



Camilla Tominey Boris Johnson, the King and what really went wrong

Features



The Daily Telegraph

BRITAIN'S BEST QUALITY NEWSPAPER

Trump sexually assaulted writer, US jury finds

Rape claim against former president is rejected by civil jury but he must pay \$5m in damages to victim

By Susie Coen in New York
and Nick Allen in Washington

DONALD TRUMP sexually abused the magazine writer E Jean Carroll, a jury decided last night, ordering the former US president to pay her \$5 million in damages.

However, the civil jury in New York rejected the writer's claim that Mr Trump raped her.

It was another legal setback for the former US president as he seeks the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

Responding to the verdict on his Truth Social app, Mr Trump said: "I have absolutely no idea who this woman is." He said the jury's ruling was a "disgrace" and called it "the greatest witch hunt of all time".

He later added: "Very unfair trial!"

Ms Carroll, 79, bowed her head and nodded when the decision was read while holding hands with her lawyer. She smiled as she left court, later saying in a statement: "I filed this lawsuit against Donald Trump to clear my name and to get my life back."

"Today, the world finally knows the truth. This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed."

The nine-member jury in Manhattan federal court rejected Mr Trump's denial that he assaulted Ms Carroll and ruled in her favour. To find him liable, the jury of six men and three women was required to reach a unanimous verdict, which they did in less than three

hours. Mr Trump was told to pay \$2 million (£1.58 million) in damages for sexual abuse, and \$3 million for defamation.

Joe Tacopina, Mr Trump's lawyer, said his client would appeal against the "perplexing and "inconsistent" verdict.

He said: "This was a rape case all along and the jury rejected that."

He said Mr Trump was "firm in his belief, as many people are, that he cannot get a fair trial in New York City, based on the jury pool. He's strong, he's ready to move forward, he wants to fight this on appeal."

Ms Carroll claimed Mr Trump, 76, raped her in a Bergdorf Goodman department store dressing room in Manhattan in either 1995 or 1996.

She argued that he damaged her reputation by writing in a post on Truth Social that her claims were a "complete con job," "a hoax" and "a lie".

Jurors were asked to decide whether Mr Trump raped, sexually abused or forcibly touched Ms Carroll. They decided on a preponderance of the evidence" that he sexually abused her.

The trial featured evidence from two other women who claimed Mr Trump sexually assaulted them decades ago.

Natasha Stoyanoff, a former *People* magazine reporter, told jurors Mr Trump cornered her at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida in 2005 and forcibly kissed her for "few minutes" until a butler interrupted. Jessica Leeds testified that Mr Trump groped her and put his hand up her skirt on a flight in 1979.

Mr Trump's campaign spokesman called it a "bogus case", saying it was "a political endeavour targeting President Trump because he is now an overwhelming front-runner to be once again elected President of the United States."

Report: Page 2

Blues and royals



The Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family welcomed guests to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party yesterday in recognition of their public service and charity work. The Princess wore a blue dress by Elie Saab with a matching hat. Report: Page 3

School leavers can work as doctors without earning degree

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

SCHOOL leavers will be able to start working as doctors without going to university, under NHS plans to fix the staffing crisis.

The apprenticeship scheme could allow one in 10 doctors to start work without a traditional medical degree, with on-the-job training straight after their A-levels. A third of nurses are also expected to be trained under the "radical new approach".

It is the centrepiece of a long-delayed NHS workforce strategy, following warnings that staff shortages in England could reach 500,000 without action to find new ways to train and recruit health workers.

Amanda Pritchard, the head of the NHS, said: "This radical new approach could see tens of thousands of school-leavers becoming doctors and nurses or other key healthcare roles, after being trained on the job over the next 25 years."

Highlighting 124,000 health service vacancies in England, she said the forthcoming plan offered a "once-in-a-generation opportunity to put the NHS on a

'This plan offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put the NHS on a sustainable footing'

sustainable footing". Normally, doctors' training involves five years at medical school, with annual tuition fees of about £10,000, before students begin work on the wards on a starting salary of about £29,000.

Health officials said the "medical doctor degree apprenticeship" involves the same training and standards as traditional education routes, including a medical degree, and all the requirements of the General Medical Council.

Candidates will be expected to have similar A-level results to those required for medical school.

The key difference with such models is that apprentice medics will be put on the wards almost immediately, working under supervision, while being paid.

NHS officials said that exact requirements will be drawn up by universities and employers, with the first medical degree apprenticeship due to launch this autumn.

Under the five-year scheme, which will have 200 places over two years, apprentices will study alongside their work, allowing them to "put newly acquired knowledge and skills into practice immediately".

Existing nursing apprenticeships, which allow recruits to earn on the job during a four-year training course, are expected to be expanded

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE

Puzzles	16
Obituaries	25
TV listings	27
Weather	29

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NEWS

Ministers to overhaul EU working time law

Ministers are considering major reforms to the EU Working Time Directive in an attempt to save businesses £1 billion a year and to take advantage of Brexit. The law caps the amount of time most people can work in a week to 48 hours on average, including overtime. The Department for Business and Trade is looking at removing the requirement on firms to record the number of hours each staff member works. It says the change would not compromise workers' rights.

Page 2

MATT



Hmm... let's try a gin and tonic and see if there's any improvement.

NEWS

Starmer refuses to rule out Lib Dem coalition

Sir Keir Starmer refused seven times to rule out a deal with the Lib Dems if his party fails to win a majority at the next general election. The Labour leader insisted he was "going for an outright majority" but declined to say if he would do a deal with Sir Ed Davey on several occasions during an interview with Sky News. Instead he repeated his pledge never to enter into a coalition with the SNP because he had a "fundamental difference" with the party over Scottish independence.

SPORT

City dream still alive

De Bruyne goal leaves Champions League tie in balance

Page 1



BUSINESS

Small banks targeted to prevent new crisis

Banking start-ups and building societies risk being forced to set aside hundreds of millions of pounds of customers' money under plans to shield taxpayers if there is a financial crisis. The Bank of England is considering new rules that would saddle challenger banks with extra costs to try to ensure depositors can be paid quickly should a lender go bust. Industry sources are concerned that the proposals would stifle competition and even force some banks to close.

Page 17



ARE YOU TUNED INTO INFLATION?

As 2023 progresses, many investors find themselves at an inflection point, with the quality of their future bond investment returns likely to be affected by the course of inflation and economic growth. Despite this, there is limited consensus on how things might play out. At Jupiter, we have a range of actively managed fixed income funds, designed with the aim to meet your investment needs, each of which might be expected to perform differently under a variety of scenarios. To find out more about our fixed income capabilities, visit jupiteram.com/inflation

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News

Working time law reform to save £1bn

EU directive is a hindrance despite Brexit and harms competitiveness, say MPs as they consider changes

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

MINISTERS are considering major reforms to the EU's controversial working time directive as they attempt to save businesses more than £1billion a year and to take advantage of post-Brexit freedoms.

The law, adopted by the UK when it was a member of the EU, limits the number of hours most people can work each week to 48, on average, including overtime.

The Department for Business and Trade is examining the possibility of

removing the requirement for firms to record the number of hours worked by every employee.

They say the change would not compromise workers' rights and believe the reduction in red tape would reduce collective business overheads by more than £1billion per year.

A government spokesman said: "This Government has no intention of abandoning our strong record on workers' rights, which are amongst the [best] in the world."

"The Retained EU Law Bill will make sure that the UK's rules and regulations best serve the interests of the country, as a whole, and support workers and businesses to build a thriving economy."

Kemi Badenoch, the Business Secretary, is looking at more than 4,000 pieces of EU legislation that remain on the UK's statute book even though it

'Change won't compromise workers' rights - but could save businesses more than £1billion per year'

left the bloc on Jan 31 2020. She hopes to remove about 800 of them by the end of the year, and many more in years to come.

The Retained EU Law Bill before Parliament is expected to be amended to hand ministers the power to remove further EU-era laws beyond the end of this year, if deemed necessary.

The working time directive, which came into force in Britain in 1998, has long been unpopular with employers who claim that it harms the UK's productivity because it prevents them paying people to work additional hours when they secure a series of larger than

usual orders. It has also been blamed for making it extremely hard for the NHS to reduce patient waiting times and make inroads into waiting lists that swelled during the pandemic.

Employees can choose to opt out of the restriction on their working hours, if they fulfil roles in the emergency services, for example.

Exceptions include people working in roles where 24-hour staffing is required, or if they are in the police, armed forces or security and surveillance sectors.

Others include people working as domestic servants in private households, or as seafarers, sea-fishermen or workers on vessels on inland waterways.

Employees such as executives and other people who have control over their decisions are not bound by the rules as their working time is not

measured and they are in control of it.

Other employees allowed to opt out of the 48-hour maximum working week include airline staff, those who work on ships or boats, delivery drivers, bus conductors and security guards.

Their employers are permitted to ask them to opt out of it, but employees cannot be sacked or treated unfairly for refusing to do so.

Trade unions have warned that scrapping the working time directive in its entirety could lead to more workplace accidents and reduce employee wellbeing.

The regulations also enshrine in law the right to 28 days paid leave per year, including bank holidays, and 'rest breaks', with employers mandated to provide at least a 20-minute uninterrupted break during a working day of six hours or more.

NEWS BULLETIN

Police face no action over Bulley disclosures

Lancashire police will face no action over its disclosure of missing mother Nicola Bulley's personal information.

Campaign groups and MPs voiced their disapproval after police elected to put elements of the 45-year-old's private life into the public domain during the search - including her struggles with alcohol and perimenopause.

The force came under heavy criticism after Ms Bulley's body was pulled from the River Wyre in Lancashire on Feb 19, more than three weeks after she was last seen on Jan 27.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct also said its investigation into an officer's contact with Ms Bulley prior to her disappearance identified two areas of learning.

Expelled Tory MP Bridgen joins Reclaim

Andrew Bridgen is joining the anti-woke Reclaim Party after being expelled by the Tories for claiming Covid vaccines were the "biggest crime against humanity since the Holocaust", *The Daily Telegraph* understands. The move, expected to be announced today, would give the actor Laurence Fox's party its first MP in the House of Commons.

Mr Bridgen was stripped of the Conservative whip and forced to sit as an independent in January after Jewish groups demanded action over his "unconscionable" remarks.

The party confirmed last month that he had been formally kicked out on April 12 following the recommendation of a disciplinary panel. He had been given 28 days to appeal.

