

TIMES 2

His name's
Habsburg

He's a racing driver

He's the great-grandson of
the last Austro-Hungarian emperor

Meet one of Europe's most eligible bachelors



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Think Kate's recital went too far? Just wait for the Windsors' TikTok dance

Kevin Maher

Ever thrown a knockout house party and had friends help with the clean-up the next day? At a certain point the exhaustion strikes and you start to think, "Right. I've had enough of this. I really need them to leave"? Well, it's beginning to feel like that in the post-coronation media sphere.

Observe, for instance, the Princess of Wales, who "surprised the nation" at the start of the Eurovision Song Contest final by elegantly tinkling through a couple of seconds of a Ukrainian rap song that was notable for featuring a squad of drummers in bucket hats and two band members who appeared to have fought their way out of a paper shredder. Kate was there to show solidarity for Ukraine — and to let the world know that in the seven short days that have passed since the coronation the top royals are still very much camera ready.

Her Eurovision appearance followed an "official video" released from Kensington Palace that gave YouTube viewers a glimpse into the reality of coronation weekend from a royal perspective. This, it transpired, was basically the same as everyone else's weekend, but with more slow-mo. Although I did like the shot of William and Kate rushing to leave Kensington Palace in the morning — the audio is muted but I could swear William is saying, "Did you lock the back door?"

It's not just Kate and William. King Charles and Queen Camilla took part in the Eurovision circus too, with a fantastically awkward prerecorded skit where they pretended to be signing off on the Liverpool Arena's readiness to hold an evening of truly apocalyptic awfulness, aka, according to fans, the greatest night of the year.

I blame the so-called coronation bump. No, that's not a euphemism to describe naughty royals doing class As just to get them through the ceremony (Harry, as he revealed in *Spare*, has put all that behind him). It's the



feelgood rush of monarchical approval that's apparently engendered by global media attention, a sense of ritual neatly accomplished, and a bonus boozy bank holiday weekend. Which is fine with me, and indeed some of the most furious antiroyalists I know could be heard muttering, after that Red Arrows flypast, "Of course it's morally reprehensible, but we do it better than any country on earth!"

And, yes, it's our fault too. We courted them. We lapped up the coverage. We created the monster. But now it's getting scary.

Take Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, for instance. She played a blinder at the coronation concert, where she danced in the stands to Lionel Richie's *All Night Long* and won over social media users for being "relatable". But at the weekend's Royal Windsor Horse Show, one rhapsodic media report cooed that she had "pulled off an impressive balancing act" simply by crossing a shallow stream via stepping stones — all on her own.

What? An impressive balancing act would have been walking on random boulders, on floating logs or across the backs of a line-up of living crocodiles. We have hit, in other words, the national media's RSP, or royal saturation point.

Just don't tell William, who, according to a "source close to the prince" is already contemplating his own coronation, and considering something more "modern" and "relevant". I picture live streaming from Kensington Palace, a random procession of e-scooters and a TikTok dance down to Westminster Abbey.

The irony, ultimately, is that the biggest royal story of the week is about Prince Andrew and how he's refusing, allegedly, to leave his £30 million home on the Windsor estate, which he can't afford to maintain, how the Epstein scandal is still relevant in his life, and how he's preparing for an explosive face-off with Charles. Which is interesting, of course. But it's not very, well, coronation bump.



Shark fun with Tom Cruise

Having spent decades witnessing the unfettered egotism of Hollywood stars, I'm always heartened when someone finally speaks truth to the Tinseltown power. Simon Pegg, for instance, recently revealed that he often "makes fun" of his *Mission Impossible* co-star Tom Cruise. Good on him! It's about time that Cruise was taken down a, yep, Pegg or two.

And how exactly does this level of ridicule work? Well, apparently, while filming in South Africa Cruise brought his co-stars, including Pegg, on a fun-fuelled day trip, during which they got to fly in the megastar's helicopter and enjoyed a "bespoke" underwater experience of swimming with sharks. At the end of it all Pegg, the big joker, clearly couldn't hold back anymore and so he turned to Cruise and said, "That was a real Tom Cruise kind of a day!"

I know. Harsh, right? And hilarious! So Pegg basically makes fun of Cruise in the same way that Renfield makes fun of Dracula? But without saying "master" out loud? That's what I love about Hollywood friendships. So authentic.

I backed Brexit but we're back to declinism and I might move to Italy

Rocco Forte is disillusioned by what he sees as a failure to take advantage of leaving the EU. If Labour win he may be off, he tells Julia Llewellyn Smith

They don't come much more establishment than Sir Rocco Forte. The 78-year-old hotelier may have a foreign name (courtesy of his Italian immigrant parents), an impressive tan and a fraying string bracelet on his wrist — a gift he was given at his granddaughter's christening ("Her father's Greek, it makes me look cool"). But his immaculate suit, polished brogues, public-school vowels, homes in Chelsea and Surrey and love of shooting and golfing all make him come across as a classic English gentleman.

He has always been a Tory and — more recently — a vocal Brexiteer, donating £100,000 to the Conservative Party before the most recent election and throwing a £12,000 victory party for Boris Johnson when he was appointed leader at his Mayfair hotel Brown's, where he's sitting in the gorgeous £5,850 a night Sir Paul Smith suite. "Actually, it wasn't for Boris, it was quite a modest party for the people who work at Conservative Central Office. Boris made an appearance, but then he went on to a much more glamorous party: Lebedev's" — Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian owner of the Evening Standard.

Four years on, however, Forte has turned rebel. A lockdown sceptic, he has become increasingly disillusioned with the Conservatives and is "depressed" by the state of the UK "and the direction in which it's going". He doesn't know how he'll vote at the next election. "We're in a throwback to the 1970s, which I remember very well," he laments. "We're back to

declinism and saying, 'There's nothing much we can do.'"

If Labour win, which he thinks is likely, he may be upping sticks.

"Leaving the country is always a big step, but I am of Italian origin, I speak Italian, a large part of my business is in Italy and if I was in Italy I'd be able to expand quicker than I could sitting here, so it might be something to do anyway from a business point of view."

"This isn't a 'hell to the lot of them' thing," he continues. "It's frustration with [the government's] nonsensical approach. We haven't actually had a clear strategy for this country for a long time. We need some encouragement. If you want people to come here, you've got to tell them there's a future, not tell them it's going to be hard grind for the next 50 years."

So exasperated is the boss of Rocco Forte Hotels, which has two five-star hotels in the UK and nine in Europe, that last month he launched a campaign to reintroduce tax-free

“We haven’t had a clear strategy for this country for a long time”

A big hit for Holly and Phil

It's tragic to read that the *This Morning* presenters and former

BFFs Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield have allegedly had "crisis talks" with ITV bosses following reports that their friendship had broken down. One insider apparently revealed that, for Willoughby, "it's too late. Holly just wants

Phil gone." It made me think of *Pulp Fiction*, when Vincent Vega (John Travolta) explains to his buddy Jules Winnfield (Samuel L Jackson) that he has been charged with "taking care" of Mia Wallace (Uma Thurman).

Jules immediately puts his finger to his own head, like it's a handgun, and qualifies, "Take care of her?" Same with Holly and Phil. Does she mean, in mobster speak, that she just wants him "gone"? Is Schofield, in short, about to be whacked?

shopping for tourists. Under the scheme they can reclaim VAT on purchases, which used to be possible under the EU Retail Export Scheme, but came to an end as part of Brexit. "But of course everyone expected the government to maintain it for sound economic reasons," Forte says.

Instead Johnson's government



abolished it in 2021. Liz Truss reinstated it during her short reign, but when Rishi Sunak took over it went again. Forte organised a letter to Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, demanding he scrap the tax, citing a study by Oxford Economics that suggested that by 2025 more than 1.6 million extra visitors could be attracted annually with this perk.

So far he has persuaded 150 British businesses to sign, including many that usually take an apolitical stance — Marks & Spencer, British Airways, Victoria Beckham, Bicester Village, Selfridges and the Royal Opera House. The letter describes the retention of the tax as “puzzling” and “ill-timed”. At an event for business leaders a fortnight ago, Sunak stood looking embarrassed as Burberry’s boss attacked him for the “perverse” policy that had made the UK “the least attractive shopping destination in Europe”.

Abolishing tax-free shopping “is just one small example of shooting ourselves in the foot”, Forte says. “It’s typical of the overall Treasury thinking, which is very short-term; you don’t look to more than the end of the nose. We’ve got this massive debt that has come out of Covid and they started talking about [reducing it] over a five-year period. The Germans repaid their Second World War debt two years ago; I think we paid ours eight years ago. So there’s no rush to do it.”

“The excuse is to tame inflation, but monetary policy tames inflation. The Bank of England finally woke up and started raising interest rates too late. Food and energy prices are already dropping. So [the Treasury approach] is completely unnecessary and it’s damaging the long-term future of the

economy. We have a Conservative government, which is supposed to be about free enterprise and helping businesses. Businesses create wealth, they effectively drive the economy and create the taxes raised. We seem to have moved into a syndrome in this country where that’s no longer the case. Governments do everything.”

Forte is no fan of Hunt. “But this has been going on for 15 years since the last years of Gordon Brown; he set the arbitrary fiscal rules that are now being followed and it has delivered pretty anaemic growth.”

He was “excited” by the arrival of Truss. “But she didn’t go about things the right way. She rushed into it to show she meant business and the whole establishment was against her. Now everything’s blamed on her; they say she destroyed the economy. But nothing’s different to when she arrived on the scene. She should have waited two months and shown the arithmetic behind what she wanted to do.”

Truss’s plans included abolishing the 45 per cent higher rate of income tax and stopping the planned 6 per cent rise in corporation tax (both of which

went ahead when Sunak replaced her).

“So now we have a government which is completely against enterprise in any form. You don’t encourage inward investment by raising corporation tax or encourage people to work by freezing the thresholds so they’re paying a higher tax. Rishi’s frozen them for the next six years, so that takes us past the next election. You don’t reduce the threshold to the [additional] rate of tax, which was £150,000 before; the Conservatives reduced it to £125,000. As if people earning £125,000 are rich!”

Some would quibble with that statement, but Forte, who appeared in The Sunday Times Rich List in 2020 with a fortune of £345 million, cannot see the problem. “People say to me, ‘Oh, it’s all very well for you [to say these things],’ but the rich can look after themselves. I’m not that rich ...

I'm still not convinced this government is sold on Brexit

but the rich can bugger off [out of the country]. People earning between £50,000 and £100,000 a year are paying 40 per cent tax and yet they are drawing benefits.” What kind of benefits? “Child benefits. It’s the middle classes who get it in the back all the time and they’re supposed to be the Conservative voter base. What have you got to look forward to?”

A keen sportsman who represented Britain in four World Triathlon competitions, Forte hoped Brexit would make the country more competitive. Does he acknowledge the irony of tax-free shopping being axed as an EU scheme? He ignores this. What benefits has Brexit delivered?

“We’ve joined the Trans-Pacific partnership, which will eventually bear a lot of fruit because that part of the world is growing fast... There’s a whole

Remainer contingency [saying], ‘Oh, we must get back into the European Union,’ as if the European Union was a great example of thriving economies. It’s completely the opposite. Europe is in decline. Italy, for example, has had no new growth since it joined the euro. Germany now has had two years and two months of negative growth, which is a technical recession.”

His reason for voting Leave was “mostly sovereignty. And also working in Europe I see the EU closer at hand. I didn’t want more of it to come here. What I expected is that the [government would] get busy immediately, with ditching all the regulations, with tax, looking at ways of starting the economy.”

He was a Johnson supporter because “he had a huge personality and... was the person who could get Brexit done”. Yet Covid distracted Johnson. “If one has to be critical he didn’t get on with Brexit immediately — the whole point of it wasn’t leaving, it was taking advantage of things you couldn’t do in the EU.”

So does he have Bregrets? “No! Thank God we’re out. Just annoyed

we haven’t got busy faster. I’m still not convinced this government is really sold on Brexit. Rishi said he voted for it, but he never campaigned for it or said anything in favour of it. Hunt is a complete Europhile. You wonder whether there is not an inclination to stay as aligned as possible with Europe so when Labour comes in we can jump back in.”

Forte’s opinions were virtually unique in the hospitality industry, where many have blamed Brexit for the staffing crisis, with vacancies running at 11 per cent compared with 4 per cent in other sectors, costing the industry £22 billion a year. There was much schadenfreude when he complained two years ago about recruitment problems in his London and Edinburgh hotels (in my brief time at Brown’s I don’t hear a single British accent among the staff).

“You know the country where I operate where [staffing] was worst of all? Germany. It was Covid. It’s settled here, actually. We had shortages after Covid, and we restricted occupancy so we could give a proper service. Many hotel companies didn’t bother with that. We’ve put our wages up considerably since we restarted, which helped. We introduced a service charge on rooms, which we distribute to the staff, so we’re paying chamber maids around £35,000 a year.”

This isn’t just about pay, however. Forte believes the main recruitment problem — and by extension, the reason for British decline — is that “people don’t want to work. They’re working from home; our bank Lloyds announced the other day they’re insisting people spend two days in the office. The civil service can’t get people back to work”.

But employees are still working when they are at home. Forte looks sceptical. “If you’re a civil servant you need the stimulus of working from an office. We had Tom Scholar [the permanent secretary] at the Treasury working from Argentina for a long time.”

In The Mail on Sunday yesterday Forte criticised Labour Party plans to make working from home a legal right. Together with its initiative to “ban bosses from contacting employees during their evenings, weekends and holidays”, he said, it amounted “to a skivers’ charter”.

Forte took over Trusthouse Forte — which owned Travelodge and Little Chef — from his father, Sir Charles Forte, in 1992. Three years later it was subject to a hostile £3.9 billion takeover bid from Granada. Forte and his sister Olga Polizzi took £350 million and he went on to build his boutique collection, which, post-Covid, has just had a record year. He is rapidly expanding with openings planned for Milan, Sardinia, Rome and Naples, as well as another four undisclosed locations. There’s no indication of Forte, who is remarkably Hale (the only sign of being a septuagenarian is his hearing aid), passing on the business to his three children, all of whom work for him but none of whom is on the board.

“I once said to Prince Philip when he must have been 83, ‘Are you still driving?’ He said, ‘I live in the land of the still... still doing this, still doing that.’ Amazing for your age. So now I’m using that expression. I married late, my children are still quite young. We’ll see how long I can keep going.”

After all, there’s a government to whip into shape.

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Meet the fresh prince and schnell heir to the Habsburg dynasty

History denied him an archduchy, but Ferdinand Habsburg is motor racing royalty. His family don't need their empire back, he tells Oliver Moody

Some of Ferdinand Habsburg's forebears ruled an empire that stretched from Flanders to Mozambique and California to Borneo. Another kept in his imperial cabinet of curiosities the stuffed and mummified corpse of a west African-born courtier, festooned with ostrich feathers and glass beads. A third is said, perhaps apocryphally, to have had himself laid in a coffin at a lavish dress rehearsal for his funeral, only to catch a fever and die a few hours later.

Somewhere out in the multiverse of historical what-ifs there is a world in which Ferdinand Zvonimir Maria Balthus Keith Michael Otto Antal Bahnam Leonhard von Habsburg-Lothringen, 25, the heir to the Habsburg line, would be preparing to follow in their footsteps and ascend to the Austrian throne.

In this one, however, he is a world champion endurance racing driver. Instead of pursuing strategic marriage alliances or divvying up Poland with the Prussians, he zooms around Le Mans or Monza for hours at a stretch, in a supercar that's powered by wine.

"We haven't been using any fossil fuels in our car for two years now," Habsburg says. "We've been testing a synthetic fuel that is produced out of the waste from the wine industry. So I drink a lot of wine now to try and make sure that I can still go racing."

