather
Aberdeen	0.0	0.02	19 13	cloudy	Chester	0.2*	0.34	22 16	rain
Aberystwyth	0.0*	0.71	21 13	rain	Coventry	0.5*	0.37	20* 15*	rain
Antrim	0.0	0.01	23 11	showers	Doncaster	0.0*	0.50	20* 16*	rain
Aviemore	0.4	0.04	26 9	showers	Dover	0.9*	0.49	21 14	rain
Barnstaple	0.0*	0.83	19 14	rain	Dundee	0.0	0.02	18 13	showers
Barrow-in-Furness	1.3*	0.05	21 14	showers	Eastbourne	0.9	0.20	19 15	rain
Basingstoke	3.3	0.25	21 13	rain	Edinburgh	0.0	0.01	17 14	showers
Bedford	4.1*	0.07	22 13	showers	Epsom	0.9*	0.18	18 12	showers
Belfast	4.7*	0.14	21* 13*	rain	Falmouth	0.0*	0.81	17 14	rain
Berwick	0.0	0.02	23 13	showers	Farnborough	1.1*	0.35	19* 14*	showers
Birmingham	3.1*	0.44	21 14	rain	Fort William	2.5	0.00	19 9	cloudy
Bodmin	0.0*	0.78	17 13	rain	Glasgow	2.3	0.00	23 13	cloudy
Bournemouth	1.6	0.50	21 15	rain	Great Malvern	0.4*	0.56	19 15	rain
Braintree	0.6*	0.28	22 15	showers	Grimsby	0.3*	0.50	22 16	showers
Brecon	0.0*	0.84	17 12	rain	Guernsey	0.0*	0.95	18 14	showers
Bridlington	0.0*	0.02	18 15	cloudy	Hereford	0.0*	0.98	18 14	rain
Brighton	0.8*	0.01	19 16	showers	High Wycombe	1.5*	0.40	19* 14*	showers
Bristol	0.0*	0.46	19* 14*	rain	Holyhead	0.0	0.12	22 16	showers
Cardarne	0.0	0.71	16 14	rain	Huddersfield	0.0*	0.37	18* 14*	rain
Cardiff	0.0	0.35	18 14	rain	Ipswich	4.1	0.09	23 16	showers
Carlisle	0.6*	0.23	19 14	rain	Isle of Man	0.1	0.00	21 15	windy
Catterick	0.0	0.26	19 15	rain	Isle of Skye	2.3*	0.00	23* 11*	cloudy
Cheltenham	0.5*	0.04	19* 14*	drizzle	Isle of Wight	0.0*	0.54	18 15	rain

Estimated readings

City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
			°C	weather				°C	weather
Isles of Scilly	0.0*	0.47	18 14	rain	Ramsgate	1.9	0.15	20 14	rain
Jersey	0.0	1.09	20 14	rain	Rhyl	0.0*	0.45	17 14	drizzle
Keswick	0.3*	0.01	21 14	showers	Rugby	0.6*	0.06	21 14	showers
Kew Gardens	1.1*	0.34	19* 15*	showers	Salisbury	0.0*	0.24	21 14	rain
King's Lynn	0.3*	0.02	22 17	cloudy	Scunthorpe	0.0*	0.44	21* 16*	rain
Leeds	0.0*	0.44	18* 14*	rain	Sheffield	0.0	0.50	20 16	rain
Leek	0.0*	0.88	18 14	rain	Shrewsbury	0.0	1.02	19 14	rain
Leominster	0.0	1.04	18 14	rain	Skegness	0.8*	0.02	21 17	showers
Lincoln	0.2*	0.01	22 16	drizzle	Southampton	1.8*	0.10	21* 15*	showers
Liverpool	0.2*	0.34	22 16	rain	Southend-on-Sea	4.2	0.02	21 16	showers
London	3.7	0.23	20 13	showers	Storport	0.0	0.40	19 16	rain
Manchester	0.0	0.40	19 16	rain	Stornoway	0.8	0.02	14 11	showers
Middlesbrough	0.0*	0.52	16 14	rain	Swansea	0.1*	1.03	17* 13*	rain
Newcastle	0.0*	0.23	20 14	rain	Swindon	0.8*	0.00	17 14	cloudy
Newquay	0.0	0.71	16 14	rain	Thirsk	0.0*	0.11	19 15	showers
Nottingham	1.8								