Rare Spice Girls demo shared illegally online

A rare recording of previously unheard demos by the Spice Girls has been shared illegally online.

The album, featuring the songs *Woman, Too Hot and Go, Go*, was advertised for sale on eBay and reached bids of up to £7,100 before being pulled from the site.

More than 80 people entered the bidding war for the record produced around the time the band released *Forever* in 2000. The tracks have since been shared online. Members of the Spice Girls have previously said their unreleased studio sessions were not good enough to be shared with fans.

"It is unclear how someone got hold of this vinyl but they shouldn't sell it," a source told *The Sun*. "The contents should never have been made public."

Fines for failure to monitor sewage spills

Water companies with faulty sewage monitors will receive automatic penalties under new Ofwat rules.

The regulator will set new targets for them to reduce spills from storm overflows in England and Wales from 2025. Suppliers' sites that do not have monitors, because they are broken or have not been installed, will be rated as twice as bad as average storm overflows.

Water firms may increase bills if they reach their average spill target but will have to cut bills if they do not.

More than one in six monitors were found to be faulty last year.

Sewage may be spilled into waterways from overflow sites only in "exceptional" circumstances to prevent it inundating homes.

Free speech tsar to crack down on cancel culture

Rishi Sunak has chosen a Cambridge professor as the UK's first free speech tsar to crack down on cancel culture at universities, *The Daily Telegraph* understands.

Arif Ahmed, a philosophy professor who has given free speech lessons to Cambridge students, will be confirmed as the selected candidate this weekend, according to a source. The free speech champion will have the power to investigate universities and student unions in England and Wales that wrongly restrict free speech.

The director will also advise the sector regulator on imposing fines for free speech breaches.

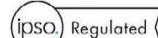
The Department for Education declined to comment.

Corrections & clarifications

An article 'After all the speculation, Prince Harry showed up - to a mixed reception' (May 8) reported that Princess Alexandra had not carried out a royal engagement in more than a decade. This was incorrect. In fact her most recent engagement was in February of this year. We are happy to correct the record.

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Mistaking accuser for his ex-wife was slip-up that tripped Trump

By Rozina Sabur WASHINGTON EDITOR

It was Donald Trump's sole appearance in the rape case that could now imperil his White House return, a toe-curling on-camera moment that shattered part of the former president's defence.

Mr Trump was being deposed by lawyers for E Jean Carroll, the magazine writer who has accused him of raping her in a New York City department store during the mid-1990s.

The former president's denial was a typically Trumpian torrent of vitriol. "I'll say it with great respect: Number one, she's not my type. Number two, it never happened," he said when the allegation first surfaced in 2019.

Yet as he appeared for an on-camera deposition before the two-week trial, Mr Trump appeared unable to distinguish Ms Carroll from one of his ex-wives. "That's Marla. That's my wife," he said, referring to his second wife, Marla Maples.

In fact, Mr Trump was looking at a photograph of himself with Ms Carroll and his first wife, Ivana.

Asked to confirm he was referring to Ms Carroll, Mr Trump readily agreed. It was then that his legal team informed him that he was not looking at his ex-wife, but his accuser.

"Oh, I see," Mr Trump replied.

The slip-up, Ms Carroll's lawyers argued to jurors, proved that Mr Trump was lying when he claimed the writer was not his "type".

The jury of six men and three women appeared to agree, finding Mr Trump, 76, liable for sexually abusing Ms Carroll, 79, after just over two hours of deliberation yesterday.

However, the jury in New York rejected the writer's claim that Mr Trump raped her.

Mr Trump has called the case politically motivated. He wrote on his social media platform: "I have absolutely no idea who this woman is. This verdict is a disgrace - a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time!"

Ms Carroll brought a defamation case against Mr Trump after he called her claims "a complete con job" and "a hoax and a lie" on his social media platform.

The civil case is not only one of the most high-profile of the MeToo era, but moves the 2024 presidential race into uncharted territory.

A leading candidate in the race has been found by a jury to have committed sexual assault.

Despite threatening to cut short a golf trip in Ireland to "confront" Ms Carroll in court, the former president was absent from the courtroom.



E Jean Carroll, a magazine writer, leaves Manhattan Federal Court yesterday after being awarded \$5 million in damages for sexual assault in a civil case against Donald Trump

But his video-taped testimony was eagerly shown by Ms Carroll's lawyers to jurors. The footage may also prove fodder for campaign attack adverts by both Democrats and rival Republicans.

It was not the only part of Mr Trump's testimony that could return to haunt him. Mr Trump suggested under oath that Ms Carroll "loved it" when asked about her claim she was raped.

"Actually she indicated that she loved it," Mr Trump said, referring to an interview Ms Carroll gave after going public with her claim. "She loved it. She loved it. Until commercial break. It was sexy. It was very sexy to be raped. Didn't she say that?"

Ms Carroll said she encountered Mr Trump in the Manhattan clothing store, Bergdorf Goodman. The pair teased each other to try on a piece of underwear and then ended up alone

together in a changing room. It was here, she claimed, that Mr Trump pushed her against a wall and raped her before she fought him off and fled.

The trial was contentious, as Ms Carroll sparred with Mr Trump's lawyer, Joe Tacopina. The lawyer pressed Ms Carroll over the details of her story in an effort to identify inconsistencies and questioning why she did not scream for help. The writer's voice rose as she argued it was this line of questioning that stopped more women from coming forward.

"I'm not a screamer," Ms Carroll retorted. "You can't beat up on me for not screaming." Her account was supported by the testimony of her friend, who said Ms Carroll made them aware of the incident after it happened.

Ms Carroll's lawyers referenced other accusers' accounts to suggest Mr

'She loved it. Until commercial break. It was sexy. It was very sexy to be raped. Didn't she say that?'

Trump had a pattern of predatory behaviour. The case also brought to light Mr Trump's comments on an "Access Hollywood" tape in which Mr Trump said he grabbed women "by the p---y". Asked in his deposition about his claim that "when you're a star you can do anything," an unabashed Mr Trump replied: "Well historically, that's true with stars."

An incredulous lawyer pressed Mr Trump on the claim: "It's true that stars can grab women by the p---y?"

Mr Trump responded: "You look over the last million years, that's been largely true. Unfortunately or fortunately". Asked if he considered himself a star, Mr Trump responded: "I think you can say that, yes."

As she walked out of the Manhattan Federal Courthouse, Ms Carroll was smiling ear to ear.

'Huge question marks' on medical apprentices plan

Continued from Page 1

under the scheme. The idea has been debated for several years, with some medics raising concerns that it could create a "two tier system" with apprentices degrees seen as "lesser".

The Doctors Association UK last year noted that the schemes could spark hostility between young doctors over clinical placements, if some are being paid for work that others are expected to do for nothing.

Pay rates for the schemes have yet to be announced, with concern that less wealthy candidates could opt for the programme only to find their long-term earnings are overtaken by those on traditional training routes.

Dr Latifa Patel, workforce lead for the British Medical Association, said there were "huge question marks" over how far medical apprenticeships could solve the NHS staffing crisis.

Rachel Hewitt of MillionPlus, which represents modern universities, said that "recruitment to a nursing apprenticeship is not necessarily the simplest option for increasing recruitment numbers into the profession".

Ms Pritchard added: "University isn't right for every school-leaver and some want to start earning straight away, while others may decide on a career in health care later in life."

Mammograms should start at age 40, says US task force

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN should be offered mammograms from the age of 40, US officials have been told, in a move that would start breast cancer screening in the country a decade earlier than the NHS.

Draft recommendations from the US preventive services task force released today says all women should be screened every two years starting at the age of 40.

The Task Force now recommends that all women get screened for breast cancer every other year starting at age 40," the US PSTF states.

"We're also urgently calling for more research on whether additional screening with breast ultrasound or MRI for women with dense breasts is beneficial, and on the benefits and harms of screening in women older than 75."

The decision to lower the age of initial mammogram screening down to 40 from 50 years old follows an independent review by the health body.

Previously, women in their 40s were encouraged to have a conversation with their health care provider about their own situation, before screening was recommended across the board at 50.

However, the new review moves the age down to 40 for all women.

Mathematical models run by the organisation looked at the benefits of screening 1,000 40-year-old women who are at average risk.

"Screening biennially at ages 50-74 resulted in about seven breast cancer deaths averted over the lifetimes of 1,000 female persons screened compared to no screening," the draft report states. "One additional death was averted if the starting age was 40."

"Screening biennially at ages 50-74 resulted in seven breast cancer deaths averted in 1,000 females."

Dr Carol Mangione, a former chairman of the US PSTF and an internal medicine doctor at UCLA, said: "New and more inclusive science about breast cancer in women younger than 50 has allowed us to expand our prior recommendation."

The NHS invites women aged 50 to 70 for screening every three years. Women over 70 can continue to get them but are not automatically invited.

Cancer Research UK's website says there is "little evidence" that lowering mammogram screening age would reduce breast cancer deaths.

THE Metropolitan Police needs a dedicated burglary unit so that it can move away from "woke nonsense" and back to tackling real crime, the new Tory mayoral hopeful has said.

Susan Hall, who until recently was Tory leader in the London Assembly and chairman of the Police and Crime Committee, said the public has "lost the confidence" in Scotland Yard following a series of scandals including the murder of Sarah Everard.

Officers now need to get back to basics and operate a "common sense" approach policing, she said, adding: "We cannot have another four years of this woke nonsense, it is too much."

The Met is one of a number of forces that has come under fire for focusing on hurt feelings in "non-crime hate incidents" and policing social media rather than serious offences.

"Women in particular do not feel safe when they are walking around London, particularly at night, and that situation is getting worse" Ms Hall told *The Daily Telegraph* as she announced her bid to become next London Mayor.

"The Met



Blue do The Princess of Wales, below, and the Duchess of Edinburgh, above, both dressed in blue to join the Prince of Wales, right, as he hosted a garden party on behalf of his father at Buckingham Palace, London, yesterday for 8,000 guests.



JONATHAN BRADY/PA WIRE



Protesters plotted Coronation paint attack

Officers made arrests with moments to spare after learning of plan to distress horses and cause chaos

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

PROTESTERS posing as stewards planned to disrupt the Coronation by throwing bottles of paint at the procession, Sir Mark Rowley has revealed.