Speaking from a handsome flat in Vienna, initially over Zoom and then over the phone after the internet connection goes awry, Habsburg exudes what in a bygone century would have been called breeding. He is composed, thoughtful and occasionally quite funny, as though a committee of upwardly mobile mothers had got together to design an ideal son-in-law (he politely declines to say whether he is single).

Deposed royal houses are fascinating beasts. I've met a few of Habsburg's peers in the past. I was at school with a boy who, in another life, would have been the crown prince of Egypt, but instead channelled his energies into bodybuilding. He had a personal fridge full of chicken breasts. Once I spent an afternoon wandering around a freezing fairytale castle in southwest Germany with the heir to the kaisers as he explained his campaign for the restitution of his family's old royal estates, which were confiscated by the communist regime in the east after 1945.



The big difference with the Habsburgs is the bittersweet nostalgia with which many people have looked back on their reign since it came to an end. In November 1918, as their empire disintegrated, Charles I, the last Habsburg emperor and Ferdinand's great-grandfather, was forced to give up the throne on the day of the armistice. A few months later the family was banished from Austria by law.

Unlike in Germany, where monarchism is very much a fringe sentiment and there was never any serious prospect of a restoration, plenty of people in the Habsburgs' former territories think of them fondly. In 2011 a poll found that 17 per cent of Austrians wanted the monarchy back. Hungary, another old Habsburg territory, has two members of the family on its roster of ambassadors.

"Austria is an extremely privileged country," Habsburg says. "There's no way to disagree that this comes from a long-term [Habsburg] leadership that set great foundations in culture, in arts, in faith, in education [that laid]

Ferdinand Habsburg with his mother, Baroness Francesca von Thyssen-Bornemisza. Right: his other life as a racing driver

The Habsburg family tried to create as much peace as possible. But it did go wrong quite often

extremely good cornerstones in this country to make it as uncorrupted as possible, to make it safe and glorious. And people love to think the grass was always greener, you know?

"Do people have a nostalgia for it? Of course they do. It's everywhere you look around here. All the buildings are based on the architecture of my family that they put there. But for me personally, I get to enjoy all the things my family put in place here, and on top of that live the free life of a civilian."

In Austria a minor political party known as the Black-Yellow Alliance after the Habsburg colours is campaigning to revive the empire — including modern-day Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic — with Ferdinand's father, Karl, at its head. Father and son have publicly renounced any aspirations to the throne. But strangers still sometimes send Ferdinand messages addressing him as the Archduke or "Your Imperial and Royal Highness", even though it is illegal for him to use these titles under Austrian law.

He is unembarrassed by this. "I have responsibilities to people," he says. "I mean, I didn't just inherit nothing, you know. My father likes to remind me of how grateful we should be to a number of families and groups of people that were always there to try and protect us. A ruling family needs a strong *volk*, or people, and those groups still exist today ... There are still people where you know that their grandfather or grandmother might have died trying to protect my family."

In 1961 the Habsburgs were eventually allowed to move back to their homeland on the condition that they renounced any claim to the crown. Their lands and titles were long gone, but they were far from being a normal family. Ferdinand's father, who briefly served as an MEP for the conservative Austrian People's Party, was once fined the equivalent of about £16,000 in today's money for allegedly trying to smuggle a tiara through a private airport.

He married Baroness Francesca von Thyssen-Bornemisza, who attended Saint Martin's School of Art and was an It girl on the London scene. One afternoon, as they wandered among his embalmed ancestors in the imperial crypt, he proposed to her with the words: "Would you like to be buried here?"

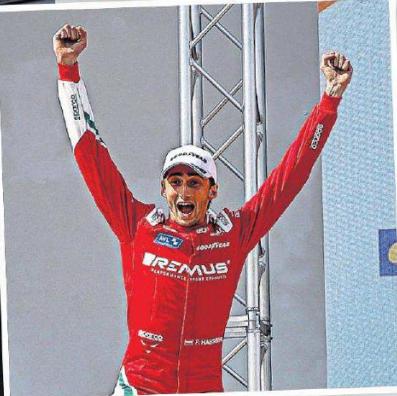
Against this backdrop, Ferdinand Habsburg appears pretty well adjusted.



He attended a private international day school in Vienna, which left him with almost impeccable English. He has a strong Catholic faith. He reads memoirs and biographies — most recently those of Matthew McConaughey and Mother Teresa — and studies the lives of his ancestors. The ones he admires the most are the formidable 18th-century empress Maria Theresa and his great-grandfather Charles I, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2004.

I wonder whether he feels at all uncomfortable about the darker side of his family's history. For all her reforming zeal, Maria Theresa expelled the Jews from her realm ("I know of no greater plague than this race," she once wrote). During the devastating Thirty Years' War of the early 17th century the Habsburgs' imperial forces inflicted numerous atrocities on their Protestant enemies, including the infamous 1631 sack of Magdeburg, where almost an entire German city was razed to the ground and four fifths of its population were put to the sword.

"I think the overarching message is that the Habsburg dynasty was always one that tried to create as much peace as possible. But it did go wrong quite often, absolutely," Habsburg says. "You can go into moments in time and say



average speeds of about 120mph for more than two hours at a time.

"You're literally trying to maximise every inch of the track at every single moment," he says. "It gets super-dark at night. You get dehydrated; you get tired. If you lose your focus for one moment, you're kind of endangering your life and the lives of the people around you. You train all these years just to make sure that when you get in the car at 4am, after maybe only half an hour's rest, and you're already getting cramping in your glutes and thighs and lower back, you can spend the next two and a half hours 100 per cent focused and doing a good job."

On the racetrack Habsburg is just another man in a set of snazzy overalls. "Most [of the drivers] are not history professors, put it that way," he says. "They are not people that care much where you come from. They care about what kind of a guy you are... Mick [Schumacher] is famous for having a dad who's famous in motorsport, so he had a whole experience of trying to find his own identity. I have a different challenge... They all call me Ferdinand and that's all they know. They have no clue most of the time what my family did in the past. The racetrack is kind of a nice place to be, in a way, because it doesn't matter where you come from or what you do. It just matters if you're quick or not."

Still, I ask, does he ever wonder whether he might have been king had those years after the First World War worked out differently? "I'm 25," he says. "I'm figuring out my own identity, like every single other 25-year-old, trying to figure out work-life balance, women, my connection with God, all of these topics... If that was the case, my whole life would have been completely different. For most of my life I would have been an army officer. I wouldn't have been able to travel to all the countries I've been to, I wouldn't have met the friends that I have now. Yes, I think about it. But I wake up in the morning thinking about what I'm going to make for breakfast rather than, 'Oh, I wish the empire would come back.'"

that was great, or that was terrible. Do I feel like I inherited that? I don't really feel an inherited sense of [responsibility], like I don't feel like I own that land any more either, or anything my family had at that time."

Motor racing, on the other hand, is refreshingly straightforward. Habsburg has been hooked since his first ride on a go-kart at the age of eight. He later worked his way up the racing hierarchy into Formula 3, where he made friends with Michael Schumacher's son Mick, but never quite broke through into the upper echelons of the sport. It is, he says, an expensive vocation at this elite level, requiring either substantial private means or a knack for attracting deep-pocketed sponsors. "It was becoming more and more difficult to really get that kind of funding, to the point where it was, like, 'OK, I've been doing this quite a few years and I never really signed a big manufacturer contract,'" he says.

Instead he found his metier in endurance racing. His team triumphed in their category of the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship and won two consecutive editions of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, a gruelling race in which groups of three drivers working in shifts cover 3,000 miles or more in a single day, each maintaining

My parents weren't invited to my wedding

Lucy Vine decided to tie the knot in Las Vegas — then she told her family that they couldn't come

This is not a story about estrangement. In fact, I'd like to make it clear up front that I love my parents, and the rest of my family, a lot. We're very close, emotionally and physically — I live within five minutes of 16 members of my immediate family, in Cambridge. So you can imagine the excitement when I got engaged, and how disappointed they all were when I said that I didn't want any of them — including my mum and dad — to be at the wedding.

I was determinedly and delightfully single for most of my twenties, and even after I met David in 2019 I said we'd never tie the knot. Getting married didn't make sense to me. My parents are divorced, and I've always been fairly unromantic, but, more than that, I didn't want a wedding. I love attending weddings; for me it's like going to the theatre. I'm happy to be there, but there is nothing inside me that wanted to be up there on stage.

However, one night David mentioned the idea of us having a different kind of wedding, in Las Vegas. We could fly over, meet with a dodgy-looking Elvis in a chapel and follow it up with fast food and casinos. We'd get all the fun without any arguments over table plans. We wouldn't have to have awkward conversations with friends over who would be bridesmaids or groomsmen. I wouldn't have to parade down an aisle to be "given away".

We decided the only people we would like with us would be our best friends, Sarah and Fred. We would need witnesses, and Sarah's a professional photographer — not to mention one of the most organised and calming people I know.

I told David I didn't want it to be a secret elopement. I'm the worst at keeping things to myself, and I knew doing that would be a step too far for my family. This was going to hurt them enough. I can't say that when I sat my mum down we had the easiest of conversations, but she was very understanding. I could tell she was sad, but she told me to do what would make me happy. I felt incredibly selfish.

As I left, I suggested we could have a party when we got back. I'd even wear a wedding dress. And even though she

wasn't invited to Vegas, Mum offered to buy me that dress.

Most of the family were happy for us, although there were quite a few jokey threats about turning up in Nevada to surprise us, and I'm pretty sure there were conversations behind closed doors about our decision — ones I wouldn't want to have heard. Funnily enough, my dad was the most delighted of anyone. He's an introvert too, and I think he was disappointed that we hadn't eloped.

As we left for our trip in November — massive white dress packed into my carry-on luggage — my mum and sisters turned up to wave us off. Mum wiped away tears.

The whole week was as mad and joyful as we had hoped. The first night, Sarah and I went to watch RuPaul's Drag Race Live, while David and Freddie headed to local bars. It was almost like a hen do and a stag do, but with fewer strippers. David had asked about sleeping apart the night before our wedding and it made me laugh. Why would I not want to be with him? As we headed to our limo — through the casino — strangers shouted congratulations. At the venue Elvis arrived in a bad wig and a pink jacket. As I walked up the aisle with David, I felt only relief at the empty pews. Our vows were absurd jokes about "burning love"



Lucy Vine and her husband, David, with "Elvis" in the chapel

and not having "suspicious minds", then the impersonator sang for us as we danced around the empty room. It was the best day of my life.

Six months on, I still feel slightly guilty about my family, but many friends have confided that they wish they had done it the same way. And that's the trouble, isn't it? Weddings so often end up not being about the two people getting married, but about money, drama and family rifts instead. *Seven Exes* by Lucy Vine is published by Simon & Schuster on May 25

life

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

After decades of heartbreak my middle-aged son is isolated and sees no future for himself

QI am very worried about my son, who is single and middle-aged. Since his teens he has had a series of broken relationships that were usually ended, acrimoniously, by the girlfriend. Each one has left him heartbroken, reducing him to tears, making him unable to work, eat or see a way forward in his life.

The latest break-up appears to include a betrayal, in his eyes, by a friend who has inveigled his way into spending more time with the female friend and cut my son out of their shared leisure activity.

My son is refusing antidepressants from the GP (he says "they never helped in the past"), and has completed the self-referral for counselling, but the waiting list is months long. He sees no future for himself. He hates his job and has just been undermined at work. He feels isolated by working from home — he lives alone — and being dropped by someone with whom he felt he was building a possible long-term relationship is the final straw.

He has no ideas about what he would like to do with his life or what changes might make him happier, and talks about being better off dead because the only peace he gets from his thoughts and emotions is when he sleeps.

If he would agree to see a psychologist or psychiatrist privately, how would we go about finding the right one?

Annie

AYou are obviously concerned about your son, who seems to be struggling to move his life on in terms of relationships and work. To answer your last question first, to find private mental health care your son should search directories of accredited practitioners. In private mental health it is easy for vulnerable people to be exploited by those who offer their services but have minimal or no accredited training or fake qualifications.

It is important for your son independently to check the advertised accreditation and qualifications.

To find someone in my profession he can go to bps.org.uk, where the drop-down menu will provide a list of local clinical psychologists who must be registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org/check-the-register). A psychiatrist must be a General Medical Council-registered specialist doctor. This can be verified online at professionalstandards.org.uk/check-practitioners. Counsellors and psychotherapists should be accredited by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (bacp.co.uk).

Given what you describe, I suggest a clinical psychologist who is trained clinically and psychotherapeutically, and therefore can assess and treat his

depression as well as providing therapy for related and underlying issues; and a psychiatrist who can prescribe medications that work for him, if necessary. While medications aren't the answer for everyone and generally shouldn't be the first line of treatment if talk-therapy hasn't been tried, they can really help some people in terms of stabilising and lifting mood, which is important to enable them to engage in therapy, in itself a tough and challenging process.

For your son, this would involve exploring the themes that seem to run through his life disappointments: being rejected and overlooked. It seems that his needs are never fully met and he feels taken for granted, abandoned and betrayed. You describe a pattern of relationships that end badly, a career he doesn't progress in and a friend who stepped into a relationship he was cultivating. I can understand that he will feel angry, upset and hopeless. The key issue to explore is why this seems to keep happening to him.

This is where therapy can be unexpectedly challenging, because it requires an open and honest assessment of the self. This may be your son asking the question: "What am I doing to create the opportunity for others to neglect/not see/exploit my needs?" This may feel like blame, but it is actually empowerment because while we can't change others to get a desired outcome, we can change ourselves to enable that to happen.

If I were working with your son I would want to explore a number of issues. For example, how good is he at articulating his needs? How good is he at letting others know how he feels about them? Does he feel confident in being assertive when necessary? I'd analyse his relationships with him, and look at his communication and interpersonal skills, whether there are commonalities in the types of person he has relationships with, and his expectations of a romantic partner. While empathising with the pain that a person brings into therapy, a therapist will want to analyse their experiences forensically. They offer clues to the overall difficulties that need to be addressed, especially if, as with your son, there are repeating patterns of disappointment.

A well-trained and

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email prof@tanyabyron@thetimes.co.uk

experienced accredited therapist will work from an evidence base too. That is, well-validated therapeutic approaches that show evidence-based outcomes for specific mental health issues. A single therapeutic model may not offer the inclusive and flexible approach that your son will benefit from. I suggest a therapist who is integrative — using multiple psychological approaches tailored to meet his needs (nhs.uk/mental-health).

Using an integrative approach, your son and his therapist would create a formulation of his difficulties — a personal narrative that provides hypotheses for the origins and nature of the issues he is experiencing. These would be developed using a biopsychosocial approach, which is holistically to understand who we are in terms of how we think, feel and behave; the impact we have on others; the impact others have on us. There will be an exploration of primary relationships and early life experiences, existing relationships and social circumstances, significant life events and existing stresses, as well as family mental health history (for example, indicating possible genetic underlying predispositions).

Beliefs about the self and others would allow for an understanding of what your son brings into a relationship. The overall frame would be to see, for example, his relationships that end badly not as failures but as learning experiences, enabling him to change and so empower and enable himself to build the confidence and skills to develop a lasting and loving relationship.

If seeing a therapist face to face feels daunting, to begin with your son could explore online or digital therapy. He could look at self-help guides such as the online resource Moodjuice, nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/mental-health and the Reading Well books (on prescription and available from libraries). He could access online peer support and individual or group talking therapies through mental health charities such as Mind (mind.org.uk, 0300 1233393) and Mental Health Matters (mhmm.org.uk). Relate offers counselling to anyone struggling with relationships (relate.org.uk, 0300 1001234).