The Met Commissioner said his officers had worked around the clock to identify and arrest the criminal network that planned to attack last Saturday's event and threaten people's safety.

Just hours before the Coronation, police received intelligence that people intended to vandalise monuments,

throw white paint at the procession and invade the route, he said.

If the disruption had not been stopped, Sir Mark said, it could have resulted in serious injuries for those taking part in the mounted procession.

In a strongly worded defence of the Met's handling of the historic event, Sir Mark said: "By Friday evening, only 12 hours from the Coronation, we had become extremely concerned by a rapidly developing intelligence picture suggesting the Coronation could suffer."

"This included people intent on using rape alarms and loud-hailers as part of their protest which would have caused distress to military horses."

"We also had intelligence that people intended to extensively vandalise monuments, throw paint at the procession, and incur on to the route." He said there

was real concern that people could be injured, with 160 mounted regiments in the procession.

"The threat was so concerning that on Friday the Home Secretary and Mayor were given late night briefings as plans were being put in place," he said.

The intelligence and subsequent investigative work led to officers making arrests across multiple locations. These included arrests made for sex offences, illegal drugs and fighting but also groups who were believed to be involved in the type of criminal activities our intelligence had indicated.

"Officers have told me how the celebrating crowds applauded and cheered as they made 17 arrests in The Mall area close to the processional route and imminent to the start of the procession."

The Commissioner hit out at "ill-

'Our activity was targeted at those we believed were intent on causing serious disruption and criminality'

informed commentary" that suggested the police had banned all protest and said he was proud of the part his officers played in ensuring the "historic moment of huge national significance" went off smoothly.

He said that while there was "low tolerance" of disruptive protests there was not "zero tolerance", and a large number of people had been present to make their anti-monarchist views heard.

Sir Mark added: "I want to be absolutely clear - our activity was targeted at those we believed were intent on

causing serious disruption and criminality. Serious and reliable intelligence told us that the risks were very real."

A total of 53 people have been bailed after being arrested for a range of alleged offences but the Met has expressed regret over the arrest of six members of the Republic group. No further action will be taken against them.

Explaining how the arrests came about, Sir Mark said: "Officers searched a vehicle on Saturday morning and found items which at the time they believed could have been used as part of a 'lock on' style protest."

"As I would expect, the arresting officers were vigilant, curious, and proactive. They formed the 'reasonable suspicion' necessary to arrest for the new Section 2 Public Order Act 2023 offence of 'being equipped to lock on',

and these were the only arrests under the new legislation.

"Having reviewed the evidence and potential lines of enquiry we do not judge that we will be able to prove criminal intent beyond all reasonable doubt."

Sir Peter Fahy, the former chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, warned that the new legislation was "very poorly defined and far too broad".

David Davis, the senior Tory MP, also criticised the Public Order Act and called for the Home Affairs Select Committee to investigate.

However, Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, praised the police for using the new law to ensure that everything at the Coronation "went off so smoothly and was so successful".

Editorial Comment: Page 15

King calls on engineers to 'save this planet from catastrophe'

By India McTaggart
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

ENGINEERS must "save this planet from increasing catastrophe", the King has said as the Royal family returned to work after the Coronation weekend.

The King used his first engagement to bolster his lifelong support for sustainability and the environment by visiting a laboratory working on net zero research.

While on his way to the Sandringham estate in Norfolk for some rest and relaxation, the newly crowned monarch stopped to break ground on the Whittle Laboratory in Cambridge and unveil a plaque for his university alumni.

In yesterday's speech, he said: "The key exercise of all this is to keep the team expanding and not lose all these remarkable people who have the ... engineering skills to help lead what we need so badly and so urgently in order to save this planet from increasing catastrophe."

He met staff and academics from the University of Cambridge's Whittle Laboratory, which is undertaking research to help the country achieve net zero by 2050, particularly in the aerospace industry.

Upon arrival, the King met Grant Shapps, the Energy Secretary, and watched scientific demonstrations during a short tour of the facility.

The main aim of the laboratory is to

halve the time it takes to develop the technologies working towards achieving net zero in aviation and energy.

In his speech to the laboratory's "remarkable" team, the King said: "The aviation sector is critical in all this, as are many other sectors ... the more we can do, the faster we can do it, with the kind of systems you have here at the Whittle to accelerate the research and development, is so important and encouraging."

"And if I may say so, finally, the great thing is to be working with other countries, transatlantic partnerships, and indeed I hope others who will be part of

The Big Help Out to become an annual event

chief executive of the Scouts, said it showed "the scale of enthusiasm" for the scheme and the task was to "keep up that momentum". Brendan Cox, co-founder of the Together Coalition that organised the event, said it was "beyond anything we expected".

this real and exciting effort to transform and revolutionise the way we can travel in the future."

He said that although he was a Cambridge arts graduate, he was "full of admiration for the incredible activities which go on here in engineering and so many other fields", adding: "This country's greatest strength lies in innovative skills."

The King, a longtime advocate for the protection of the environment, was the royal founding patron of the university's Institute for Sustainability Leadership as the Prince of Wales. His Majesty previously visited the Whittle Laboratory in January 2020 and March 2022.

Meanwhile, other members of the Royal family also returned to official engagements yesterday following the Coronation weekend.

The Duke of Edinburgh as Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation was due to attend a dinner at Stonehage Fleming, an asset management company, in London.

The Duchess of Edinburgh visited Morden College, a charity dedicated to supporting older people, in Blackheath, south-east London.

As the Coronation festivities came to a close, the King and Queen pledged to rededicate their lives to service as the monarch called the nation's support throughout the historic celebrations "the greatest possible Coronation gift".



The King holds a shovel ready to break ground at the Whittle Laboratory in Cambridge

Sinn Fein presence in the abbey was boost for Unionists

By James Crisp

SINN FEIN attended the Coronation in an "explicit recognition" that Unionists would be "British" in a united Ireland, the party's president said yesterday.

Michelle O'Neill, Northern Ireland's First Minister-designate, witnessed the crowning of the monarch, something that would have been unthinkable for a Sinn Fein politician during the Troubles. Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Fein's president, said that her attendance proved Unionists could remain British after reunification.

"Sinn Fein's attendance at the Coronation was a mark of recognition and respect for our Unionist citizens, for British people who are British now in a partitioned Ireland, and who will be British in the United Ireland, and it's an explicit recognition of that," she said.

Ms McDonald predicts an Irish reunification referendum by 2030. Last month, she called on the Government to guarantee a British passport for Unionists living in a united Ireland. "British people are British. I have no ambition to challenge that," she said at the time. "We need a conversation now about what orderly, peaceful democratic constitutional change looks like."

Sinn Fein became Northern Ireland's largest party in Stormont in May 2022 but Ms O'Neill has not been able to take up the role of First Minister because the DUP has boycotted the restoration of power-sharing over post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland.

News

Johnson thought Sue Gray was a psycho, says his former aide

By Jamie Bullen and Amy Gibbons

BORIS JOHNSON thought partygate investigator Sue Gray was a "psycho", his former No 10 director of communications has suggested.

Guto Harri said Mr Johnson came to the view that Ms Gray "lacked perspective" as her inquiry into Covid rule-breaking parties became "completely out of all proportion". In an interview

with LBC Radio, Mr Harri also claimed that the former prime minister was preparing to sack Rishi Sunak as chancellor prior to the collapse of his premiership.

He also poured cold water on Mr Johnson's prospects of making a political comeback, saying he did not currently consider that "realistic".

Mr Harri was speaking before his new podcast starts tomorrow. It has

already made headlines over a claim that Mr Johnson "squared up" to the King, who was then the Prince of Wales, in a row over the Government's Rwanda asylum scheme.

Mr Harri was a senior press figure for Mr Johnson when he was London mayor, and went on to serve in the No 10 role from early 2022 until his boss left Downing Street.

Asked how the former prime minister had described Ms Gray to him, Mr Harri said: "If I were to say one word maybe that will be recurring in it, 'psycho Sue Gray' would be part of it," he told LBC. "Towards the end, I think he rightfully thought that... things were completely out of all proportion in the way partygate was viewed."

Mr Harri claimed Mr Johnson was preparing to sack Mr Sunak as chancellor before his administration fell apart

last year. But he said Mr Sunak – who was part of an exodus of ministers that precipitated his downfall – "beat him to it" and "brought the whole show down".

Mr Harri said there was a "fundamental disagreement of policy between the two of them" with Mr Johnson wanting to cut taxes and Mr Sunak apparently "reluctant" to do so.

On Mr Johnson's apparent clash with the King, Mr Harri said "it wasn't a

"fight" but did describe it as a "bit of a showdown".

Last night, sources close to Mr Johnson said: "This account is simply inaccurate and does not reflect the conversation that took place. Boris Johnson has had nothing to do with this podcast... and deplores any attempt to report such conversations in public."

Features: Page 1

Starmer refuses to rule out Lib Dem coalition

Labour leader dismisses potential deal with SNP but leaves door open for a pact with Davey's party

By Daniel Martin

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

SIR KEIR STARMER refused seven times to rule out a deal with the Liberal Democrats if his party fails to win a majority at the next general election.

The Labour leader insisted he was "going for an outright majority" next year but declined to say whether he would do a deal with Sir Ed Davey on several occasions during an interview with Sky News.

He repeated his pledge never to enter into a coalition with the SNP because he had a "fundamental difference" with the party over independence. But he repeatedly refused to give the same assurance regarding the Lib Dems.

Labour picked up more than 1,000 seats in last week's local elections but the swing, if replicated at the next general election, would not be great enough for Sir Keir to form a majority government.

Sir Ed, the Lib Dem leader, ducked questions about a potential coalition with Labour in an interview on Friday.

Meanwhile, Stephen Flynn, the SNP leader in Westminster, urged nationalists to vote for them at the next general election so Scotland can "pull the strings" of a minority Labour government.

The Conservatives have repeated their campaign line that a vote for Labour at the next election would add up to a "coalition of chaos".

So disastrous was Jeremy Corbyn's showing in the 2019 election that Sir Keir needs a swing of more than 10 per cent to win.

Asked on Sky News whether Sir Ed was "a man you could do business with", Sir Keir said: "I'm going for an outright majority, and I'm often asked: 'Will you do a deal with the SNP'?"

"I've been absolutely clear, there are no terms on which we would do a deal with the SNP. I want to push on to a

Tudor Evans, the leader of Plymouth council, takes a selfie with Sir Keir Starmer and his deputy, Angela Rayner, before a meeting of new local council leaders at Labour's London HQ

Labour majority." Asked, "What about the Lib Dems?", he replied: "I'm not answering hypotheticals... we are aiming for a Labour majority."

"As you know with the SNP, it's a fundamental difference. I do not believe in the breakup and separation of the United Kingdom, I do not believe that our future will be better off if we put a border between Scotland and England."

Sir Keir was pressed on a coalition pact with the Lib Dems a number of times, to which he answered: "I want a Labour majority government with a workable majority."

He said he believed the latest local election results showed he could win a majority at the next election.

"This is very good set of election results for us, and it puts us on course for a Labour majority – and it's not just the numbers, it's where we won," he added.

"You know, winning in places like Medway, we haven't won in Medway since 1998. Dover, we haven't won since 1995. These were key places we took in the general election of 1997."

In a separate BBC interview, Sir Keir claimed Rishi Sunak's wealth meant he could not fully understand the pressures facing struggling households.

He said he was "very relaxed about people being rich" but wanted everyone to pay their taxes.

"I know what aspiration is, I mean, I came from a working-class background and I was able to not only head up the Crown Prosecution Service, but now lead the Labour Party. So my story is one of aspiration and opportunity."

A poll yesterday showed Labour's lead over the Conservatives has narrowed to its smallest margin since Mr Sunak became Prime Minister.

Despite a bruising set of local election results for Tories in which the party lost more than 1,000 councillors, a poll has put Labour on 41 per cent of the vote, down by four points on just over a week ago, while the Tories were on 29 per cent, up by one point.

The 12-point lead in the poll, carried out by Redfield & Wilton Strategies on May 7, ties with Labour's narrowest margin since Mr Sunak took over from Liz Truss last October.



Rishi Sunak has finally found a Tory MP that even GB News doesn't like

Sketch



By Tim Stanley

AS Britain took down the coronation bunting, and the police let the republicans out of jail, Rishi relaunched the Tory Party by returning to home turf. A photo shoot at a pharmacy in Southampton. I don't know if you knew this but the PM grew

up in an NHS family, and this story is so fundamental to his life experience that it's emerging as the central plank in Conservative Party policy. Today Rishi wants chemists to prescribe antibiotics; tomorrow they will be able to deliver babies in Boots. Just drop your wife off and she should be ready for collection in about an hour.

If this is the big idea then you need a big man to sell it, but the media round on day one of the great fightback went to Neil O'Brien, which was self-defeating in some key respects. First, he's Neil O'Brien. Softly-spoken, faintly

menacing, he has one of those smiles that when the photographer says, "Smile please," he replies through gritted teeth "I am smiling". I don't envy him having to discuss "impetigo" and "sinusitis" on a dozen broadcasters; his "urinary tract" got tongue tied on *Good Morning Britain*. But whatever Spad was following him around the studios must have been tearing their hair out at his cold manner. Never mind animation; our minister for health appears reanimated.

"You promised 6,000 new GPs", *BBC Breakfast* reminded him, so

where are they? "We do have 2,000 more doctors," said O'Brien; and the discrepancy was spotted and pointed out. The *Today* programme stuck the knife in, surgically, by noting that allowing pharmacists to diagnose colds is a drop in the ocean considering the enormous backlog facing the NHS. And how, pray, did that come about?

Here's my thought for the day. Britain had something called a lockdown: that's why the NHS is on its knees. A handful of people at the time dared to ask if the policy was going to work; Mr O'Brien took huge pleasure in shoot-

ing them down, no doubt intimidating some into silence. He set up a sinister website dedicated to criticising dissenters, making him a hero among authoritarians. O'Brien told broadcasters that police had done a good job over the weekend. You can tell this is a man who thinks we should put anyone on a skateboard into protective custody.

Of course, Britain has decided it doesn't want to relitigate lockdown; we're just going to pretend it didn't happen. So as various media outlets pick up on the mess we're now in, without properly examining why,

there was guilty pleasure in watching O'Brien try to sell an unconvincing remedy (create an army of chemists to fight tonsillitis on the beaches) that no one has faith will even happen.

"We've covered similar stories like this almost every year since time immemorial," said Isabel Webster of GB News: Boris said he'd do it, then Liz, now Rishi – so isn't this just a lazy reshuffle? Yikes! Neil O'Brien might be the first Tory MP that even GB News doesn't like, which is quite an achievement. Half the backbenchers are on the payroll.

Truss to visit Taiwan 'in solidarity' over China threats

By Amy Gibbons
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIZ TRUSS will travel to Taiwan next week to express solidarity with its people following her criticism of China's "aggressive behaviour and rhetoric".

The former prime minister, in an "independent travel decision", will deliver a speech and meet senior members of the Taiwanese government. The visit is likely to provoke a backlash from Beijing, which has repeatedly warned the West to cut bilateral ties with the island it claims as its own.

In February, Ms Truss called for the creation of an "economic Nato" to stand up to the rising global power of China at a conference held in Tokyo.

By contrast, her successor in No 10 has been seen to take a softer line on Beijing, dialling down his own language by opting to brand the state an "epoch-defining challenge" rather than a blanket "threat" to Britain.

In her first public address since leaving Downing Street, she likened the situation in Taiwan to Ukraine before the Russian invasion, suggesting the West could use sanctions to deter a takeover by President Xi Jinping's regime and prevent further "tragedy".

Announcing next week's visit, Ms Truss said: "Taiwan is a beacon of freedom and democracy."

"I'm looking forward to showing solidarity with the Taiwanese people in person in the face of increasingly aggressive behaviour and rhetoric from the regime in Beijing."

The trip is likely to irritate China, which responded with a huge show of military force when Nancy Pelosi, the former US speaker, visited the island last year.

Asked about Ms Truss's visit, a government spokesman said: "We wouldn't get involved in the independent travel decisions of a private citizen who is not a member of the Government."

Meanwhile, Sir Tony Blair warned against ostracising China. The former prime minister told Bloomberg TV: "You've got to be strong enough to deal with whatever comes out of China, but you should stay engaged with China."

"I don't agree with decoupling, and I don't agree with the notion that you treat China like the Soviet Union, because it isn't."

Liz Truss has been outspoken on Taiwan since leaving No 10, hailing the island as a 'beacon of freedom and democracy'



Back to the day job After her role in the Coronation ceremony, Penny Mordaunt, the Leader of the House of Commons, returned to work in Whitehall yesterday.

Case told BBC chairman he was 'on the side of the angels'

By Robert Mendick
and Gordon Rayner

SIMON CASE, the Cabinet Secretary, told the then chairman of the BBC "you on the side of the angels", just months before he was forced to quit over a loan to Boris Johnson, it has been claimed.

Richard Sharp resigned from the corporation after a report found he had broken the rules on public appointments by failing to declare his involvement in facilitating a loan to the then prime minister. Mr Case told the inquiry that he could not recall details of a key conversation with Mr Sharp.

However, friends of Mr Sharp have insisted that Mr Case told the BBC chairman he had "done nothing wrong" when confronted with an allegation he had been involved in helping Mr Johnson, who was in financial difficulties.

Allies of Mr Sharp have said he would still be in the job if Mr Case had backed up his version of events over the meeting in December 2020, prior to his appointment as BBC chairman, in which he told the Cabinet Secretary about an offer of financial help to Mr Johnson. The offer was being made by Sam Blyth, a Canadian businessman and distant cousin of Mr Johnson.

Mr Sharp said he believed at the time that he had recused himself from any

involvement by passing the details to Mr Case. *The Daily Telegraph* has been told that the pair also had a conversation in January after being notified that *The Sunday Times* was planning to publish a story on Mr Sharp's relationship with Mr Johnson.

A friend of Mr Sharp said: "Richard spoke to Case in January and Case said to him 'you have done nothing wrong.'

Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary, told the inquiry he could not recall details of a key conversation with Richard Sharp

You are on the side of the angels." The conversation was not relayed to the inquiry. It concluded that Mr Sharp's failure to declare to the interviewing panel the offer of help to Mr Johnson had created a "perception" of a conflict of interest.

The Telegraph has also seen correspondence between a senior communications official in the Cabinet Office and Mr Sharp in which it is made clear that Mr Sharp had decided not to participate in any future discussions with Mr Johnson about his finances and that Mr Case had approved that course of action.

News

Heavy electric cars are a drag to drive, admits McLaren boss

Batteries cannot replicate the 'emotional' appeal of fossil fuel powered vehicles, says British supercar chief

By Howard Mustoe

HEAVY electric batteries are killing the excitement of driving British sports cars, the chief executive of McLaren has said.

Michael Leiters said the Woking-based supercar manufacturer was not ready to ditch fossil-fuel power because

drivers "cannot enjoy [themselves] at the weekend" if their cars have to have haul around a heavy lithium battery.

Mr Leiters said battery technology was insufficiently advanced to replicate the "emotional" experience of driving a petrol or diesel-powered high-performance vehicle.

He said: "Battery technology is not yet mature. If you go sporty, if you want to enjoy yourself at the weekend, if you go on a racetrack, it's not yet the right technology."

Mr Leiters suggested that fitting battery packs to today's supercars would weigh them down and make them bor-

ing to drive. McLaren supercars, which have four-litre engines, weigh about 1.4 tons but a comparable electric car would weigh 2.2 tons.

Mr Leiters told the *Financial Times* Future of the Car Summit: "This is not the DNA of the product – at least our product."

The McLaren 720S, which costs from £222,000, can accelerate from 0-60mph in 2.6 seconds. Some high-performance electric cars can rival or even better that: the £125,000 Tesla Model S Plaid can reach 60mph in less than two seconds, for example.

However, Mr Leiters said the experi-

ence of driving a supercar concerned more than mere speed.

"Purchasing a supercar is [not] rational. It's totally emotional. And we have to deliver this emotional experience."

Mr Leiters, who was appointed chief of McLaren last year, is the latest executive to complain that electric vehicle technology cannot replicate the control, feel, noise and handling of a sports car equipped with an internal combustion engine.

Benedetto Vigna, Ferrari's chief, said last year that sound was one of the "essential" characteristics of his vehi-

cles and each engine would have to have a signature sound, even electric ones.

The Italian marque has patented technology to amplify the small amount of noise produced by electric engines to replicate the roar of petrol engines.

Ferrari plans to release its first all-electric sports car in 2025.