My primary concern is that your son has expressed that "he would be better off dead". This indicates a severe and worsening depression. I advise that you support him to tell his GP about these thoughts and feelings; if he won't, let his GP know yourself. It would be helpful for him to know the number of the Samaritans (116 123) and also look at Calm — the Campaign Against Living Miserably — a charity dedicated to men who are depressed and questioning the value of being alive (thecalmzone.net, 0800 585858). I wish him well.

Pauleine Harmange had assumed that if anyone could handle an abortion, it would be her. A militant French feminist and the author of *I Hate Men*, an essay on the evils of the patriarchy that was translated into 20 languages, she thought her pro-choice beliefs would make it "very easy" for her to end her unwanted pregnancy.

They did not. "I didn't know that you had the right to take a decision easily but that it would still [cause] grief, that people in medical circles could be disagreeable and this would complicate something that I thought very simple."

She is speaking in a café in her home city of Lille in northern France before the UK publication of *Abortion*, an essay recounting her experience and the conclusions she has drawn from it.

Harmange is at pains to stress that she remains staunchly in favour of abortion rights, and is keen to avoid her work being misunderstood. Her aim, she says, is not so much to depict abortion as a life-shattering trauma but rather to nuance some of the "simplistic" accounts that circulate in feminist circles and present it as "no more difficult than having a cup of coffee".

She describes her abortion as a "serious" matter that marked her more than she had expected. It is not her "defining scar", she says, but a wound that needed "time, words and love" to heal.

Abortions were legalised in France in 1975 but remain a politically charged issue in the country. The limit on how far into pregnancy they can be performed was raised from 12 to 14 weeks last year after heated discussions, but it remains lower than in Britain and the Netherlands, where it is 24 weeks.

Tensions rose after the US Supreme Court's decision to reverse *Roe v Wade*, striking down the constitutional right to abortion in America. President Macron's centrist coalition responded by pledging to make France the first country in the world to enshrine in the constitution "the freedom of women to end their pregnancies". The idea was to make it difficult for the populist right to row back on abortion rights should it win power in France.

Harmange, 28, describes the planned constitutional modification as "necessary but really not sufficient", pointing out that, in practice, access to abortion can be complicated in some

“It was hard for me to see pregnant women, to talk about babies

parts of France, particularly rural regions, after the closure of at least 130 clinics over the past 15 years.

She has to raise her voice above the hissing of the espresso machine in the café, causing customers to turn their heads as they listen in to a conversation that is probably not standard fare for the centre of Lille.

Harmange seems unconcerned, chatting to me in an affable manner



She wrote about hating men, now she has tackled her abortion. It was tough

Pauline Harmange is the French feminist whose debut book caused outrage. She tells Adam Sage why she has opened up about the ordeal of ending her pregnancy

that may seem unexpected to readers of *I Hate Men*, where she argued that misandry was a reasonable response to the prejudices of male-dominated societies and a cause that could unite women. "Hating men as a social group, or even often as individuals, brings me a lot of joy," she wrote.

She says the book continues to generate reactions on social media — mostly positive ones from women, less so from men. A woman nearby swivels with an expression of interest as Harmange explains: "The problem is not that an individual with male gametes is evil, it is that many men find it easier to profit from the patriarchy than to change things that don't work."

There are exceptions to the rule, she says — her husband being one of them. She met Mathieu when she was 16 and described him in *I Hate Men* as a notch up on the average member of his sex to the extent that "he does not rape me or hit me, he does the washing up and the hoovering and treats me with the respect I deserve".

She says she always wanted children, but only when she and her husband were in a stable financial situation. In 2018, when she fell pregnant despite her IUD, they were living in a "shoebox" with no guaranteed revenue, she says.

"I told myself: I can't force a child to be born into a minuscule, poorly

heated apartment, with no financial stability and no future prospects," she writes in *Abortion*.

With her husband on the same wavelength, she had no doubts about ending the pregnancy and says she has no regrets now either. "I don't feel selfish for refusing to drop a tiny human being into this furious world without being able to offer it something better," she writes.

The abortion itself — a medical procedure that was done ten days after her pregnancy test — was, she says, relatively easy: one pill early in the morning, a second several hours later, a "violent" stomach cramp and three weeks of bleeding.

What followed was less easy. "I was surrounded by people who supported me ... feminist friends who understand that falling pregnant may not be a source of happiness," she says. "But from the moment I aborted, as far as they were concerned, it was all over. The friends did not understand why I was still sad and why I was taking so much time to get over it."

Deep down, she needed someone to ask how she was feeling and to offer her help. "Then maybe I would have cried sooner than I did, and no doubt I would have said that I felt sick to my stomach, that I was now terrified to let my partner penetrate me, and that I was afraid I'd destroyed the part of myself that had



dreamt of being a mother someday," she writes.

She never imagined having to face any of this. She thought abortion was an issue for feminist debates, not something she would "have to personally confront". When that turned out to be wrong, she assumed that with her "militant" experience she would be able to cope.

In fact, "it was difficult for me to see pregnant women, difficult to talk about babies". She describes telling her mother that she had aborted as a "confession", and says that at the time she felt ashamed of herself.

"I really felt ... that I'd messed something up, that I hadn't been careful enough," she says.

With hindsight, she says, she realised that the sense of "shame" was foisted upon her by a society that has approved abortions in law but does not want to talk about them. "You can't phone up your employer and say: 'I'm not coming to work today because I'm having an abortion,'" she says.

Harmange realised that she fell pregnant not because she had been imprudent, but because she was among the 1 per cent or so of women

for whom IUD contraceptives do not work. Researching her book, she discovered that 72 per cent of the women who abort in France are in a similar situation — becoming pregnant despite using contraception, which includes those who forgot to take the pill.

"Listening to people you get the impression that abortion is just for shameless girls who are not careful ... but in fact it's for women who try to pay attention and for whom it does not work."

She says she wrote the book because, looking on the internet for first-hand accounts of abortion, she found nothing that corresponded to her experience.

“I needed time to heal so that it did not become a traumatisation”

"I had the impression that I either came across tales put together by anti-abortion groups saying abortion was a tragedy that had destroyed women and destroyed their families, or the opposite, accounts by militants saying you can abort and it's not a problem. I was not in either category because, even if I did not regret my choice, it took me time to get over it because it was not what I would have wanted in better circumstances."

In an interview with Elle magazine two years ago Macron said he understood "the traumatisation that it is to abort". Harmange disagrees with the notion of traumatisation. "If you say that it is a traumatisation, you are saying that it needs to be restricted as much as possible so as not to traumatisate women."

"For me it was a serious moment, and what I needed was to be given time to heal so that it did not become a traumatisation."

In *Abortion* she recounts a scene where her husband said to her: "Maybe it will never really be healed for us until we have that child we wanted, that we could have now."

Their material situation has improved since, and they are no longer living in poverty. The success of *I Hate Men* has helped Harmange to make a living as a writer, and she has just brought out *Le Renard* (The Fox), her latest novel, in France.

Her husband has a stable job and they have moved to a bigger flat. Their daughter was born eight months ago. Harmange says that her "anger and rage have cooled now that I'm no longer poor and afraid that my meagre comforts in life will be swept away". It certainly seems that way.

She is even prepared to challenge the idea held in some feminist circles that men should have no say in abortion — on a personal level if their partners become pregnant or in the political debate.

Harmange concedes that had her husband not backed her choice, she might never have aborted. She writes: "Perhaps it's not yet the moment to include men in this conversation, but do we really want to exclude them for ever?"



first night

pop

The Great Escape

Various venues, Brighton

★★★☆

Endless queues, all-day drinking, overly animated conversations at the bar at 2am... It was that time of year when the music industry descends on Brighton to discover the next big thing in pubs, nightclubs and beachside stages throughout the city. The biggest buzz was around the Last Dinner Party's Thursday-night set at Chalk. They have released only one single, a fantastically theatrical piece of hook-laden soft rock with touches of Abba, Florence + the Machine and 1980s belters like Hazel O'Connor and Bonnie Tyler called *Nothing Matters*. Yet a backlash has already begun, with accusations of hype and money being thrown at a female five-piece who are just out of the starting gate.

The band members had expensive in-ear monitors, which don't normally come until the big concert halls, but the live-wire singer Abigail Morris is a star in waiting and the musicianship held arena-sized ambitions. Here was the real reason for the hype — the Last Dinner Party were good.

Elsewhere, more low-key sets proved just as illuminating. MF Tomlinson has a background in Australian teenage pop punk bands, but on moving to London he discovered the jazz folk of Pentangle and the bleakness of British winters, leading to *Winter Time Blues*, on which he sang of how the cold was "doing my f***ing head in" against soaring flute and saxophone accompaniment. It was funny, musically rich and tinged with sadness.

Then there was Blondshell, aka the 25-year-old New Yorker Sabrina Teitelbaum, who put angsty songs about bad boyfriends into an early 1990s alternative rock setting reminiscent of Liz Phair and Hole, which made the Generation Xers in the basement of the Komedia happy.

Also playing around with nostalgia, of an Eighties dance-pop kind, was Jessica Winter, who with her oversized glasses, slinky moves and high-pitched purr came across like a sexier, more fashionable version of Deirdre Barlow from *Coronation Street*.

There were big names at the Great Escape — the emotional pop-rock of the Pretenders, the ominous drill of the British rapper Unknown T — but the thrill, as ever, was finding a great new act in a little dive, hyped or not.

Will Hodgkinson

opera

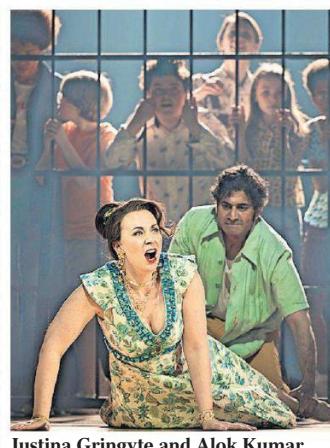
Carmen

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

★★★☆

Scottish Opera's previous production of *Carmen* was as dull as the Glasgow drizzle, so the company was long overdue a replacement. Unfortunately this new staging isn't much of an improvement.

John Fulljames's production begins with Don José confessing to Carmen's murder and turning himself in to the police. The opera then unfolds as a flashback from the police station where José undergoes interrogation. There's precedent for that in the novella that inspired Bizet's opera, but as realised here it hamstring the drama. The opera's spoken dialogue is replaced by conversations between José and the police investigator, which interrupt the drama and disrupt the flow.



Justina Gringyte and Alok Kumar

The framing device distances the audience and drains from the story the passionate immediacy that makes it so compelling. That's particularly damaging for José's relationship with Micaëla, which contains not a spark of chemistry because it's seen mostly through the eyes of the investigator. The communicative gains of Christopher Cowell's English translation are undone by the awkwardness of the concept.

Ostensibly Fulljames sets his production in late-Francoist Spain, but it might as well have been the Siberian steppes for all the impact that it has on the drama. Worse, every scene takes place in a variation of the boxlike set for the police station. The visual palette is pale beige, a deadening contrast to the explosive colour of Bizet's music,



UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey features expressive choreography and immersive digital technology

A cult film is reborn

Wayne McGregor's abstract take on Jim Henson's 1980s movie is hypnotic, says Debra Craine

dance

UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey

Linbury, Royal Opera House

★★★☆

If you don't know Jim Henson's 1982 cult film *The Dark Crystal* it doesn't matter. And if you do know the film it doesn't matter either. Because Wayne McGregor, in his new 80-minute production *UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey*, has taken the idea of the film and abstracted it to create something entirely its own in dance — a mournful and affecting portrait of a fractured world in desperate need of healing.

It's our world in 2023, and the broken crystal that has divided and damaged us is the climate crisis. That's made clear from the start as images of a dying natural world abound (the ecological message is enhanced by voiceover from the spoken word artist Isaiah Hull).

The film designer Ravi Deepres conjures up a magical Linbury stage where immersive digital technology places us underwater swimming with fish, or gazing up into a forest, or floating in outer space (Lucy Carter's lighting is pure genius). Through costumes and head pieces, Alex Box and Philip Delamore bring us the fantastical doomed creatures that inhabit this landscape. And hovering overhead is the eyeball in heaven that sees all.

UniVerse is a shadow of the film, not

a version of it. McGregor doesn't follow its clear plot: there are no named characters in his dance, no single embodiment of evil — the "darkening that threatens us", as the dramaturg Uzma Hameed describes it, is just out there — and no single hero (or heroine) who will save the planet.

The dancers — members of Company Wayne McGregor — represent the dangerous polarisation of society in hyperactive, attacking moves. The search for peace and salvation is revealed primarily in the symbiotic and very balletic pas de deux.

Throughout McGregor's choreography has a hypnotic flow and an expressive heft with restless limbs yearning to speak. In this he's matched by Joel Cadbury's enveloping electronic score, which immerses us in the sound of powerful feelings: alarm, sorrow, hope.

You may wonder at the strange, sometimes robotic, beings who share McGregor's colourful universe with the more recognisable humans.

However, the ending, simple yet stirring, brings us back down to earth as we know it, with the prospect of rebirth and renewal placed firmly in our hands.

To June 4, roh.org.uk

classical

Chineke!/ Selaocoe/ Keita

Royal Festival Hall

★★★☆

It's commendable and understandable that Chineke!, a predominantly minority-ethnic orchestra, should want to play a whole concert of music by African and African-heritage composers. But Friday's programme was a weird mixture. Each half began, like a warm-up, with string music written in Britain about a century ago, and sounding mostly as though it could have been composed by Vaughan Williams or Percy Grainger.

In fact the pieces — joyous, melodic and finely crafted — were by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and the much less known Fela Sowande (born in Nigeria but a lively all-round musician in 1930s London) and well worth hearing, though I wish Chineke! had polished them a bit more. There were too many raw-tuned or imprecise moments under Kazem Abdullah's direction.

But then, exhilaration. The South African cellist/composer Abel Selaocoe has become an inspirational figure in the UK, spanning many genres. Here he crossed another divide, collaborating with the Senegalese kora virtuoso Seckou Keita in a series of sung and played pieces, irresistibly exuberant and beguilingly lyrical, where it was often impossible to tell where one man's creative impulse ended and the other's started, or what was improvisatory and what composed, or even (when we all joined in on refrains) where, or if, the boundary existed between performers and audience.

Saturday's concert by the four string players of the **Manchester Collective and Sean Shibe** (Queen Elizabeth Hall, ★★★★), a superb young guitarist, was a more intimate and esoteric affair of mostly exquisite new music, exquisitely played.

I write "mostly" because David Lang's *Killer*, sending an electric guitar screeching over a thumping off-kilter bass riff, before adding the subtle thud of a fortissimo bass drum, was one of the ghastliest things I've heard this year. However, I loved Emily Hall's ravishingly textured and expansively lyrical *Our Potential Space*, Kelly Moran's memorial to a dead cellist friend, *Living Room* (with a high violin descant hovering over the ensemble like a watching wraith), and David Fennelly's ultra-refined exploration of ethereal whispers, *Rosewoods*.

Richard Morrison

and it's left to a few costumes to provide even a splash of visual variety.

There's some consolation in the singing. Justina Gringyte's dark, smoky mezzo is a good fit for Carmen's dangerous sexual chemistry, and Hyeyoun Lee sings Micaëla with attractive brightness. There's winning bluster to Phillip Rhodes's Escamillo, but Alok Kumar attacks all of José's music like a bull at a gate, which gives him very little expressive shade.

The chorus sing with energy and both the playing of the orchestra and the conducting of Dane Lam are perfectly fine; but when you're using those two words to describe *Carmen*, something has gone badly wrong.