Dodge, the US car manufacturer, has developed a device that recreates the noise of its gas-guzzling muscle cars, with volumes up to 126 decibels, for its Charger EV.

BMW, meanwhile, has hired Hans Zimmer, the Oscar-winning Hollywood soundtrack composer, to create an "emotionally rich aural experience" for its electric cars.

McLaren is working on a fully electric car but Mr Leiters said it could be 10 years away, when battery technology will have evolved and more power can be packed into a smaller, lighter package.

"Be sure when we bring out a supercar, it will be a real EV supercar," he said. "I'm not saying it's a bad technol-

ogy. I think it's a great technology, but we have to develop it."

McLaren is focusing on researching engines that burn synthetic e-fuels. They mimic petrol, diesel and other fossil fuels and are made with the same combination of hydrogen and carbon atoms. However, rather than being dug out of the ground, refined and burnt, they are made from water and air using electricity, so have less impact on the environment.

E-fuels could enable classic cars and other, older vehicles to remain in service even when vehicles equipped with combustion engines have stopped rolling off manufacturers' production lines.

Ferrari and Porsche are supportive of the technology and UK brands such as Aston Martin are said to be interested in it. The EU has agreed that e-fuel-powered cars can remain in use after its 2035 ban on petrol and diesel cars comes into force.

Mr Leiters said: "I'm very happy and positive about the new trend, or the new element in the discussion in the European Union, about E-fuels."

Green light for longer lorries as ministers say they cause fewer potholes

By Jack Simpson
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LONGER lorries will be allowed on roads next month in an effort to reduce traffic, ministers have said.

Legislation will be put before Parliament today that will extend the legal maximum length of lorries on UK roads to 6ft from 54ft.

It is estimated the move will result in an 8 per cent reduction in lorry journeys and could result in fewer potholes as cargo would be more evenly spread across the longer vehicle.

Some companies, including the food outlet Greggs, have been trialling longer lorries for a decade and it is estimated that the initiative shaved 45 million miles off journeys.

Richard Holden, the roads minister, said: "A strong, resilient supply chain is key to the Government's efforts to grow the economy."

"That's why we're introducing longer semi-trailers to carry more goods in fewer journeys and ensure our shops,

'This is a deeply retrograde step which will do nothing to tackle carbon emissions or air pollution'

supermarkets and hospitals are always well stocked."

The legislation will mean that companies could start rolling out longer vehicles by May 31.

During a consultation into the trial, two thirds of respondents said they thought that longer lorries would increase safety risks for cyclists and pedestrians, while 21 per cent said that there were implications for road infrastructure.

Norman Baker, of Campaign for Better Transport, said: "This is a deeply retrograde step which will do nothing to tackle carbon emissions or air pollution and will disadvantage parallel rail freight routes."

"These lorries are by nature more dangerous than current heavy goods vehicles, so the last thing people want is them thundering through their communities."

"Rather than longer, heavier lorries the Government should be investing in rail freight as a safer, cleaner and more efficient alternative."

The Government has claimed that the longer lorries are safe and pointed to trial data which showed that there were 61 per cent fewer personal injury collisions when compared to conventional lorries.

A government report also concluded that the reduction in tyre scrub by the use of a rear steering axle on the longer vehicle would mean reduced road surface damage.



The rubber-clad offender, seen here at a previous incident, was on the prowl for the first time in seven months. As with earlier reports, he has been seen crawling and writhing in front of victims

Man arrested after fresh sighting of 'Somerset Gimp'

By Max Stephens

A RUBBER-wearing gimp terrorising villages struck again over the bank holiday weekend, leaving a woman travelling alone in her car petrified.

Seven months after his last sighting, the so-called "Somerset Gimp" resurfaced on Sunday evening when he leapt in front of a passing motorist and began "crawling and writhing" on the ground in the West Country.

Lucy Anne had been driving along a back road between Weston-super-Mare

and Brean, when she encountered the man dressed in black latex.

Miss Anne said she had initially believed the figure sprawled in front of her, who wore a mask with two white crosses on his eyes, was a badger. After driving away safely to her home, she phoned Avon and Somerset Police.

Within three minutes, officers had found the man near the road and arrested him on suspicion of causing a public nuisance.

A spokesman for the force confirmed the suspect, in his 30s, is also under

investigation for a spate of similar offences last October. Insp Graeme Hall said extra officers would be out on patrol following the incident.

"We took this morning's report extremely seriously and had officers on the scene within minutes which ultimately led to the arrest being made."

Miss Anne posted the details of her encounter on Facebook. "As soon as I got over the first railway bridge, I noticed something on the ground which I thought was a badger.

"As I got closer I could see it wasn't,

but in fact a man with a mask on, who was crawling and writhing on the ground," she wrote. "I have honestly never been so frightened in my entire life and drove away so fast."

The Somerset Gimp came to public attention in 2018 after villagers in Claverham, Cleeve and Yatton reported being harassed by a man dressed in masked bodysuit. Over the past five years, the gimp has terrorised lone individuals on at least 16 occasions by running up to them and grunting.

In September 2021, police received

reports of a masked man staring through a window at a couple in their home. There followed a further sighting in June 2022 when a couple said they sprinted home after a man sprung out of an alleyway.

Four months later, police arrested the gimp after footage emerged of a man crawling towards two young chefs who offered him a cigarette. The 70-second clip, obtained by *The Daily Telegraph*, shows the man approaching two teenagers in a mud-splattered gimp suit before rolling around on the floor.

Bristol bans cars in vast LTN stretching across east of city

By Jack Simpson

BRISTOL is to make a large part of the city car-free as part of a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) scheme.

The city council became the latest Labour-led authority to try to take cars off the road as it unveiled details of its trial of the £6million East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood, which will bar traffic from several key roads.

The measures, to be introduced in the autumn, include the installation of more than 12 "modal filters" and "pocket parks" which will involve bollards put in place to block traffic. The LTN will cover an area that stretches two miles and could become permanent by 2025.

The move by Bristol mirrors similar policies brought in by Labour councils across the country, aimed at reducing the number of cars on the road.

Last month, *The Daily Telegraph* revealed that Southwark in London had increased the price of parking permits by nearly 400 per cent, as part of a policy to reduce overall vehicle numbers.

This came after the Labour boroughs of Islington and Lambeth also increased the cost of parking permit prices as a way of trying to encourage people to ditch the car for other forms of trans-

port. Hackney has outlined plans to make three quarters of its roads LTNs.

Elsewhere, Birmingham city council was accused of "introducing LTNs by stealth" by Khalid Mahmood, the Labour MP for Perry Barr, after it revealed it would bring in traffic reduction measures across a third of the city.

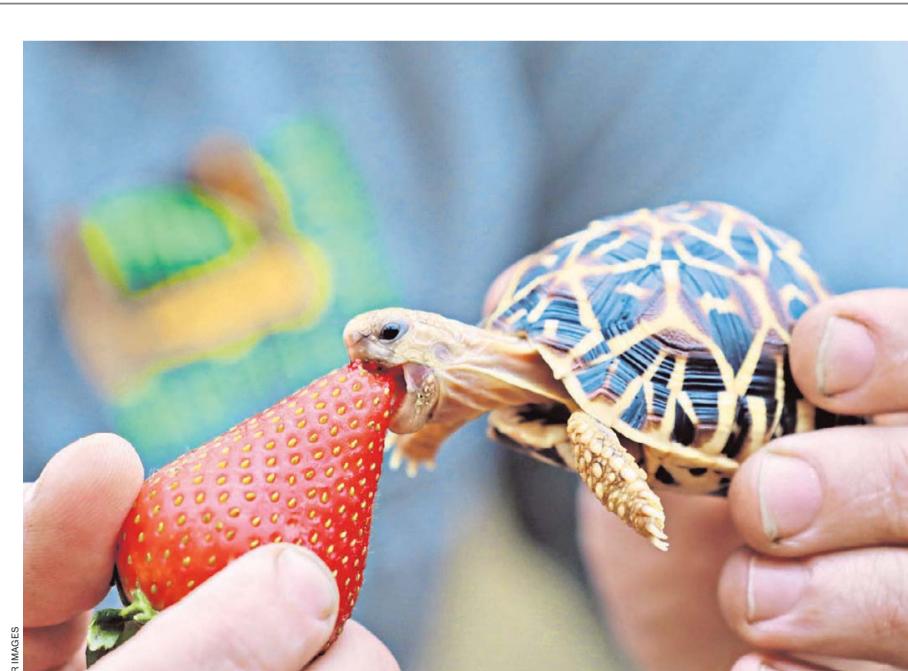
In arguably the most controversial scheme, Oxford county council is looking to introduce a trial next year which will block private cars from using six key roads in the centre of the city. The council, which is run by a Labour, Lib Dem and Green coalition, has faced widespread opposition to the scheme.

The plans for Bristol's scheme were put forward last year and have gone through a consultation.

In addition to using LTNs, the measures include the installation of gates that will stop private car traffic but allow buses through. Several roads will be converted from two-way to one-way in an effort to alleviate congestion.

However, residents and campaigners have raised concerns that this could restrict access to some areas for disabled people, while others have raised concerns that it could push traffic to other roads.

The Telegraph contacted Bristol city council for comment.



Shell-ebrating Tiny Tim, an internet-famous tortoise that was filmed eating a strawberry that was bigger than it, celebrated its first birthday yesterday with one of its favourite treats.

Rail commuters face engineering delays on weekdays

By Jack Simpson
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMMUTERS could be delayed by engineering works on weekdays as the post-pandemic shift to working from home means rail passenger numbers are now higher at the weekend.

In the first trial of its kind, Network Rail, the body in charge of maintaining the UK's railway, will scrap planned weekend works on the East Coast Main Line and instead schedule them for the middle of the week.

The two-day trial next Tuesday and Wednesday will mean services from King's Cross to Edinburgh are disrupted, with rail replacement buses used on stretches of the line.

NER, the East Coast train operator, found that Friday and Saturday had become the most popular day for travel.

Paul Rutter, Network Rail's East Coast route director, said: "We know travel patterns have changed post-pandemic, with higher demand for travel on weekends to and from King's Cross, so carrying out the work midweek will mean fewer travellers are impacted by our upgrades."

Network Rail has indicated that if the trial is successful it will be rolled out more widely.

News

'Three-parent babies' born in UK after IVF advance

Scientists in Newcastle use donor DNA from a 'second mother' to prevent genetic damage being passed on

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S first "three-parent babies" have been born, after scientists in Newcastle used the donor DNA of the "second mother" to repair genetic damage.

The fertility technique allows doc-

tors to replace an egg's defective mitochondrial DNA with healthy DNA from a female donor to prevent children suffering from debilitating conditions such as muscular dystrophy.

The repaired eggs are then fertilised with sperm and the resulting embryos implanted in the birth mother, like traditional IVF, in a procedure called mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT).

Although doctors have not announced the births, a freedom of information request to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

(HFEA) by *The Guardian* newspaper confirmed that a "small number of babies" have been born using mitochondrial donation transfer.

It is not known whether the babies are healthy.

Commenting on the announcement, Prof Robin Lovell-Badge, senior group leader at the Francis Crick Institute in London, said: "It will be interesting to know how well the technique worked at a practical level, whether the babies are free of mitochondrial disease, and whether there is any risk of them devel-

oping problems later in life. Or, if female, if their offspring are at risk of having the disease.

"Such problems might arise if there is 'reversion', where the initially small amounts of the mother's mitochondrial DNA, with the disease-causing variant gene, that are carried over with her nuclear DNA, are amplified.

"The Newcastle team were aware of the fairly low chance of this happening before the clinical application of the techniques, but without MRT being used, the risks of the children having

mitochondrial disease would be very high."

The technique involves transplanting nuclear DNA – which has all the characteristics that make up a person – from a fertilised egg into a donated egg containing healthy mitochondria, or alternatively removing the damaged DNA from an egg and replacing it with healthy mitochondria.

Mitochondria act as the batteries of the cells to give energy, and if they do not work properly it prevents normal development. Scientists believe the

technique could offer hope to about 150 women a year, with dozens already expressing an interest.

Although the process was pioneered at the Newcastle Fertility Centre, the first baby was born using the technique in Mexico in 2016. The UK did not approve the procedure until 2017.

Peter Thompson, chief executive of HFEA, said: "These are still early days for mitochondrial donation treatment, and the HFEA continues to review clinical and scientific developments. More information can be found on our website."

Antidepressants used for pain relief despite no proof they work

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of Britons suffering with chronic pain have been prescribed antidepressants as a treatment despite no evidence that they work, a review has found.

Antidepressants are commonly prescribed for people living with chronic pain often caused by fibromyalgia, nerve conditions or musculoskeletal damage.

The most common antidepressant used to treat chronic pain, amitriptyline, is cheap and given to millions of people a year. However, there is no evidence it works, the review said.

Scientists want the current prescription guidelines set out by Nice to be reassessed, but the body says there is "not sufficient" reason to alter current guidance.

Another antidepressant, duloxetine, was found to be effective at alleviating chronic pain. However, it is more expensive and prescribed less frequently than amitriptyline.

Patients taking amitriptyline have been told not to stop taking the drug, especially if it is working for them, but to talk to their GP about whether they would benefit more from another course of action.

Scientists led by the universities of Southampton and Newcastle analysed data from 176 different trials on nearly 30,000 people who had been taking antidepressants for pain relief as part of a Cochrane review.

Prescriptions for people with depression were excluded to solely focus on the role of the drugs in alleviating pain.

Analysis found a lack of evidence proving antidepressants were effective at relieving chronic pain. There was only enough data to make conclusions on three drugs; only one of those, duloxetine, showed signs of being effective.

Prof Tamar Pincus from the University of Southampton was part of the review, which she called the "gold standard" for evidence, and said GPs were running out of treatments for chronic pain. Opioids have recently been removed as an option, as have paracetamol and ibuprofen.

"What GPs are left with as this funnel gets narrower and narrower is antidepressants, and the prescription of antidepressants for people with chronic pain is on the rise," Prof Pincus said.

In one year in the UK there were 15 million prescriptions at a low dose for amitriptyline.

"Amitriptyline at a low doses is almost always for things like pain and sleep," Prof Pincus said.

"So a very, very rough estimate suggests that we have got hundreds of thousands of people being prescribed amitriptyline in the UK for pain without evidence," she said.

Gavin Stewart, a statistician from Newcastle University and review co-author, said the team was calling on Nice and the US Food and Drug Administration to update their guidelines.

A Nice spokesman said: "Nice has conducted a careful and comprehensive review of the findings and we have concluded that the new evidence is not sufficient to warrant an update to the recommendations in our chronic pain guideline at this stage."



Washed up A sperm whale found on a Welsh beach is believed to be only the second to have become stranded in Wales. It is thought to have died at Porth Neigwl, Gwynedd, over the bank holiday weekend. The public has been asked to stay away from the carcass to allow experts to examine it. A juvenile sperm whale ended up on the same beach in Cardigan Bay in 2019.



Developing wind farms

Producing oil & gas



bp's wider transformation is underway. Whilst today we're mostly in oil & gas, we've increased global investment into our lower carbon & other transition businesses from around 3% in 2019 to around 30% last year.

News

Housewife 'besotted' with builder rips out his girlfriend's hair in drunken attack

Woman, 59, launched alcohol-and-drug-fuelled assault over claims of affair with tradesman she hired

By Ewan Somerville

A JEALOUS housewife drank a bottle of wine and took cocaine before launching a drunken doorstep attack on her builder's girlfriend.

Alison Moore, 59, who lives in a £1million farmhouse in Damerham, Hants, which features a Norman church and is mentioned in the will of Alfred the Great, had been employing Gary House, a local tradesman, for work on one of her properties in nearby Fordbridge.

She allegedly became so "besotted" with him that she marched 300 yards through the New Forest village to Mr House's property and confronted his partner of 11 years, Aimee Burnett.

She has been handed a one-year restraining order at Southampton magistrates' court for the "unpleasant" attack and ordered to pay Ms Burnett £500 compensation.

The row took place at about 11pm on April 6 last year, when Ms Burnett, 42, received a knock on the door while watching a film. She answered it to find Ms Moore on the doorstep telling her: "Your husband [sic] is trying to f--- me."

Ms Moore, who had drunk a bottle of



Alison Moore, right, walked from her home in Hants, below, to confront Aimee Burnett, above, over her partner of 11 years

wine, taken cocaine and visited the village pub earlier that evening, left her victim "shaking and in complete shock" when, having already tried to barge into her house, she dragged Ms Burnett by the hair.

Mr House was oblivious to it all, sat in the bath upstairs listening to music.

Varun Chuni, prosecutor, told the court that the two women had met only once before at the village pub, The Compasses Inn, before the attack, and that Ms Burnett knew there had been messaging "going on" between Ms Moore and Mr House.

The intruder threw something at a window when Ms Burnett attempted to shut the door, Mr Chuni said, adding: "She was worried the defendant was going to break the window, so opened the door again when Ms Moore pushed her in the chest and tried to barge her out of the way.

"She wanted to know where her partner was and made a comment saying 'fat people shouldn't be in the house'."

The court heard that one of Ms Burnett's sons had to intervene.

"The defendant grabbed the hair of the complainant, causing her immediate pain by violently pulling down," the prosecution added.

Eventually they were separated but Ms Burnett was left "shaking" and in "complete shock", it was heard. When she returned to her home, she realised a "large clump" of her hair had been pulled out.

David Storry, Ms Moore's lawyer, told the court that she had had "a lot to deal with" after the breakdown of a previous marriage with an "abusive" ex-husband and that "she very much regrets it".

Ms Moore was sentenced to a 12-month community order made up of 12 rehabilitation requirement days and 100 hours of unpaid work, and was ordered to pay £500 compensation to Ms Burnett, £620 legal fees and £95 victim surcharge - totalling £1,215.

Mr House said he had been carrying out building work for Ms Moore when she became "besotted". Ms Burnett said in response to Ms Moore's claims of an affair: "It looked very much the other way around."



'I actually have seven': De Niro welcomes new child at age 79

By Rozina Sabur in Washington

ROBERT DE NIRO has welcomed his seventh child at the age of 79.

The Oscar-winning actor revealed the news during an interview to promote his latest film, *About My Father*.

Discussing parenting with ET Canada, De Niro said he believes "in being loving with [his] kids," despite sometimes having "to be stern about stuff".

Asked about his six children, De Niro replied: "Seven, actually." Adding: "I just had a baby".

De Niro did not give any more details about the child or its mother. However his girlfriend, Tiffany Chen, a martial arts instructor, looked to be pregnant when she was photographed having dinner with the actor last month.

De Niro has daughter Drena, 51, and son Raphael, 46, from his first marriage to Diahnne Abbott. In 1995, he welcomed twin sons Julian and Aaron, now 27, with his former girlfriend, the model Toukie Smith. He also has Elliot, 24, and daughter Helen, 11, from his second marriage to Grace Hightower.

I will boycott books rewritten to censor history, says Hanks

By Michael Murphy

TOM HANKS has said he would boycott books that have been rewritten to avoid offending "modern sensitivities".

The American film star appeared on BBC Radio 4 to discuss his debut novel and was asked whether he supported the censorship of works by authors such as Roald Dahl and Agatha Christie.

Hanks said he would be "against reading any book from any era that says 'abridged due to modern sensitivities'".

Rebecca Jones, the BBC's arts correspondent, yesterday asked Hanks: "Should we be retroactively changing the words of dead authors?"

Hanks replied: "I'm of the opinion that we're all grown-ups here. And we understand the time and the place and when these things were written."

"It's not very hard at all to say: that doesn't quite fly right now, does it? Let's have faith in our own sensibilities here, instead of having somebody decide what we may or may not be offended by. Let me decide what I am offended by."



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News

'I didn't hit drunk man, he walked into my hand'

DCI Banks actor denies GBH and tells court that his accuser only fell down because he was inebriated

By Will Bolton CRIME CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN TOMPKINSON, the actor, has denied claims that he punched a man to the ground, telling a court yesterday that the accuser "made contact" with his outstretched hand.

The 57-year-old, who played the lead role in ITV's *DCI Banks* for six years, confronted Karl Poole and his friend Andrew Hall in the early hours of the morning on May 30 last year.

Newcastle Crown Court heard that Mr Tompkinson punched Mr Poole to the floor and filmed him on his phone because he was annoyed that the two men might wake his partner and child.

Yesterday, Mr Tompkinson told the court he did not strike Mr Poole with his fist and was "not responsible" for the double skull fracture he sustained when his head hit the pavement.