Simon Thompson

To May 20, touring to June 17, scottishopera.org.uk

Why my brain cancer won't stop me from making music

Michael Tilson Thomas talks to Richard Morrison about conducting the LSO and the future of music

Just over a year has passed since Michael Tilson Thomas put a statement on his website that saddened music lovers the world over. The American conductor, then 77, had clearly not been well for a while, although he had just made a colossal return by doing a string of 20 concerts across America. That, he wrote, "felt like coming back to life".

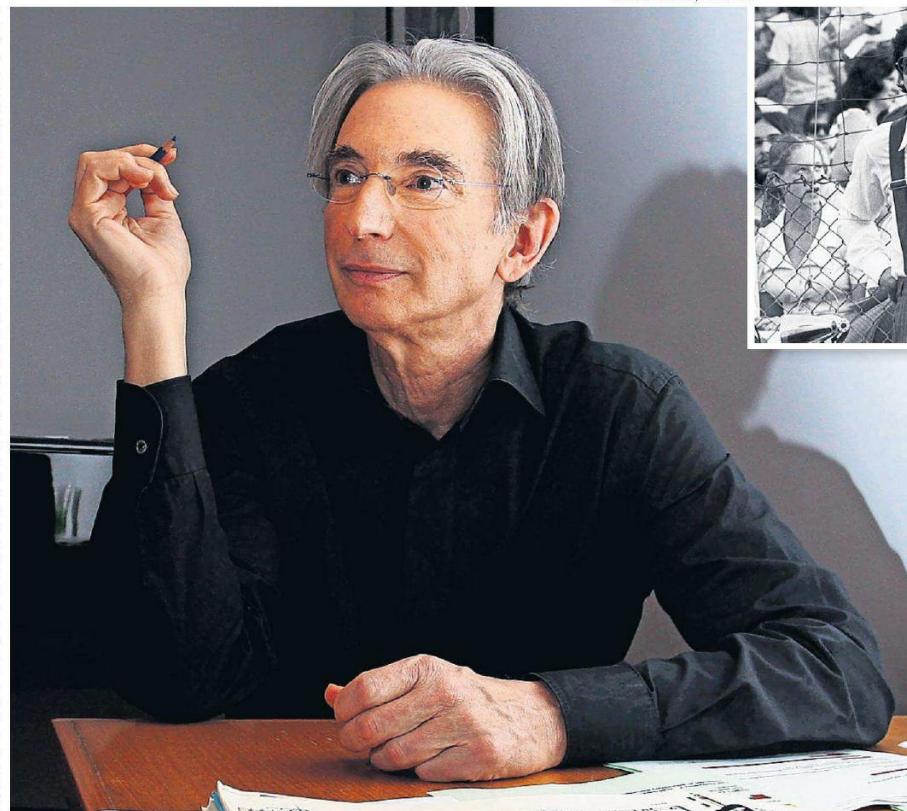
Then came the bombshell. "I have glioblastoma multiforme, a type of aggressive brain cancer," he announced. He had undergone an operation, plus radiation and chemotherapy, and the cancer was in check. "But the future is uncertain as glioblastoma is a stealthy adversary," Tilson Thomas wrote. "Its recurrence is, unfortunately, the rule rather than the exception."

No self-pity — just sombre, devastating facts. What's become clear since then, however, is that while Tilson Thomas has a breath in his body he is determined to focus on making music, training orchestras and (like his mentor, Leonard Bernstein) inspiring young performers, just as he has for the past half-century. This week, supported by Joshua Robison, his partner (now husband) for 46 years, he's coming to London for two Brahms concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, whose principal conductor he was from 1988 to 1995.

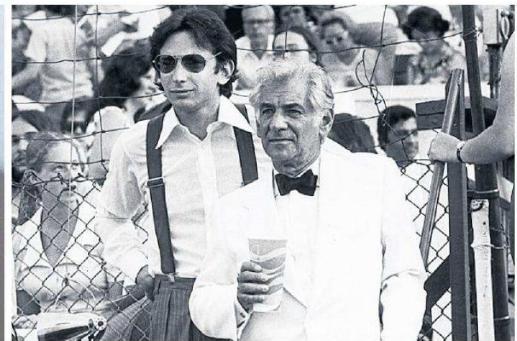
If he has dark thoughts about mortality, he's not going to reveal them to me in a Zoom call from New York. Instead he quips about his looks ("this is the debut of my radiation hair, by the way"), his doctors ("they say to me: 'The result of this medication is that you will either feel better or worse'") and a new word, "laureate", in all his job titles.

At the LSO he is "conductor laureate". At the San Francisco Symphony, where he was music director for 25 years until 2020, championing reams of new American music, he is now "music director laureate". At his other pride and joy — the New World Symphony, the Miami-based training academy for top young musicians he founded in 1987 — he has reluctantly cut his workload and become "artistic director laureate".

"My interpretation of the word 'laureate' is that I can do absolutely what I like musically without having a single administrative or fundraising



LISA MARIE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES



responsibility," he says. "It remains to be seen whether that's the case."

Because orchestras still desperately need the clout of big beasts such as MTT (as he is universally known) to fight their corner? "It's true that after the pandemic, and with these big social issues like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo affecting everything from what music you play to who you employ, the orchestral world is in a state of flux," he replies. "When orchestras ask me for advice about repertoire or which soloists and conductors to work with, I reply: 'That depends on what sort of organisation you want to be right now!'"

Is that putting off brilliant young people from entering classical music? In fact, is there a possibility that orchestras as we know them won't exist in 30 years?

Tilson Thomas laughs and simply chuckles the question back at me. "Well, you tell me. At this point in history, which do you think is the riskier career: classical music or newspaper journalism?"

"What I do find hard to get my head round is when young people I think are enormously talented, as musicians and communicators, tell me they are abandoning the idea of music as a career because they want to be influencers instead. Influencers! You know, those social media types who are perceived as cool dudes and therefore able to sell products to other people. For some reason they find that a much more attractive and lucrative

prospect than struggling to be a musician in a great international orchestra where often the first thing you have to do is submerge your personality to be accepted and fit in."

That may be the case in some orchestras, but surely Tilson Thomas's way of working is rather different. He has always seen the conductor's role as encouraging, not dictating. "I guess that's because I come from a theatrical family, not a musical one," he says. He is alluding to his grandparents, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, star performers in Manhattan's early 20th-century Yiddish theatre scene. "So very early in my life I saw that the best results were not achieved by directors who gave actors specific readings of each line. Good actors detest the 'say it like this' approach. Much better just to indicate a general direction and let them build on that. It's the same with the principal players in an orchestra."

Yet Tilson Thomas admits that age and experience make it much easier for a conductor to strike a balance between controlling everything and controlling nothing. "The problem for a young conductor doing a famous symphony with a top orchestra is that it's like a young director being hired to do *Hamlet* with great actors who have all done their parts many times before. What are you going to tell them that they haven't already thought of, already tried and probably discarded because it doesn't work?"

How did the young Tilson Thomas manage that? "Those early days were

Michael Tilson Thomas. Above right: with Leonard Bernstein, his mentor, in 1974

I find it hard when talented young people abandon music to be influencers

Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the LSO on May 17 and 21 at the Barbican (barbican.org.uk)

all about survival, so I developed some strategies," he replies. "If senior players in the orchestra queried an idea I had, I would say: 'Wasn't it Furtwängler who asked for it to be done this way?' The answer was no. I had just made it up. But they didn't know that."

One of those orchestras was the LSO, which, in the 1970s, had a ferocious reputation for chewing up conductors it didn't respect. "Of all the top orchestras in the world," Tilson Thomas says, "the LSO is the one to which I would apply that phrase 'whatever is at hand, they take care of business very quickly'. There is no request a conductor can make, however difficult or obscure, that they cannot achieve. But in those days that came with a certain impatience. They weren't keen on going on, shall we say, gentle voyages of discovery with a young conductor."

Nevertheless, Tilson Thomas and the LSO hit it off. It has been his go-to orchestra in London for almost 50 years. "Well, apart from a brief hiatus when the record companies — you remember record companies? — were playing some sort of contractual dance and I worked for a bit with the Philharmonia."

He remembers his first LSO engagement: "Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements was on the programme, and I was astounded that from the first downbeat in rehearsal the LSO played it with incredible energy and precision. I had conducted the piece elsewhere, but never encountered anything like this."

"But then we got to the last rehearsal, and suddenly it all sounded deflated and muted. So I shouted: 'Come on, guys! Let's get going!' Whereupon the LSO's principal oboist, a distinguished, very English gentleman called Roger Lord, raised his hand and said: 'Young man, would you like the performance now, or perhaps some time later this evening?' It was a lesson I've never forgotten."

The partnership is not coming to an end with these Brahms concerts. Check the LSO's brochure for the coming season and you will see that, glioblastoma notwithstanding, Tilson Thomas is down to conduct the small matter of Mahler's Third Symphony next May. "Yes," he says with a smile. "See you again in 2024."

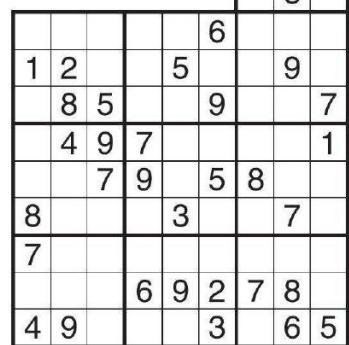
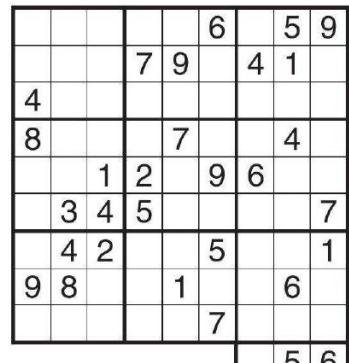
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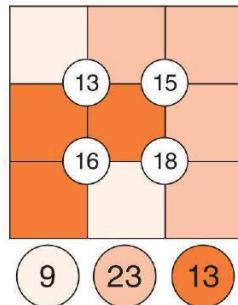
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Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.



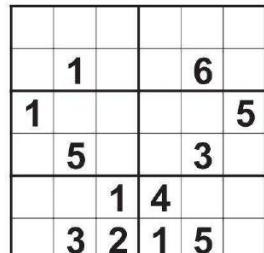
Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Mini Sudoku

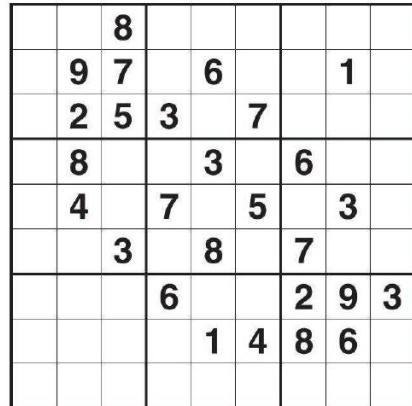
Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6



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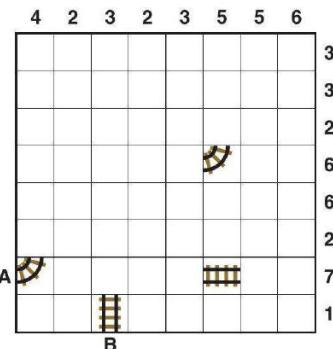
More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Sudoku super fiendish



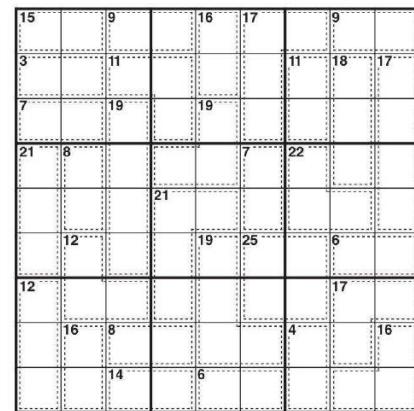
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.



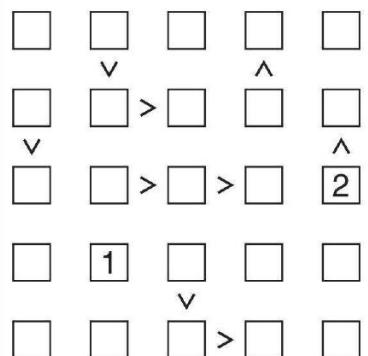
Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



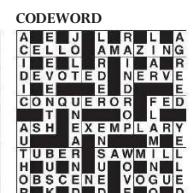
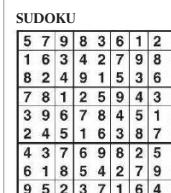
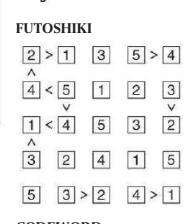
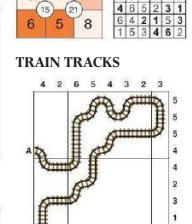
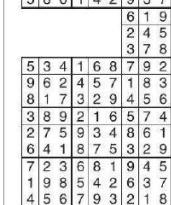
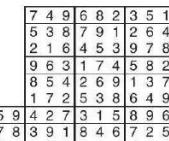
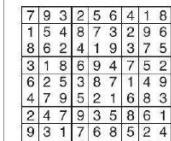
Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



Thursday's solutions

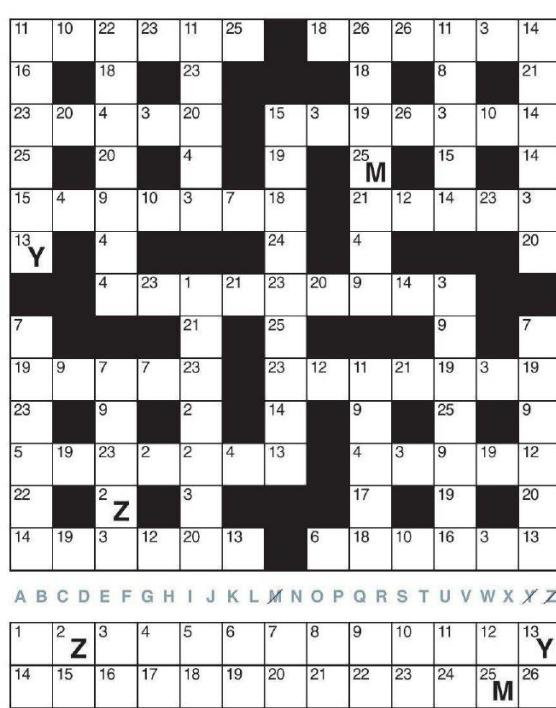
SAMURAI



Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



Strewth, there's an awful lot going on down under

Carol Midgley TV review



Ten Pound Poms

BBC1

★★★☆☆

Whatever your view of **Ten Pound Poms** — and I'll come to mine in a moment — you couldn't accuse it of being "plodding". Strewth and crikey blimey, mate. In an hour we'd seen people travel from sleety Britain to sunny Australia on a six-week journey by ship, be put in what looked like a prison camp, get jobs, have fights, make friends, suffer prejudice, stand up against racism and accidentally kill an "Abo kid" while drunk in a car. Then drive away.

We'd also seen Michelle Keegan, playing Kate, dump her fiancé at a

dockside hotel to sail alone, start work as a nurse in a hospital near Sydney, then put on stockings (obviously) to seduce an immigration official so that she could steal his keys and take what I presumed to be the file of a child who was forcibly "adopted" to Australia, as thousands of children in care scandalously were in postwar Britain. The plot was busier than a cheap stair carpet. And there are five episodes to go. Some streaming platforms would have wrung a ten-part series out of part one alone.

But is it any good? It's certainly very watchable, and the subject matter is excellent — the real experience of working-class British families who were promised the sunlit uplands of a new life in Australia to help to populate the country but found things weren't quite as advertised.