He said he put his hand out to stop Mr Poole coming towards him and made contact with his face but that it "wasn't enough to knock a sober man off his feet".

Mr Tompkinson said he had had acting work "taken away" since being charged with grievous bodily harm, and that while the legal proceedings are hanging over him, "any association with me is put on hold".

The actor said at the time of the alleged assault he was living in Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, with his partner and her seven-year-old son.

Jurors heard he had woken up early that morning, heard "strange noises"

and saw two "heavily intoxicated" men drinking at the bottom of his driveway, one of whom was Mr Poole, who was wearing just underpants. Mr Tompkinson said he watched the pair attempt to stand up and fall several times while drinking from a bottle of Jagermeister.

"I was very worried [the bottle] would break. That particular area of the driveway was where the seven-year-old liked practise on the skateboard," he said.

Mr Tompkinson told the court he called 999 and was waiting to be connected when he went outside and spoke to the men. He said he told them he had called the police, and one of them replied: "Call who you f---ing like, I'm a social worker."

The actor said the men then got to their feet, unsteadily, and started to move towards him. He told the court he

 **Karl Poole suffered a double skull fracture after an incident outside the DCI Banks star's home**

put his hands on Mr Hall and "guided" him to the ground, then saw Mr Poole coming towards him.

"I didn't want to hurt him, I wanted to stop him to change his mind about coming towards me and further onto my property." Mr Tompkinson said as he went to make a "stop" motion, his hand connected with the left side of Mr Poole's face and that he went to the floor because of his "unsteadiness".

Mr Tompkinson denies one charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.



Stephen Tompkinson arrives at Newcastle Crown Court yesterday. He denies causing Karl Poole's double skull fracture

Rape trials without a jury 'will go ahead' despite boycott

By Daniel Sanderson
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND'S justice secretary has insisted plans for juryless rape trials will go ahead even though the scheme is facing a national boycott from defence lawyers.

Angela Constance insisted yesterday that the SNP plans for a pilot scheme, in which defendants are tried by a single judge, will go ahead despite a mounting backlash from the legal profession over the proposals.

Some feminist campaigners have claimed that juryless trials are needed because of widespread belief in sexist "rape myths" among the public, which cause them to wrongly acquit predators.

However, criminal lawyers north of the border have insisted there is nothing wrong with the jury system and that plans designed to artificially drive up conviction rates will risk major miscarriages of justice.

Bar associations in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee have vowed to boycott any pilot, with more bodies across Scotland rapidly joining them.

However, Ms Constance insisted that the proposals, planned as part of a wider shake-up of the Scottish justice system in which the non-proven verdict would be scrapped, would not be dropped.

"The legal profession is not a homogeneous group. There are a range of voices in the legal establishment," she said.

"I am of course disappointed that some criminal defence lawyers disagree with Lady Dorrian, the second most senior judge in the land, who made a recommendation for a pilot."

"I am determined to proceed in partnership ... we are at the very start of a journey and Parliament will have to listen to all the voices and views, not just within our legal profession."

Soldier who groped colleague's bottom at party attended by the Waleses is sacked

By Danielle Sheridan DEFENCE EDITOR

A SOLDIER has been dismissed from the Army after he sexually assaulted a female colleague in a pub where the Princess of Wales had joined in St Patrick's Day celebrations.

L/Cpl Shane Ritchie, 25, cupped the woman's bottom as he squeezed past

her to go for a cigarette. The incident happened at the Irish Guards' first regimental day celebration since the pandemic, and the Prince and Princess of Wales were guests of honour.

The Princess, who has since been made the Colonel of the Irish Guards, presented sprigs of shamrock to members of the battalion on parade. How-

ever, after the celebrations at Mons Barracks in Aldershot, Hants, in March last year L/Cpl Ritchie's "creeping" hand groped the bottom of his fellow soldier.

The father of two from Belfast denied the charge, claiming that if there had been contact, it was accidental and not sexual. However, he has been dismissed

from the Armed Forces and was handed a two-year community service order.

Giving evidence at the court martial at Bulford Military Court in Salisbury, the female soldier said she was introduced to L/Cpl Ritchie at the celebration and described him as "really drunk". She said: "He looked like he couldn't stand up properly and he

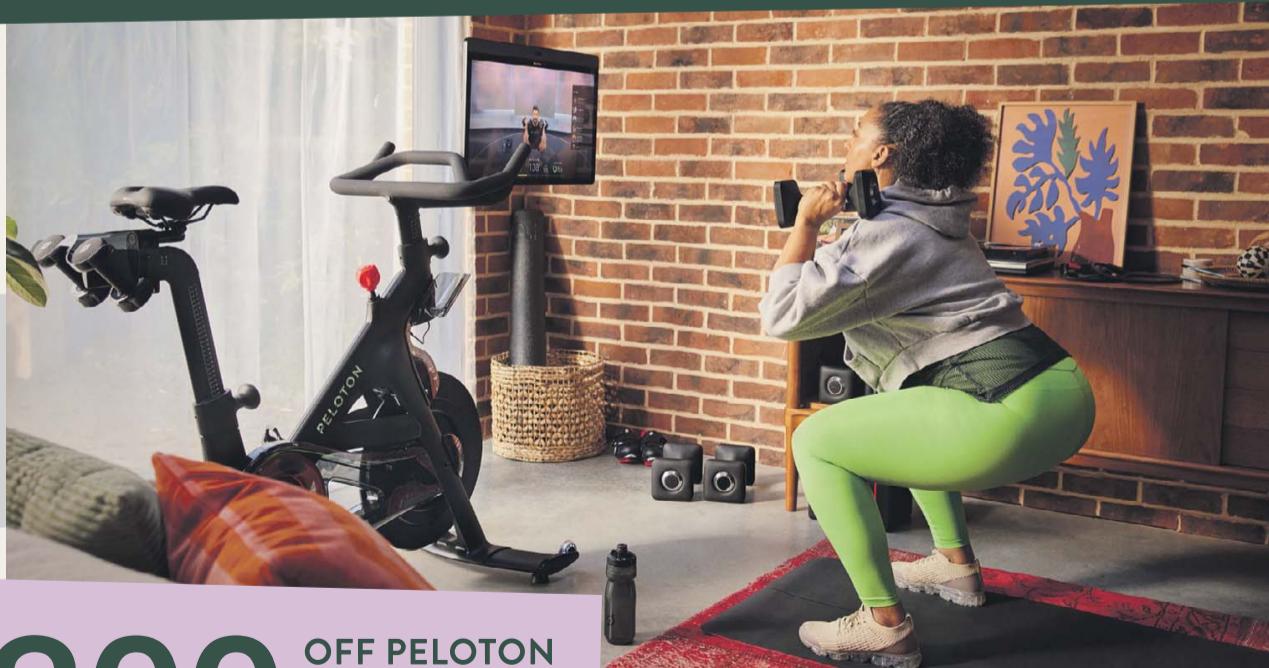
slurred his words. After I shook his hand, he said 'I've got a missus' but I wasn't interested, so I left."

She told the court she returned to some nearby sofas to talk to a friend, when the assault took place. "I felt someone come behind me and put a hand on my shoulder, slide their hand down my back and cup my bum," she

said. "I turned and saw it was [L/Cpl Ritchie] and just pushed him away."

Sentencing, Assistant Judge Advocate General Jane England told him his behaviour was "unsolicited, drunken sexual conduct". She added: "This is not the first time female service personnel have been made to feel unwelcome. Such behaviour must stop."

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News



BIBBY STOCKHOLM, the migrant barge, arrives at Falmouth, Cornwall, yesterday for inspection before it is converted to house more than 500 asylum seekers from next month in Portland Port in Dorset

Police plead for extra cash to deal with 500 barge migrants

Overcrowding and safety fears raised as asylum seeker vessel arrives in UK

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

MINISTERS have been urged to provide an extra £700,000 of policing amid safety fears over the UK's first migrant barge, where 500 asylum seekers will be "cooped up" from next month.

The Bibby Stockholm, a barge that has been used to house oil and construction workers, arrived in Falmouth, Cornwall, yesterday to be refitted and refurbished before being towed to Portland Port, near Weymouth in Dorset, ready to take on board the asylum seekers next month.

It has 222 rooms with en suite bathrooms, leisure facilities such as pool tables and a gym, and catering, but will be converted to take up to 506 asylum seekers who will be required to share rooms with en suite washing facilities. Some will be at least three to a room. Though free to come and go, they will get only £9 a week.

The scheme is facing opposition from Richard Drax, the local Tory MP, and Dorset council who are considering legal action to block what they say is an inappropriate plan. David Sidwick, Dorset's police and crime commissioner, is demanding Home Office funds to pay for the additional costs of policing the site.

Mr Drax said: "My concern is if things go wrong on board, there are going to be issues – whether health,

crime or frustration – with a whole lot of people cooped up together for the first time on a barge that is itself like a quasi-prison.

"There are also concerns for my constituents. Who is going to monitor these men who have only £9 a week to spend. What are they going to do all day? Wander around?"

The barge will be fenced off where it is berthed to stop migrants roaming the busy port, which receives commercial ships and cruise liners. The port expects to bring in some 130,000 passengers this year.

There will be 24-hour security on the barge as well as at the gate to the port, a closed secure area.

Migrants are free to come and go but those who stay out beyond the voluntary 11pm curfew will be called by phone to check their whereabouts. Any who remain out for more than seven consecutive days and nights, or 14 days and nights within any six-month period, will face removal from Portland.

Councillors have been told that there will be hourly bus services to take migrants out of the port and on trips to Weymouth and potentially other major towns like Bournemouth.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will today lead an assault by the Church of England on Rishi Sunak's new laws to extinguish the rights of migrants to claim asylum in the UK.

The Most Rev Justin Welby will be one of at least three leading Church of England bishops who will criticise the plans as the House of Lords debates the Government's Illegal Migration Bill for the first time.

UK too quick to lock people up, says Major

By Charles Hymas

BRITAIN is locking up too many prisoners, says Sir John Major, as he urged ministers to consider alternatives to jail for low-level offenders.

In a speech to the Prison Reform Trust, the former prime minister said Britain had the highest imprisonment rates in Western Europe, yet he said, "I find it hard to believe we British are uniquely criminal".