Warren Brow and Faye Marsay are strong as war-traumatised, hard-drinking Terry and his wife, Annie, from Stockport, who up sticks to take their children to a new life ("Fresh start," Terry says, squeezing his wife's hand in the taxi, as only people in TV dramas do). Although was I the only one who thought Annie looked barely older than her teenage daughter, played by Hattie Cook?

The hostility with which many were greeted in Australia ("Coming over here, taking our jobs") and the fact



Michelle Keegan as Kate, a nurse searching Australia for a child

that Terry has to do the back-breaking hole-digging that no one else wants to do is a nice flip on the similar prejudice we have seen in this country. "You have blacks in Britain don't you?" growls psycho Dean. "Well over here, you're the black." It is a horrible, menacing moment, but David Field puts in a great, scene-stealing performance as Dean, a man who is as violent a kick-off merchant as he is a racist.

I doubt that Annie would have been quite so shocked and bewildered as she was made out to be when an Aboriginal woman was humiliated and forced to go to the back of a queue in a department store. Coming from 1950s Britain? It's not as if she'd not have witnessed racism. But she gets over her outrage pretty quickly when she is given the chance to work at the store.

I do think this drama is trying to do too much. The story of Kate trying to find what I assume is her child, whisked off to some Australian orphanage as part of the "white stock" export plan, deserves a series to itself, as anyone who has seen *Oranges and Sunshine*, the film about the scandal, will know. It shouldn't be a slightly theatrical derring-do side-plot in which Kate must break into buildings and pretend to be knocked over by a bike. This is a decent production, but less is so often more.

Radio choice

Ben Dowell



The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece

Radio 4, 10.45pm

The actor and all-round nice guy Tom Hanks, above, is quite a keen wordsmith. In 2017 *Uncommon Type*, his collection of short stories, was published, and his first novel is Radio 4's book at bedtime. It is written in the voice of Joe Shaw, a film journalist who has been commissioned by a director to chart the making of his latest project, and the book is essentially Hanks's take on the business, good and bad. On the ugly side is the film's ghastly star OK Bailey, who fails to meet Hanks's chief rule for being a performer: just turn up on time.

Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rossi Wright with Early Breakfast
6.00 Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast
10.00 Matt Chorley 100pm Afternoons on Times Radio
3.00 Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Live discussion of the day's news
5.00 John Pierna with Times Radio Drive. Analysis of the day's news
7.00 Pierna and Friends
8.00 The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay
10.00 Carole Walker
1.00am Stories of Our Times
1.30 Red Box
2.00 Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am Gary Davies' 9.30 Vernon Kay
10.00 Jeremy Vine 2.00pm Scott Mills 4.00
Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wover 7.00 Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whiley 9.00 The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. Cerys chats to the musician, actor, author and songwriter Guy Davis ahead of his UK tour
10.00 DJ Spooky's Magnificent 7
10.30 DJ Spooky's Magnificent 7
12.00 OJ Borg 2.30am One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg
3.00 Tracks of My Years 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3

FM: 90.2-94.2 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
 Classical breakfast show. Including 7.00, 8.00 News, 7.30, 8.30 News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
 Georgia Mann presents a selection of music and features, with new discoveries, musical surprises and plenty of familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
 Donald Macleod explores the composer's ballets with Royal Ballet artistic director Monica Mason and choreographer Matthew Bourne, beginning with his first — *Swan Lake*. Tchaikovsky (*Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 2 excerpt; *The Seasons* — June Barcarolle, Op 37 No 6; *No Reply, No Word, No Greeting — Six Romances*, Op 28 No 5; String Quartet No 3, Op 30, Allegretto vivo e scherzando; *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 2 excerpt; *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 3 excerpt; and *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 4 excerpt)
1.00pm Radio Live 3 Lunchtime Concert
 Hannah French presents from London's Wigmore Hall with the violinist Alina Ibragimova and the pianist Cédric Tiberghien. Schumann (*Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor*, Op 105; *Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor*, Op 121)

2.00 Afternoon Concert

Penny Gore begins a week of programmes featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Belfast's Ulster Hall, starting with Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. Plus, a new recording of Gershwin's *An American in Paris* by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Daniel Harding conducting the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and part of a concert of Strozi given by the Hathor Consort in Antwerp in February. Couperin (*Passacaille*, from *L'Espagnole, deuxième ordre des Nations*); Gershwin (*An American in Paris*); Schumann (*Overture to Manfred*, Op. 115, after Byron); Antheil (*Trumpet Sonata*); Beethoven (*Symphony no.4 in B flat major*, Op.60); Strozi (*L'Amante modesto* Op.113'; *Merce di voi*, Op.1'; *Lagrime me*, Op.74'; *Al battitor de bronzo*, Op.118; *Begli occhi*, Op.39; *L'Eradico amoroso*, Op.214); and Dvorak (*The Wild Dove*, Op.110).

4.30 New Generation Artists
 The mezzo Ema Nikolovska and the viola player Timothy Ridout perform works by Brahms, while the violinist Johan Dalene and the pianist Nicola Elmer play Rautavaara's *Notturno e danza*

5.00 In Tune
 With violinist Esther Yoo

7.00 Classical Mixtape
 In a week of specially curated episodes for Mental Health Awareness Week, Petroc Trelawny shares music he has turned to in times of trouble

7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
 Fiona Talkington introduces a concert from the 2022 Salzburg Festival with Maxime Pascal conducting the SWR Symphony Orchestra in Honegger's oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake* with Irène Jacob (spoken role: Jeanne d'Arc) and Jérôme Kircher (spoken role: Frère Dominique); Honegger (Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher — Joan of Arc at the Stake)

9.00 Ultimate Calm
 Olafur Arnalds shares soothing songs inspired by water, including pieces by Joanna Brouk, Lisa Lerkenfeldt and Ravel. Plus, Mary Anne Hobbs' Safe Haven pick

10.00 Music Matters
 Tom Services chats to the singer and multi-instrumentalist Rhianon Giddens, and also talks to the baritone Christian Gerhaher during rehearsals for Berg's *Wozzeck* (r)

10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots
 Edmund de Waal explores the influence of Hans Coper on his work (r)

11.00 Night Tracks
 A soundtrack for late-night listening

12.30am Through the Night (r)

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
 News headlines and analysis
9.00 Start the Week
 Adam Rutherford leads a discussion on the ethics of banking (r)
9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police
 By Matt Lloyd-Rose (1/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
 Nuala McGovern presents the programme offering a female perspective on the world
11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor
 Jordan Dunbar's investigation into the murder of gay police officer Darren Bradshaw brings him to the killing itself — a Friday night in a Belfast nightclub that ended in tragedy (4/6)
4.30 New Generation Artists
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12.30am Through the Night (r)

9.30 Start the Week

Adam Rutherford leads a discussion on the ethics of banking (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
 Tom Hanks reads his debut novel about the making of a star-studded action film over the course of 75 years, starting with a boy who immortalises his dead uncle in comic-book form. *See Radio Choice* (1/10)

11.00 Word of Mouth
 Vocabulary and language (6/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night: A Year with the Police (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
 1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra

Digital only
8.00am Round the Horne 8.30 Dry Slopes
9.00 The Write Stuff 9.30 Double Income, No Kids Yet 10.00 Dangerous Samples
11.00 Peeler 11.30 Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag 12.00 Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine 12.15pm Young Victoria 12.30 Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar 1.00 Round the Horne 1.30 Dry Slopes 2.00 The Write Stuff 2.30 Double Income, No Kids Yet 3.00 Dangerous Samples 4.00 Peeler 4.30 Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag 5.00 Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine 5.15 Young Victoria 5.30 Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar 6.00 Round the Horne 6.30 Dry Slopes 7.00 The Write Stuff. With crime writer Mark Billingham and journalist Jane Thynne 7.30 Double Income, No Kids Yet. By David Spicer. First aired in 2003 8.00 Radiolab. Jad Abumrad and the Radiolab team investigate a strange world 8.55 Inheritance Tracks. Welsh actor Michael Sheen chooses two songs with special meaning for him 9.00 Mastertapes. The Waterboys' album *Fisherman's Blues* 9.30 A Gathering Light. Thriller, by Jennifer Donnelly 9.45 The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson 10.00 Comedy Club: Just a Minute. With Paul Merton, Sharapak Khorsandi, Daliso Chaponda and Heidi Regan 10.30 And Now in Colour. Comedy sketches with Tim Firth. From 1990 11.00 The News Quiz. With Susie McCabe, Ian Smith and Anushka Aktsana 11.30 The Skivers. Featuring dolphins and Sue Lawley's secret

Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money 6.00 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1.00pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 10.00 Nick Bright 1.00am Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
 MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast 6.00 talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods 10.00 Jim White and Simon Jordan 1.00pm Hawksbee and Jacobs 4.00 talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off 8.00)
10.00 Sports Bar 1.00am Extra Time

TalkRadio

Digital only
5.00am James Max 6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show 10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham 1.00pm Ian Collins 4.00 Vanessa Feltz 7.00 Jeremy Kyle 8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored 9.00 The Talk 10.00 Tom Newton Dunn 11.00 Petrie Hobson 1.00am Paul Ross

6 Music

Digital only
5.00am Chris Hawkins 7.30 Lauren Laverne 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00pm Craig Charles 4.00 Steve Lamacq 7.00 Marc Riley 9.00 Deb Grant 12.00 Nick Cave: In Their Own Words 1.00am Nick Cave and the Birthday Party — Peel Sessions 2.00 Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds at Glastonbury 3.00 Nick Cave at 6 Music and Radio 2 4.00 The Nick Cave Playlist

Virgin Radio

Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch 10.00 Eddy Temple-Morris 1.00pm Jayne Middlemiss 4.00 Ricky Wilson 7.00 Bam 10.00 Amy Voce 1.00am Sean Goldsmith 4.00 Steve Denyer

Classic FM
 FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast 9.00 Alexander Armstrong 12.00 Anne-Marie Minihall 4.00pm Margherita Taylor 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 10.00 Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents 1.00am Sam Pitts 4.00 Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide

Ben Dowell

Steeltown Murders

BBC1, 9pm

It's summer 1973 in Port Talbot, South Wales, and a girl called Sandra Newton has been murdered. Local detectives suspect her

boyfriend to be the culprit and are focusing their energies on intimidating him. It's a familiarly grim entrée into the 1970s world of whisky faces, leather coats and questionable values that stands in sharp contrast to scenes set in the early 2000s. Here, DCI Paul Bethell (played by Philip Glenister) in a neat reversal of his

Seventies cop thug in *Life on Mars*) washes his face after seeing glimpses of his old Seventies self (played by Scott Arthur) when the case was live. When the case is reopened, latter-day Bethell is naturally keen to help. Sandra's killer had never been found and there appears to be evidence that he also murdered two other

girls, Geraldine Hughes and Pauline Floyd. The complexity and sensitivity of the real events depicted presents a tough assignment for the scriptwriter Ed Whitmore (who wrote the true crime series *Manhunt*) but he does a good job. As this is a case where DNA breakthroughs were crucial, he needs to be

a sharp technician. Whitmore also has a keen eye for the contrasting values of the two time periods and his approach feels compassionate towards the families of the victims. Under Marc Evans's direction it is also a stunningly visual experience, the green Welsh hills offering a stark contrast to the grimy townscapes.

Succession

Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

After last week's savagely intense row with Shiv, it's finally election day for the Wambangs man. He's exhausted, his fired predecessor Cyd is spreading poison about him "like a cobra with an iPhone", and the polling is agonisingly

poised. If the Democrat Daniel Jiménez wins, the Matsson deal goes through and Shiv is happy. Kendall and Roman are scheming for the Republican candidate Jerry Mencken, who has promised to block the GoJo deal. Not unlike ATN's election night coverage, it makes for another gripping night of television.

Early

6.00am Breakfast 9.15 Rip Off Britain. New series. The new boss of one of the country's biggest energy firms talks customer service 10.00 Frontline Fightback. New series. A couple catch three masked men trying to steal a catalytic converter 10.45 Defenders UK. An 80-year-old woman is tricked out of an estimated £50,000 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD) 12.15pm Bargain Hunt (AD) 1.00 BBC News at One: Weather 1.30 BBC Regional News; Weather 1.45 Doctors. Luca turns to unusual methods to help a patient (AD) 2.15 Money for Nothing. New series. Sarah Moore presents the show from Wallyford Recycling Centre 3.00 Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah is house-hunting in Norfolk for a buyer who wants to establish holiday lets and also rehoms dogs in need 3.45 The Bidding Room (r) 4.30 The Repair Shop. Jay Blades and the team restore a precious diary all the way from Bangladesh, a handmade leather apron and a toy monkey in need of rejuvenation (r) (AD) 5.15 Pointless. Quiz in which contestants try to score the fewest points possible by giving the least obvious correct answer to questions (r) 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2

6.45am Bargain Hunt (r) (AD) 7.30 Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (r) 8.00 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Cornwall (r) (AD, SL) 8.30 Designing the Hebrides (r) (AD, SL) 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 BBC News 12.15pm Politics Live 1.00 Impossible (r) 1.45 Eggheads (r) 2.15 Eat Well for Less? (r) (AD) 3.15 Secret Britain. Ellie Harrison, Chris Hollins and Denise Lewis explore the Lake District, one of England's most popular national parks, where they find out about the area's dark and illicit past (r) (AD) 4.15 Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. Ten aspiring designers compete to get their big break in the world of commercial interior design, beginning by transforming upmarket rental apartments in Manchester (r) (AD) 5.15 Flog It! Catherine Southon and James Lewis are at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, where a Chinese wall plaque catches James's eye, and Paul Martin explores the history of the building (r) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games. Nabil Abdulrahid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part in a series of games (r) 6.30 Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. The newsreader heads to the medieval Tuscan town of Barga, where more than half the locals have Scottish connections

ITV1

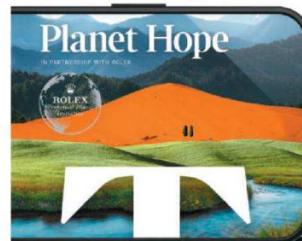
6.00am Good Morning Britain. Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features 9.00 Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly 10.00 This Morning. A mix of interviews, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather 12.30pm Loose Women. Interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective 1.30 ITV News: Weather 1.55 Regional News; Weather 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Aerospace Bristol, where Mark Stevens hits a slight problem when he tries to buy a pair of luxury watches (r) (AD) 3.00 Tenable. Family team the Mancunian Jacks take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) 4.00 Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot 5.00 The Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts as four more contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers 6.00 Regional News; Weather 6.30 ITV News; Weather

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) 6.45 Cheers (r) 7.35 The King of Queens (r) (AD) 8.25 Frazier (r) (AD) 9.55 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) (AD) 10.55 Couples Come Dine with Me (r) 11.55 Channel 4 News Summary 12.00 Steph's Packed Lunch 2.10pm Countdown 3.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. In Almería, mother-and-son duo Sharon and Shaun Garner catch up with a couple, who back in 2019 wanted to swap their UK life for Spanish inland country views (r) 4.00 A Place in the Sun. Jean Johansson travels to Spain's southern Costa Blanca to help a former NHS midwife and a brewery worker find the perfect property where they can spend their retirement 5.00 Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Norwich find shooes in their bread oven, and a pair's dream of buying a hamlet in Normandy is in jeopardy when their house sale falls through (r) 6.00 The Simpsons. Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed, so she appoints Homer as a figurehead (r) (AD) 6.30 Hollyoaks. Sam is determined to do whatever it takes to help his girlfriend Zoe's career, and Sally makes a decision about what to do with the McQueen's leftover winnings (r) (AD)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with phone-ins and viewers' correspondence 11.15 Storm Huntley. New series. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories 12.15pm Alexis Conran. New series. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions on them 1.40 5 News at Lunchtime 1.45 Home and Away. Justin goes into protective father mode. Theo makes a desperate play to get a hold of Ava, and John turns his ire on Mali (r) (AD) 2.15 FILM: A Date With Deceit (12, TVM, 2023) A woman recently released from prison tries to prove her innocence by tracking down her ex-husband, who framed her for fraud. Thriller starring Hannah Jane McMurray 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. After investing in the refurbishment of their Spanish bar, a pair face uncertain times when it is forced to close because of Covid-19 restrictions (r) 5.00 5 News at 5 6.00 Eggheads. The Blaggards take on the regular quiz experts (r) 6.30 Eggheads. Airedale Terriers take part in the quiz show (r) 6.55 5 News Update



Planet Hope: A new podcast

In our new podcast series, Planet Hope, Environment Editor Adam Vaughan meets the experts finding solutions for our changing planet.

7PM

7.00 The One Show Live chat and topical reports, presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas
7.30 EastEnders The bailiffs come for the Slaters, and Elaine and Linda deal with the fallout of The Vic break-in (AD)

8PM

8.00 Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama Investigating private clinics offering adults assessment for ADHD. See *Viewing Guide*
8.30 Scam Interceptors Ethical hackers hunt down cyber criminals (5/10) (r)

9PM

9.00 Steeltown Murders New series. DCI Paul Bethell tries to piece together a past that has haunted both him and a community for almost 30 years. Crime drama starring Philip Glenister. See *Viewing Guide* (1/4) (AD)

10PM

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather
10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Diane Morgan hosts an extended edition of the current affairs quiz with comedian Desree Burch and journalist Matt Chorley joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (5/10)

11PM

11.25 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The nine remaining contestants create looks for Sephora's "Express all of you" beauty campaign (2/8) (r)

Late

12.30am-6.00 BBC News

7.00 Digging for Britain Alice Roberts visits more archaeological sites around the country, with digs in southern England revealing a previously unknown Roman town, a Tudor ship buried beneath a quarry and evidence of Henry VIII's financial forgery under the Tower of London (1/6) (r) (AD)

8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers Paul Murton explores the lower reaches of the Spey (3/6)

8.30 University Challenge The first of the semi-finals as two teams of four students battle it out in an effort to progress to the grand final

9.00 The Stones and Brian Jones The director Nick Broomfield examines the life and legacy of the founder member of the Rolling Stones, looking at the relationships and rivalries within the band in their formative years. See *Viewing Guide*

10.30 Newsnight Victoria Derbyshire presents analysis of the day's events

11.15 Colette (15, 2018) A woman is persuaded to write up her semi-autobiographical tales, which become a sensation when published under her husband's name. Biopic starring Keira Knightley and Dominic West. See *Viewing Guide*

1.00am Sign Zone: Countryfile Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor revisit the New Forest to catch up with the communities who have come together to help Ukrainian refugees (r) (SL) 1.55-2.55 Reunion Hotel. A woman thanks the fundraisers who helped her child to walk. Last in the series (r) (AD, SL)

7.30 Emmerdale Mack is shamed as Moira pieces his months of lies together, and Kim is on board with Caleb's plan to convince Moira to sell Butlers (AD)

8.00 Coronation Street Amy tells Mia she was raped by Aaron, but her warning backfires. Elsewhere, Daniel urges Daisy to tell Ryan the truth about Crystal. David visits Max and quizzes him about his mental state (AD)

9.00 Without Sin New series. A woman meets the man imprisoned for the murder of her daughter as part of the Restorative Justice programme. Psychological thriller starring Vicki McClure. See *Viewing Guide* (1/4) (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News
10.45 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera A selection of extraordinary eyewitness footage, including the dramatic moment a man in danger of being swept over a steep waterfall is rescued from an icy river (r) (AD)

11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r)

1.15am Teleshopping 3.00 Alison Hammond in at the Rich End: The Riviera. The presenter is on a mission to find out what makes the super-rich tick as she samples eye-watering opulence first hand (r) (AD, SL) 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05-6.00 Made in Britain. Learning about the UK's finest pool tables (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4 News

8.00 Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country Sarah and Graham discover a whole load of odd antiques and family heirlooms, which they use to transform their downstairs cloakroom into a Victorian cupboard of curiosities (5/7) (AD)

9.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics New series. An air ambulance is dispatched to the island of Mull, where a 23-year-old rally driver has rolled his car down a 20-foot embankment. Plus, a coastguard helicopter flies to a remote sea loch to rescue a woman who has fallen down a waterfall (AD)

10.00 First Dates A woman whose exes tend to marry someone else soon after the break-up is paired with a wedding photographer in search of a picture-perfect love of his own, while a former youth Olympic trampolinist from Essex fears his ginger hair is holding him back (AD)

11.05 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson hosts as a movie buff and professional online gamer from Camberley and a 28-year-old from Cheltenham search for their perfect matches (r) (AD)

1.20am 999: On the Front Line (r) 1.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) 1.55 Couples Come Dine with Me (r) 2.45 Grand Designs (r) (AD, SL) 3.40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) (AD, SL) 4.35 Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) (AD) 5.00 Jamie's Comfort Food (r) 5.15-6.05 Moneybags (r)

7.00 Traffic Cops An officer attends a fatal collision involving a motorcycle and a car, where he and a colleague secure the site for crash investigators, who try to find out what happened (6/11) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police Interceptors New series. Officers pursue a vehicle with obscured number plates and it speeds the wrong way down the A46, while a disqualified driver dons a unique disguise

9.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Officers are on the tail of thieves who have stolen more than £5,000 worth of luxury goods from a Cheshire shop and the dramatic chase takes them into Manchester city centre at rush hour (7/10)

10.00 Ambulance: Code Red A major accident leaves a driver trapped in his car after it went out of control, smashed into a wall and flipped sideways onto a driveway, requiring all of the emergency services (r)

11.05 999: Critical Condition A 26-year-old man is rushed into hospital following a car crash and has a potentially life-threatening aortic tear, while a university student is brought in to have a tumour removed (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) 1.00 Teleshopping 3.00 Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) (3.50 GPS: Behind Closed Doors (r) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) 5.05 House Doctor (r) (SL) 5.30 Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) 5.40 Pip and Posy (r) (SL) 5.45-6.00 Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

television & radio

Panorama

BBC1, 8pm

With a sharp increase in the number of adults who think they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the NHS has been overwhelmed by patients looking for a diagnosis, and thousands have turned to private clinics for assessment. In *False*

Diagnosis: The ADHD Scandal, the reporter Rory Carson poses as a patient to reveal how some clinics charge large fees for a short online consultation, and finds evidence suggesting that almost every patient is diagnosed. The programme also exposes clinics that are prescribing drugs without proper checks.

The Stones and Brian Jones

BBC2, 9pm

Brian Jones, the handsome founder member of the Rolling Stones, drowned in a swimming pool in 1969, three weeks after leaving the band. A gentle young man, some of his bandmates always had an inkling that he wouldn't make

old bones and Nick Broomfield's personal and thoughtful *Arena* film suggests he was possibly too sensitive for the rock star life. As well as interviews with all the main players and freshly unearthed archive footage, it starts with photos of Jones in his childhood and ends with a heartbreaking letter from his father.

Without Sin

ITV1, 9pm

A scheduled TV airing of a four-part drama starring *Line of Duty's* Vicky McClure that has already been on the catch-up service ITVX. McClure plays Stella, a woman contacted from prison by Charles Stone (Johnny Harris), the man she believes murdered her 14-year-

old daughter three years previously. Stone wants her to visit him and, after much agonising, she heads to the prison expecting to meet a man keen on atoning for his terrible actions. However, what he has to say turns her life upside down all over again and fires the starting gun on an absorbing and surprising story.

Film Colette

BBC2, 11.15pm

Keira Knightley stars in the story of the novelist Colette's liberating journey away from a controlling man, the "literary entrepreneur" Henry Gauthier-Villars (Dominic West), who colonises her talents. The performances are uniformly just fine. (15, 2018)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) 8.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) 9.00 Quantum Leap (r) 10.00 The Flash (r) 11.00 NCIS: New Orleans (r) 1.00pm Hawaii Five-0 (r) 2.00 MacGyver (r) 3.00 Quantum Leap (r) 4.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) 5.00 The Flash (r) 6.00 Stargate SG-1, Sci-fi drama (r) 7.00 Stargate SG-1, The Goa'uld try to enslave a planet for the second time (r) 8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles, The team assists the cold case homicide unit (r) 9.00 Bel-Air, Will alienates himself from the basketball team (2/10) (r) 10.00 Rob & Romesh team GB: Part 1, The comedians try their hand at weightlifting, hockey and slalom canoe (r) (AD) 11.00 Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 2, The comedians try pigeon shooting (r) (AD) 12.00 The Force: North East, Real life crime documentary (r) 1.00am Road Wars (r) 12.25am Billions (r) 1.30 Catherine the Great (r) 12.35 Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 3.40 In Treatment (r) 4.00 Urban Secrets (r) 4.00 MacGyver (r) 5.00 Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Urban Secrets (r) 7.55 The Wire (r) 10.05 True Blood (r) 12.15pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 1.20 Ray Donovan (r) (AD) 3.30 The Wire (r) 5.45 True Blood (r) 6.50 True Blood, Bill worries about what the future might hold for Sookie (r) 7.55 Game of Thrones, Margayre and her grandmother encourage Sansa to speak freely about Joffrey, and Arya encounters outlaw group the Brotherhood Without Banners (r) (AD) 9.00 Succession, Drama about a dysfunctional media dynasty starring Jeremy Strong and Sarah Snook. See *Viewing Guide* (8/10) (r) 10.10 Patrick Melrose, Patrick attends his mother's funeral as he tries to put the ghosts of the past to rest (5/5) (r) (AD) 11.20 Billions, Under pressure to make progress and with his case stalled, Chuck develops a new strategy (4/12) (r) (AD) 12.25am Billions (r) 1.30 Catherine the Great (r) 12.35 Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 3.40 In Treatment (r) 4.00 Urban Secrets (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am Harrow: A Very British School (r) (AD) 7.00 Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD) 8.00 The Directors (r) 9.00 The Sixties (r) (AD) 9.50 Hillary (r) (AD) 11.00 Escobar by Escobar (r) 12.00 FILM: Breslin and Hamill — *Deadline Artists* (12, 2018) 2.00pm FILM: *Bully, Coward, Victim, The Story of Roy Cohn* (PG, 2019) The controversial life of high profile New York broker Roy Cohn 4.00 The Directors (r) 5.00 Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD) 6.00 The Sixties (r) (AD) 6.50 Hillary (r) (AD) 8.00 Escobar by Escobar (1/4) (r) 9.00 FILM: Robin Williams — *Come Inside My Mind* (12, 2018) An intimate portrait of the comedian and actor (AD) 11.20 The Man Who Played with Fire (1/4) (r) 12.20am FILM: *I Am Evidence* (PG, 2017) Documentary, directed by Trish Adesic and Geeta Gandharv (AD) 2.10 Dan Carter: A Perfect 10 (r) (AD) 4.00 The Directors (r) 5.00 Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Janine and the 12 Stradivari 7.10 A John Williams Celebration: LA Opening Gala 2014 9.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 11.00 Discovering: Steve McQueen (AD) 12.00 David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Arts 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 2.00 Reinventing the Orchestra with Charles Hazlewood 3.00 The Directors (AD) 4.00 Discovering: Maureen O'Hara (AD) 5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 7.00 Pavarotti: The Duets — The Best of Pavarotti and Friends, Collaborations 8.35 André Rieu: Live at the Royal Albert Hall, The acclaimed violinist performs a programme including *Vocalis of Spring, Vienna Blood and The Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss II 10.25 HMS Pinafore with ENO 12.35am Punchdrunk: Behind the Mask: The story of the theatre company 1.35 Jack Be Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland 2.45 Why Do We Dance? 4.00 The South Bank Show 5.00 Auction 11.00 Sky Sports News

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News 7.00 Good Morning Sports Fans, Including news and views on today's early stories and a look at the back pages 10.00 The Football Show, A look at all the major stories making the football headlines 11.30 Ref Watch, The Sky Sports team looks back over some of the big refereeing decisions 12.00 The Football Show 1.00pm Sky Sports News 3.00 Live Indian Premier League: Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad, Coverage of the T20 match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad 6.30 Live MNF: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off 8.00), Coverage of the Premier League clash from King Power Stadium, as the home side face a tough test in their quest to stay in the top flight, The reverse fixture at the end of December finished in a 2-1 defeat for the Foxes. Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored a fourth-minute opener, but defender Wout Faes scored two own goals in the space of seven first-half minutes to give Liverpool the three points 11.00 Sky Sports News

T AUDIO

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland

As BBC1 except 6.55pm-7.00 Party Election Broadcast By Sinn Féin (r) 8.00 Family Footsteps 8.30-9.00 Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama, See *Viewing Guide* 10.40 Bikes! NW20, Highlights of the North West 200 11.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You 12.25am Glow Up, Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) 1.25-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Scotland

As BBC1 except 8.30pm-9.00 Scotland's Home of the Year 11.25 Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) 12.10am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) 1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.15-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Wales

As BBC1 except: 8.00pm Weatherman Walking 8.30-9.00 Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama, See *Viewing Guide*

ITV1 Wales

As ITV1 except: 10.45pm-11.40 Sharp End

STV

As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News 10.40 Scotland Tonight 11.05 The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe: The Real Story, Documentary about John Darwin, who died in a canoeing accident (r) (AD) 12.00-3.00am Teleshopping 3.50-5.05 Night Vision

UTV

As ITV1 except: 6.25pm-6.30 Party Election Broadcast, By Sinn Féin 10.45-11.40 View from Stormont, Political developments

BBC Scotland

2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) 2.30 Sign Zone: Landward (r) 3.00-4.00 Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) (AD) 7.00 Sportscene: SWPL Highlights 7.45 Sportscene Goals+ 8.00 Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) (AD) 9.00 Designing the Hebrides (AD) 11.00 Jules and Greg's Wild Swim (r) 11.30-12.00 Best of Chewin' the Fat (r)

BBC Alba

6.00am Alba Today 5.00pm Treubh an Tuathainas (Big Barn Farm) (r) 5.15 Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) 5.25 AH-AH-No 5.35 Pip & Posy 5.40 Meaban is Muo 5.50 Pisieg & Ceileann/Kit & Pop (r) 5.55 Stóiridh (r) 6.00 Port Páipeir (r) 6.15 A' Chúil (r) 6.20 Bogaisne/Balmarlin/Bottersnikes and Gumble 6.35 Na Dana-thairg aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) 7.00 An t-Eilean (From Skye with Love) (r) 7.30 SpeakGaelic (r) 8.00 An Lá (News 8.30) Gáráid Phádraig (r) 9.00 Trusadai (Compelling Stories) (r) 10.00 Cuimh/Celtic (r) 10.30 Gaigisch sin Glinn (r) 11.30 Seòid a' Chidsin — The Kitchen Coves (r) 12.00-6.00am Alba Today

S4C

6.00am Cyw: Blocio Rhif (r) 6.05 Haliball (r) 6.15 Twt (r) 6.30 Da 'Di Dona (r) 6.40 Jen a Jim Bob Dim (r) 6.55 Caru an Stori (r) 7.05 Tomos a' Ffrindau 7.20 Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) 7.30 Patról Pallenau (r) 7.45 Byd Tac-Dú (r) 8.00 Bing (r) 8.10 Cymraeglaibachyn (r) 8.20 Siw (r) 8.35 Nico Nôr (r) 8.45 Ffwr Fach (r) 9.00 Timro (r) 9.10 Cel Bach (r) 9.25 Ein Bach Ni (r) 9.35 Eleru yn Mynd i Oddio (r) 9.45 Ydnewid Mawr (r) 10.00 Blocio Rhif (r) 10.05 Haliball (r) 10.15 Twt (r) 10.30 Da 'Di Dona (r) 10.40 Jen a Jim Bob Dim (r) 10.55 Caru an Stori (r) 11.05 Tomos a' Ffrindau (r) 11.20 Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) 11.30 Patról Pallenau (r) 11.45 Byd Tac-Dú (r) 12.00 News: Weather 10.05pm Dim Bwyd i'w Wisgo (r) 12.30 Heno (r) 1.00 Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) 1.30 Saïn Ffagan (r) (AD) 2.00 News: Weather 2.05 Prynwahn Da 3.00 News: Weather 3.05 Ffit Cymru (r) 4.00 Avar Favur: Timpo (r) 4.10 Tomos a' Ffrindau (r) 4.20 Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) 4.30 Bleo yn Mynd i Oddio (r) 4.45 Siglidiwt (r) 5.00 Stewson: Angelo an Byth (r) 5.35 Lego DREAMzzz 5.55 Ffelin 6.00 Pobol y Penrhynys (r) 6.30 Round a Rownd (r) (AD) 6.57 News 7.00 Heno 7.30 News: Weather 8.00 Cyrry a Gynfas 8.25 Garddio a Mwy 8.55 News: Weather 9.00 Ffermio 9.30 Rafin+ 10.00 Dan o' (r) 10.30-11.35 Jason Mohammed: Stadymau'r Byd (r)

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LISTEN NOW



TalkTV

6.00am James Max, An initial insight into the day's top stories 6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show, A look over all the big stories to start the day 10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham, The host looks through the morning newspapers 1.00pm Ian Collins, Hard-hitting monologues, debates and dedicated time for viewers' calls 4.00 Vanessa Feltz, The big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz 7.00 Jeremy Kyle, The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter 8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored, The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews 9.00 The Talk, A panel of famous faces debate the latest topics everybody is talking about 10.00 First Edition, Taking an energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers 11.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored 12.00 Petrie Hosken, Bringing the best and latest news stories overnight 1.00am Jeremy Kyle Live 2.00 Vanessa Feltz 3.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored 4.00 The Talk 5.00 James Max, An initial insight into the day's top stories

BBC4

7.00pm Paul Merson: A Walk Through My Life, The football pundit and former Arsenal and England midfielder walks through North Yorkshire, reflecting on his life, career and faith 8.00 Mindful Escapes: Breathe, Release, Restore, Why breathing is so important to becoming still and being in the moment (1/4) 8.30 Life of a Mountain: A Year on Helvellyn, Documentary capturing a year in the life of the Lake District's most popular peak, featuring insights from those that live by, care for and visit the mountain 10.00 The Sky at Night, The team explores the threat of an asteroid impact on Earth and meet space scientists who are developing methods of defence that sound like the stuff of sci-fi 10.30 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway, Part one of following the final stages of the construction of London's Crossrail 11.30 Building Britain's Biggest Nuclear Power Station, The challenges involved with building the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (1/2) 12.30am H2O: The Molecule That Made Us 1.25 Novels That Shaped Our World 2.25-3.25 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: What a Whopper! (PG, 1961) Comedy starring Adam Faith (b/w) 7.45 FILM: The Wedding of Lili Marlene (U, 1953) Drama sequel starring Lisa Daniely (b/w) 9.30 FILM: Two on the Tiles (PG, 1951) Comedy starring Herbert Lom (b/w) 11.00 FILM: The Spaniard's Curse (U, 1958) Thriller starring Tony Wright (b/w) 12.35pm FILM: Night Boat to Dublin (PG, 1946) Second World War spy thriller starring Robert Newton (b/w) 2.30 Crown Court 3.00 FILM: SOS Pacific (PG, 1959) Adventure with Richard Attenborough (b/w) 4.45 FILM: Dangerous Cargo (PG, 1954) Crime drama starring Jack Watling (b/w) 6.00 The Footage Detectives 7.00 The Champions 8.00 The Main Chance 9.00 FILM: Strange Days (18, 1995) Sci-fi thriller starring Ralph Fiennes 11.50 Secret Army 12.55am Crown Court 2.25 FILM: Ladyhawke (PG, 1985) Medieval fantasy adventure starring Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer 4.50 The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre

Film4

11.00am Texas Lady (U, 1955) Western starring Claudette Colbert 12.45pm FILM: Ministry of Fear (PG, 1944) Spy thriller starring Ray Milland (b/w) 2.30 Three Hours to Kill (PG, 1954) Western starring Dana Andrews 4.05 The Quiet Man (U, 1952) Romantic comedy drama with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara 4.45 The Devil Wears Prada (PG, 2006) Comedy drama starring Meryl Streep (AD) 9.00 Jojo Rabbit (12, 2019) During the Second World War, a lonely German boy discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic, Comedy starring Roman Griffin Davis and Thomasin McKenzie (AD) 11.10 Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (12, 2016) A boy investigates a mystery left by his grandfather, and comes across a house with children with special powers, Fantasy adventure starring Eva Green, Asa Butterfield and Samuel L Jackson (AD) 1.45am-4.00 Catch Me Daddy (15, 2014) A Pakistani girl runs away from home to be with her British boyfriend — a move that enrages her father, who sends her brother to find her, Thriller starring Samiha Jabeen Ahmed

More4

8.55am Kirstie's House of Craft 9.15 A Place in the Sun 10.05 A New Life in the Sun 11.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) 1.10pm Heir Hunters 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Come Dine with Me: The Professionals, The Cloak and Dagger kicks off a week's competition from Bristol 6.55 Escape to the Chateau: DIY (AD) 7.55 Grand Designs, A couple disagree over plans for a home in their garden (3/10) (AD) 9.00 Car SOS, Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 1992 VW Corrado (AD) 10.00 Inside Bentley, A great British Motor Car, Documentary going behind the scenes at the car company's plant as work gets underway on a range of 4x4s, From the factory floor to the world's most exclusive car showroom (AD) 11.20 4am in A&E, Cameras follow a 54-year-old, who arrives at St George's Hospital with symptoms of a suspected stroke, and a 76-year-old turns up in A&E with a severe head injury (9/9) (AD) 12.05am Car SOS, Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 1992 VW Corrado (AD) 1.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown 2.05 24 Hours in A&E (AD) 3.10-3.40 A Place in the Sun

ITV4

6.00am Hot Shots 6.05 Minder (AD) 7.05 The Professionals (AD, SL) 8.10 The Champions 9.15 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) 10.30 Magnum, PI 11.35 The Champions 12.35pm The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) 1.50 Giant Lobster Hunters 2.50 Magnum, PI 3.50 The Professionals (AD) 4.45 Minder (AD) 6.00 Premiership Rugby Union Highlights, David Flatman and Topsy Ojo present action from the semi-finals, as the line-up for the Grand Final on May 27 was confirmed (r) 6.55 BattleBots 8.00 MotoGP Highlights, The Grand Prix de France, Action from the fifth round of the season 9.00 FILM: Collateral Damage (15, 2002) Action thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Francesca Neri (AD) 11.15 FILM: The Rock (15, 1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men, Action thriller with Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage (AD) 12.00am The Lime of Beauty 2.30 Classic Holby City (SL) 4.00 TeleShopping

Drama

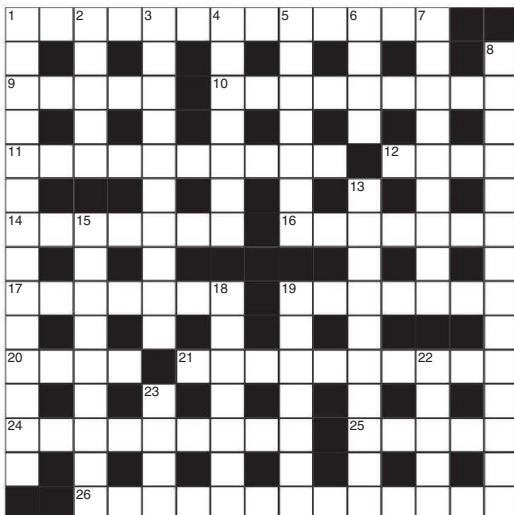
6.00am TeleShopping 7.25 Birds of a Feather 7.55 May to December 8.35 To the Manor Born 9.15 Classic Holby City 10.35 Casualty 11.40 The Bill 12.40pm Classic EastEnders 2.00 Tenko 3.00 Lovejoy 4.10 Peak Practice 5.20 May to December 6.00 To the Manor Born 6.40 Last of the Summer Wine, Compo, Clegg and Truly meet a woman with mystical powers 8.00 Jonathan Creek, Feature-length special, A dead body impossibly vanishes from a locked study — but the mysteries do not end there for Jonathan and Joey (AD) 10.00 New Tricks, The establishment of a new Ucos section takes Gerry and Steve to Glasgow, where they assist the investigation into the 1993 unsolved murder of a bookie (9/10) (AD) 11.20 Silent Witness, Ross suggests a link between a strangled woman and another unsolved murder, while a sceptical Sam is deeply disturbed by a previous case (AD) 1.20am The Lime of Beauty 2.30 Classic Holby City (SL) 4.00 TeleShopping

Yesterday

6.10am The Living Universe 8.00 Abandoned Engineering (AD) 9.00 World War Weird 10.00 World War Two From Above 11.00 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam 12.30 Great British Railway Journeys 2.00pm Bangers and Cash, The development of the steamship (5/6) 7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam (4/6) 7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam, The development of the steamship (5/6) 8.00 How To Build A Motor Car, A look at how the Morgan Plus Six sports car is hand-built 9.00 Abandoned Engineering, New series, Air Studios, on the Island of Montserrat, that became a mecca for rock legends (AD) 10.00 Bangers and Cash, A restored delights buyers with its 1966 Sunbeam Rapier, and Sarah shaves a shine to a caravan (2/10) 11.00 Abandoned Engineering, Examining a ghost island once belonging to a secretive country on Europe's fringes (2/11) (AD) 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00am The Living Universe 3.00 TeleShopping

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 181



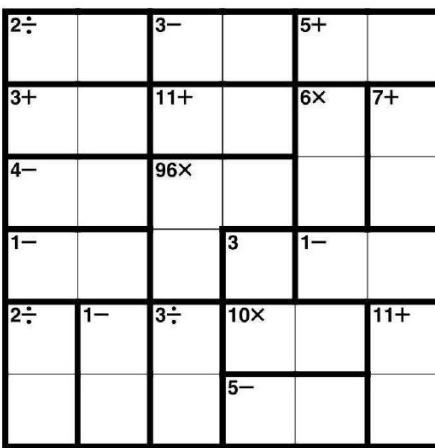
Across

- 1 Hollywood director who played himself in *Sunset Boulevard* (5,17)
 2 Fruit whose juice is used to make a sidecar cocktail (5)
 3 Felt tip creating a thick line of ink (6,3)
 4 Kitchen utensil often wielded by Andy Capp's wife, Flo (7,3)
 5 Rodent with water, bank and field species (4)
 6 Conveyance traditionally pulled by huskies (7)
 7 Island upon which Cristiano Ronaldo was born (7)
 8 Fruits yielded by plants in the genus Musa (7)
 9 Evergreen shrub producing tight clusters of red or white berries (7)
 10 Large wide-mouthed jug (4)
 11 Entertainment apparently featuring trained insects (4,6)

Last week's solution

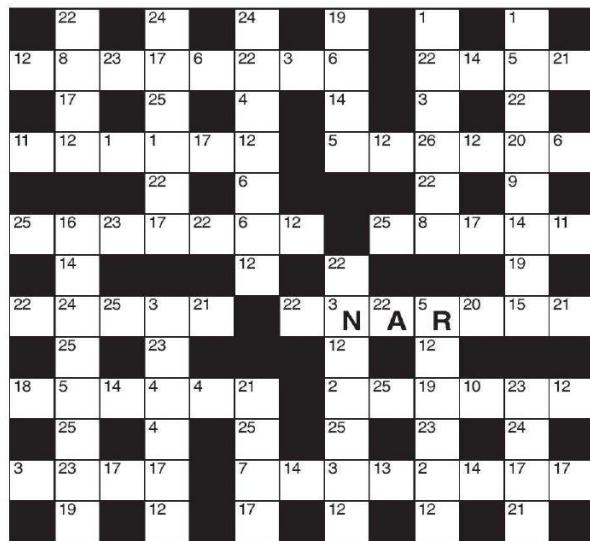
P	E	T	R	O	L	E	U	M	C	L	E	G	G
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A	L	E	P	G	E	S	T	A	N	T	A	N	T
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D	E	V	I	L	W	E	R	S	P	R	A	D	A
E	L	A	Y	O	L	L	E	G					
R	O	N	M	O	D	Y	I	N	D	I	G	O	
I	G	S	W	S	C	G	C	H	E	O	P	S	
C	H	E	O	P	S	D	I	M	B	L	E	B	Y
E	R	R	B	N	U	W	E	R	D	A	N	T	
C	O	S	M	O	G	D	O	N	L	A	G	N	
A	D	T	W	R	L	E	A	K	R	K	E	U	
K	A	M	P	U	C	H	E	A	R	K	I	N	
E	O	C	A	R	K	E	U	S	A	D	A	T	
S	A	D	A	T	M	U	D	G	U	G	A	R	D

KenKen Easy No 5893



All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line 'block', the target number in the top-left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Codeword No 4901



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

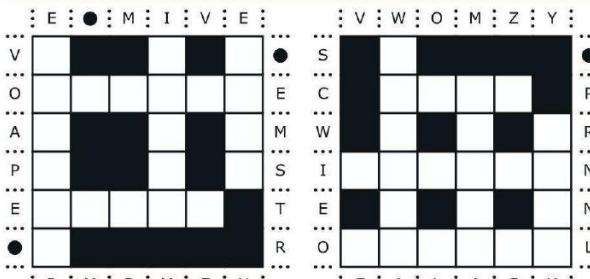
1	2	3	N	4	5	R	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

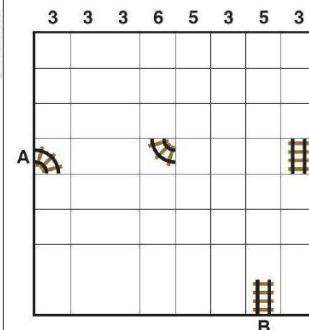
Lexica No 6871

No 6872



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1937



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The 1 track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Shoots game (5)

2 Consider carefully method announced (5)

3 Help in class is terrific (6)

4 Ignore foggy district (6)

5 View of expert opposite (4,2,4)

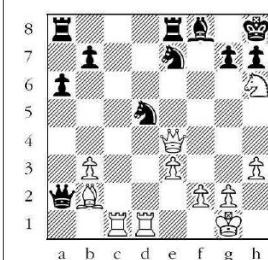
A	A	A	A	C	C	D	E
E	E	E	F	F	G	G	H
I	I	I	N	O	O	R	R
S	S	S	S	T	T	T	W

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thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

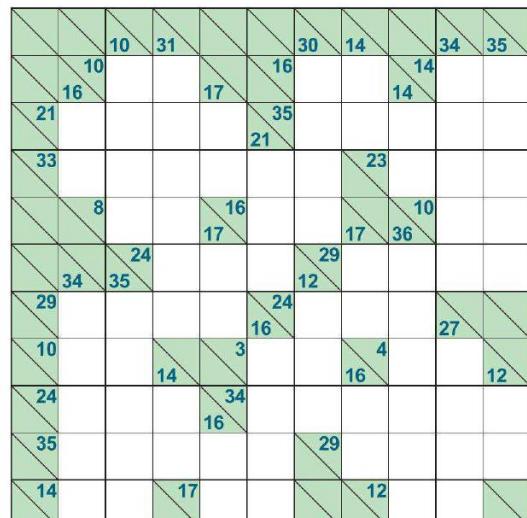
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is from Wei Yi-Fiorito, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2023.

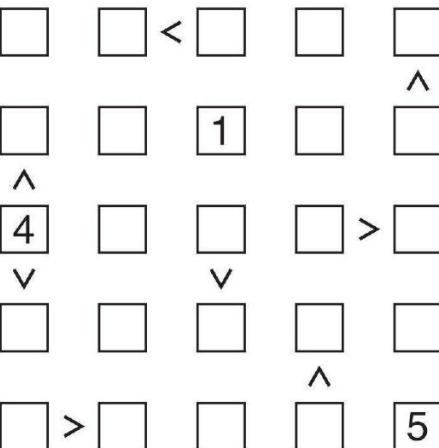
Although White is a piece down, the black kingside feels very exposed. White's bishop and knight are very threatening and the black queen has gone walkabout. How can White finish off?

Kakuro No 3435



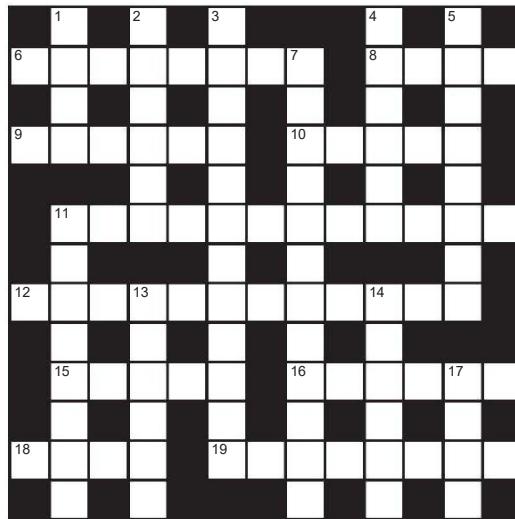
Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

Futoshiki No 4476



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

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MindGames**times2 Crossword No 9217****Across**

- 6 Bedspread (8)
8 Slightly open (4)
9 One concerned with trivial points of detail (6)
10 Located away from the edge (5)
11 Sophisticated discernment (12)
- 12 Gratitude (12)
15 Thrust oneself suddenly forwards (5)
16 Politely ask (to attend) (6)
18 Cosy (4)
19 Lower jawbone (8)

Down

- 1 Tedious person; drill (4)
2 French city home to a famed motor-racing circuit (2,4)
3 Rich dairy product (7,5)
4 Artillery weapon (6)
5 Body of troops guarding a town (8)
7 Troubles, adversity (12)
11 Overthrowing, deposing (8)
13 Go back on a promise or deal (6)
14 To no avail (2,4)
17 Road charge (4)

Solution to Crossword 9216

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

The 4th European Winter Games in Tignes went off with a bang three weeks ago (yes, very late winter). This was the very first board out of the blocks.

West led the king of spades v 4♦ doubled (no lead works better). Declarer won dummy's ace and led a heart to the king. Judging from East's penalty double that he held the three remaining hearts (all winners), declarer abandoned hearts.

At trick three, declarer ruffed a club. He then crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a second club. He cashed the king-queen of diamonds discarding two more clubs, and in this position, led the jack of diamonds.

Contract: 4♦ Dbl, Opening Lead: ♠ K

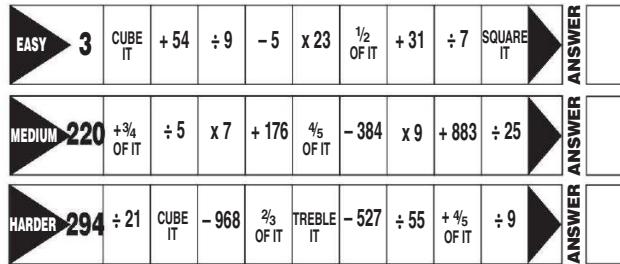
♠	6		
♥	Q107		
♦	J5 (J led)		
♣	-		

♠	QJ107	N	AJ9
♥	-	W	E
♦	10	S	-
♣	A	9843	KQJ

If East ruffed (with the nine), declarer would discard his last club. East would then be end-played; if he cashed the ace of hearts, he would sacrifice his third natural trump trick; if he led a club, declarer could ruff in his hand and shed dummy's spade.

East chose to discard on that jack of diamonds, declarer throwing his last club (he didn't have to). Declarer then led the last diamond. East discarded again (ruffing no better for the reasons above).

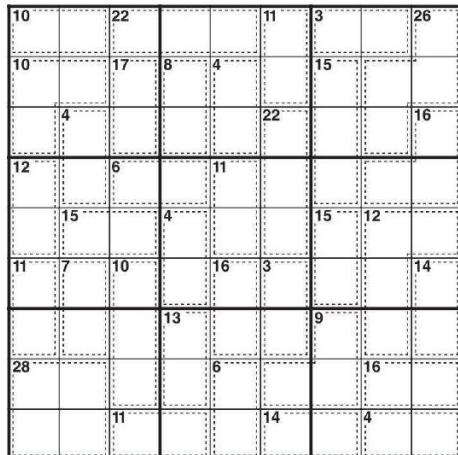
With the first nine tricks in the

Brain Trainer**Polygon**

From these letters, make words of three or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. How you rate 15 words, average; 20, good; 23, very good; 27, excellent

Saturday's answers

bedel, belie, bewilder, bewildered, biled, birl, bleed, bleeder, bridle, dele, deli, diel, dreidel, dreidl, edible, elder, elide, elided, idle, idler, leer, lewd, lied, lwei, rebel, riddle, reel, riddle, riel, rile, weld, welder, widdle, wield, wielder, wild, wilder, wile

Killer Gentle No 8875**Solutions****Quick Cryptic 2394**

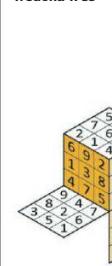
BATTLE GEDDARS
YHO LLSH
EARLUUFF ICHOR
BETAGEE
YEAR UNBIASED
EDPLTB
SPIRALLED
ACREDIT MOON
LHNNEACW
BLISS SALIERI
MELLEY ASCEND

Codeword 4900

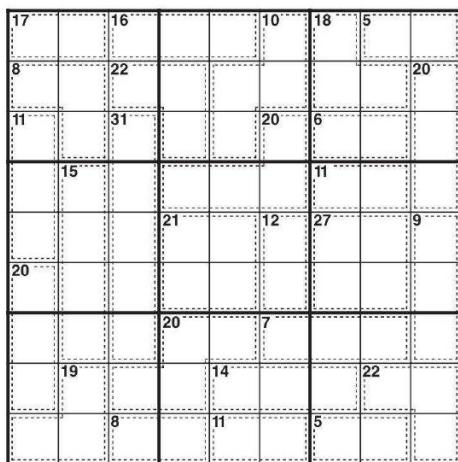
UNAFRAID TROT
SQONSAE
UVULA JUKEBOX
RANUMLIBT
PUTTGRAFFITI
VICTIMPLACE
ESGEM
HATCHWAY SPOT
IEFTOA
CONJURE ROSIN
ECHO BULLDOZE

Kakuro 3434

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

Treduku 1785**Square Routes 218**

O	R	A	N
C	I	L	E
U	H	T	B
K	C	I	B
M	A	R	E

Killer Tricky No 8876**Cell Blocks 4783**

14	2	3	
			4
			2
			4

Futoshiki 4475

4	2	<	3	1	5
2	1	4	5	>	3
1	<	3	5	2	4
3	5	>	2	<	4
3	4	>	1	3	>

KenKen 5892

4	1	3	4	5	6	2
4	1	2	3	5	6	1
5	6	3	1	2	4	
3	2	5	1	6	4	3
6	4	5	2	3	1	
3	2	6	4	1	5	

Sudoku 14,040

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

Killer 8874

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

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram	Cryptic Quintagram
1 Fried	1 Darts
2 Space	2 Weigh
3 Freeze	3 Assist
4 Breath	4 Region
5 Deep-seated	5 Face to face

Suko 3802

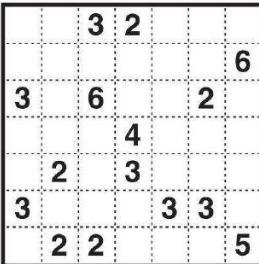
6	5	2	1	4	3	7	8	9
3	1	2	4	5	6	7	9	8
7	15	12	14	19	21	20	22	16
8	7	9	10	11	13	17	18	1

Brain Trainer

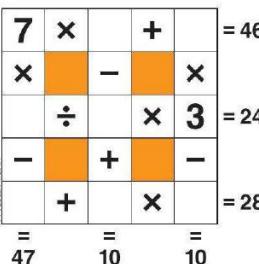
Easy L21
Medium I03
Harder II

Quiz

1 French 2 Horses 3 Trees and shrubs 4 Philips
5 George V 6 Vladimir Lenin
7 RMS Carpathia 8 Cream
9 Lenny Henry 10 Philip Roth II International Chamber of Commerce
12 Duke London
13 Gurde Loyal 14 Félix Auger-Aliassime
15 Ha'penny Bridge. It opened in 1816

Cell Blocks No 4784

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3438

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

THE TIMES | Monday May 15 2023

MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch

David Parfitt

Myella

a A wine of the French-German border
b A Danish cream cheese
c Long fine strands of pasta

Grith

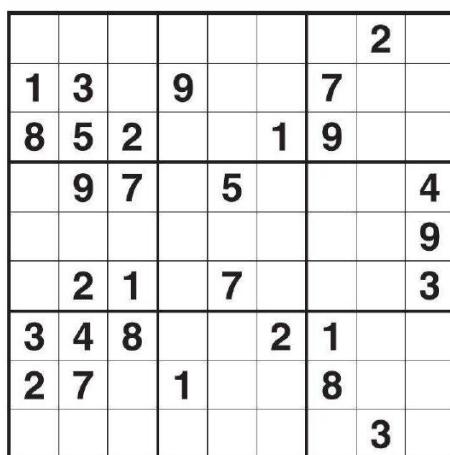
a A sanctuary
b Determination
c Circumference

Ben trovato

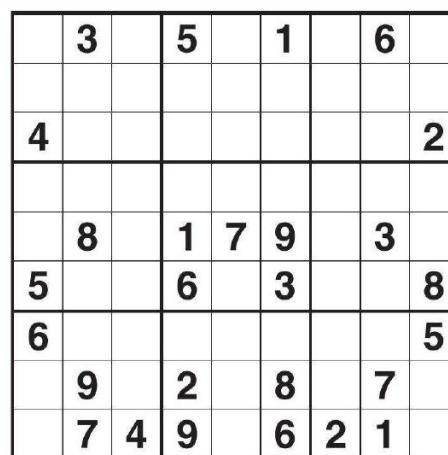
a (Of a story) apt but untrue
b To be performed in a lively manner
c A Mediterranean tuber

Answers on page 15

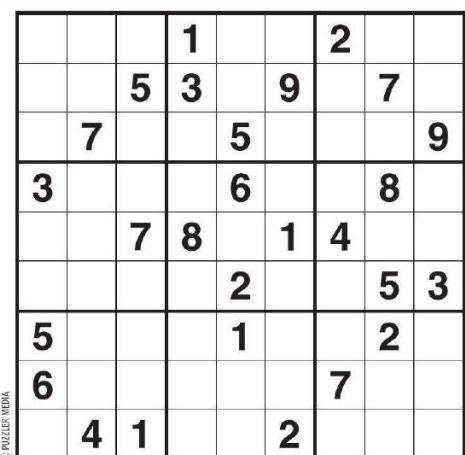
Sudoku Easy No 14,041



Difficult No 14,042



Fiendish No 14,043



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

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The Times Daily Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Since 1974, what has been the only official language in the Canadian province of Quebec?

2 Manège is the art of training and riding which animals?

3 An arborist is a specialist in the care and maintenance of which plants?

4 Which Dutch technology company produces OneBlade, a device for styling facial hair?

5 The dish jubilee chicken was created in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of which king?

6 Which leader of the Soviet Union wrote the



15

CHRIS HEPBURN/GETTY IMAGES

11 Which US lobbying group is the world's largest business organisation?

12 Which British shoe manufacturer and retailer was founded in 1992 by Daniel Rubin?

13 *Mother Tongue: Flavours of a Second Generation* (2023) is which British food writer's debut book?

14 Which Montreal-born tennis player was voted the Canadian Press male athlete of the year for 2022?

15 Sharing its name with an old coin, which pedestrian bridge on the Liffey is pictured?

Answers on page 15

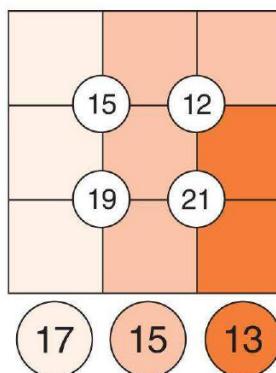
9 A one-man show about the Windrush scandal, *August in England* is which comedian's playwriting debut?

10

The Marvelous Mrs Maisel's final season reveals that Midge almost married which real-life US novelist?

book *The State and Revolution* in 1917?
7 Built in Wallsend, which Cunard steamship rescued 706 survivors from Titanic's lifeboats?
8 *I Feel Free* (1966) and *White Room* (1969) are singles by which British rock trio?

Suko No 3802



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

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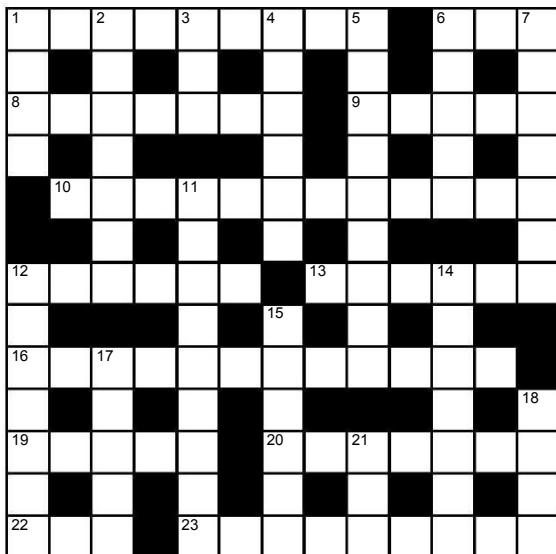
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be drinkaware.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2395 by Jalna



Across

- Organise travels around quiet country (9)
- Trade union beginning to manipulate corporation (3)
- Parrot — red in colour — living primarily in Los Angeles (7)
- Arcadian God welcomes each hymn of praise (5)
- It provides cool surroundings for rare tiger, possibly (12)
- Pick out a collection of books with nice cover (6)
- Flashy equipment given to school (6)
- Wife has terrible cooked snack (5,7)
- Mistake admitted by retiring juror, regrettably (5)
- Salesperson back clutching the ultimate dressing! (7)
- Festival taking place in June, ideally (3)
- The planes deployed as jumbos? (9)

Friday's solution on page 15

Down

- Father is upset and extremely rude (4)
- Developing plan to finish mountain climb (7)
- From time to time, lad idly creates trouble (3)
- Fruit closer to pomelo variety (6)
- Old forward is with energy and skill (9)
- Social media post is pretty fanatical at heart (5)
- Leader concerned with blocking demonstration (7)
- People run in socks? You can bet on it! (9)
- Two presents unable to be found? (7)
- Cheese from list collected by young boy (7)
- Small, adequate specimen (6)
- City once surrounded by light was attractive (5)
- Flower is seen around Rhode Island (4)
- Remains quiet after arguing at first (3)