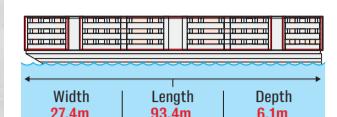
In the year to June 2022, 43,000 people were sentenced to a prison term, of which fewer than two-fifths had committed a violent offence. "Was prison the correct or fair sentence for all the 26,000 non-violent offenders? Some, perhaps... but all? I am not sure that it

was," said Sir John. "The punishment of prison is to lose liberty, but the prisoner may lose much else besides: their job, their home, their relationships. That is a high cost – not only for the prisoner, but for society as a whole. The full costs may not be justified. We might be wise to be more selective."

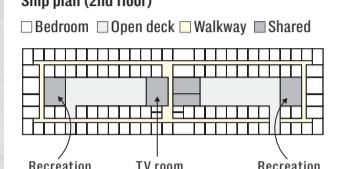
"When prisoners have served their punishment we don't wish them to be so alienated that, through spleen or necessity, they return to crime. That is in no one's interest – and especially not the public at large."

"To be blunt, my suspicion is that many short sentences are pointless and that a non-custodial sentence would be more effective and, perhaps, more fair."

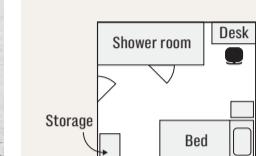
Home to hundreds:
the Bibby Stockholm barge



Ship plan (2nd floor)



Average room layout



APPROXIMATE SIZE OF ROOMS*
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*various room sizes SOURCE: BIBBYMARITIME

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News

Gender inequality 'shrinks women's brains' by causing chronic stress

Difference in grey matter is greater in countries where females have fewer rights, researchers find

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

GENDER inequality may shrink women's brains, research has suggested.

A study by the University of Oxford that looked at scans of more than 7,800 people aged 18 to 40 found significant brain thinning in women living in countries with fewer female rights and male-dominated cultural norms.

In countries where there was greater gender inequality, such as India, Turkey and Brazil, the thickness of the grey matter in the right hemisphere of women's brains was up to 5 per cent thinner than men's.

However, in Scandinavian countries such as Sweden and Finland, there was no significant difference between the sexes, with women showing thicker grey matter than men in some areas.

In Britain, researchers found about 0.5 per cent thinning in the right hemisphere of female brains, which they say could be a result of gender inequality.

The areas of the brain affected – the anterior cingulate cortex and orbito-frontal cortex – are linked to stress and emotions. Researchers believe that living in unequal environments may cause chronic stress that damages the

connections between brain cells and shrinks the grey matter. Lack of opportunities in school or at work may also prevent the development of brain connections, the researchers suggested.

Experts said the level of brain thinning was similar to that seen in people with conditions such as schizophrenia.

Dr Nicolas Crossley, the lead author, who is a visiting professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Oxford and an associate professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Chile, said: "Our analysis suggests some sex differences in brain structure are associated with the adverse social environment under which many women live."

"These changes were particularly located in regions involved in control of emotions and that are also affected in stress-related disorders such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder."

"We therefore think that what we are seeing is the effect of chronic stress in women's brains in gender unequal environments. Stress affects neurons' connections, which we would then see as thinning of the grey matter cortex in MRI studies."

"However, other mechanisms could also be involved, such as the effect of reduced opportunities including education in women's brains, leading to lower development of connections."

The study was published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in collaboration with more than 70 other institutions.



Howzat Colehill Cricket Club in Dorset emerges victorious over neighbours who were angry about stray balls hitting their houses. Nets have been installed thanks to a £35,000 crowdfunding appeal backed by Ben Stokes, the England captain.

Tavistock trust faces 'ongoing challenges' over scrapped trans clinic

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A TRUST is experiencing "ongoing challenges" as it manages a gender identity services clinic for young people ahead of its closure and replacement with regional services, a health watchdog has said.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) said it inspected mental health services for children and young people at the

Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust to ensure the trust's other services were "continuing to deliver safe and effective care and treatment".

It was announced last July that the London-based Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) clinic would be shutting down, to be replaced by a regional network.

NHS England said it cannot confirm when the GIDS will close, saying the

new regional services need to be ready to take on patients to ensure there is no gap in the provision of care.

An independent review, led by Dr Hilary Cass, was commissioned in September 2020 amid a rise in demand, long waiting times for assessments and "significant external scrutiny" around the GIDS approach and capacity.

The Cass review's final report is expected towards the end of this year.

The CQC said it did not inspect the GIDS on this occasion, but carried out inspections of the specialist community mental health services for children and young people (Camhs) at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust and the community forensic mental health team at the Portman Clinic in January and February this year.

The CQC said: "The trust has gone through significant change in terms of

its senior leadership team. It is also experiencing ongoing challenges with managing the gender identity services for young people during the period before it transfers to new regional services."

The watchdog's reports, published today, said the Camhs service "requires improvement" for safety, which is a drop from the previous "good" rating. Inspectors did not rate the Portman

Clinic at this inspection, but the CQC said the overall rating for the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust remains at "good".

A spokesman for the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust said: "Although our overall rating remains 'good', we accept the areas identified for improvement. We are making immediate improvements in the identified areas."

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Give Ukraine long-range missiles, UK urges

Cleverly pushes for war to end quickly as he stresses that Kyiv must have 'tools needed to get the job done'

By Danielle Sheridan and Rozina Sabur

THE UK is pushing for Ukraine to be sent missiles and rockets capable of striking 200 miles away in what would be the longest range weapon to hit the battlefield.

It comes as James Cleverly, the Foreign Secretary, visited the Atlantic Council in Washington where he pledged Ukraine would be "victorious" in its war with Russia. According to a notice on International Fund for

Ukraine (IFU), a British government website, industry suppliers have been invited to submit expressions of interest to provide equipment such as missiles or rockets with a range of up to 186 miles to launch from land, sea or air. The appeal, which has closed, asked for responses regarding the sophisticated weapons system within three days.

In Washington, Mr Cleverly said: "There is a strong argument that we shouldn't leave our respective military cupboards bare. My answer is that, you know, if we're saving stuff up for a rainy day, this is the rainy day."

He said Ukraine needed to be "victorious quickly", as he stressed "the best way of doing that is to give them the tools that they need to get the job done". Mr Cleverly said the UK understood the importance of air defence for Ukraine

as he added: "The bottom line is we have got to adapt our support just as Ukrainians evolve and adapt their tactics to defend themselves."

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, previously made it clear that he wants the UK to be the first nation to send longer-range missiles to Ukraine.

At the Munich Security Conference in February he said: "Together we must help Ukraine to shield its cities from Russian bombs and Iranian drones, that's why the United Kingdom will be the first country to give Ukraine longer-range weapons."

Mr Sunak stopped short of stating what the weapons would be, however it is felt that Storm Shadow, the RAF's long-range cruise missile, would deliver the desired effect of disrupting Russian logistical chains. It costs about £2.2 million and can be fired from a fighter jet at targets as far as 350 miles away.

A defence source said Ukraine had asked for long-range missiles and, as a result, the UK was looking at what could be done. However, they said the "moves slowly" and it could take "months" to see capabilities made available. They added that the UK has "often led the charge" in supporting Ukraine, citing thousands of Next-generation Light Anti-tank Weapons and the 14 Challenger II tanks sent to

Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian pilot training on RAF fighter jets.

In January, Ukraine said it expected the West would send long-range missiles capable of striking almost 200 miles behind Russian lines.

They would be used to target Russia's fragile supply chains, hitting ammunition depots, warehouses and other infrastructure critical to its invasion.

With Ukraine's spring counter-offensive looming, it is understood the IFU executive panel, which consists of the UK, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, will consider what weapons will be sent.

A defence source suggested the IFU was not the right system to send a weapon such as Storm Shadow. Some fear a risk of escalation if the Storm Shadow is delivered to Ukraine, which from journalists and campaigners.

Single tank is all Putin can muster to lead military 'victory parade'

By Joe Barnes and Dominic Nicholls

Vladimir Putin yesterday watched a single Second World War tank roll through Moscow's Victory Day parade, underscoring just how much weaponry his army has lost in Ukraine.

The T-34, an 83-year-old relic, has traditionally opened the annual display because of its symbolic role in helping Russia overcome Nazi Germany.

However, the Soviet-era tank is normally followed by more modern fighting machines in a full display of Moscow's military might.

This year's parade had a total of 51 vehicles in comparison with 131 last year and 197 in 2021, according to analyst Oliver Alexander. Featured were 10 armoured vehicles used only by Chechen forces.

The amount of military equipment was always likely to be underwhelming compared with recent years as the war in Ukraine rages on. But there's underwhelming and then there's "millennium bug" levels of underwhelming. Yesterday's parade eclipsed even the latter.

The lack of tanks was the most glaring sign of the attrition facing Putin's war machine. Moscow is believed to have lost 3,734 tanks in the war so far, according to Ukrainian government figures.

Last year, the T-34 was accompanied by a T-14 Armata and a T-74, two of Russia's more modern battle tanks, which have both been spotted on the battlefield in Ukraine. Russia has desperately been attempting to plug its shortfall of tanks by taking older models out of deep storage to send across the border.

Just 10 weapons systems were on display during the military parade yesterday, while the aerial portion, which usually features fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, was cancelled entirely.

Last year the Russian ministry of defence announced that 131 types of weapons were involved, with an air-show of 77 aircraft and helicopters.

In what was the smallest number of troops featured since 2008, just 8,000 marched across Red Square – fewer than at the Victory Day parade in 2020, which was held six weeks late because of the Covid pandemic.

Last year, 11,000 troops took part in the parade in Moscow. The marching troops were, for the most part, not actually troops but cadets and students of military universities.

Footage of the Red Square festivities was not captured from air this year after a drone ban was enacted following an attack on the Kremlin last week. Outside Moscow, celebrations were also pared back with more than 20 Russian cities cancelling their annual parades.



The Soviet T-34 tank, which has a symbolic role in helping Russia to overcome Nazi Germany, was the only tank on display during the Victory Day Red Square Parade in Moscow yesterday

Also cancelled was a nationwide Immortal Regiment march in which ordinary Russians each year carry pictures of deceased veterans. Some commentators speculated that the Kremlin did not want to run the risk of marchers holding up photographs of recently killed fighters in Ukraine in a form of protest.

"Putin has presided over the greatest and swiftest military collapse Russia has known in recent history," Michael Horowitz, a geopolitical and security analyst, said.

Putin could have injected a bit of oomph into proceedings with a grand display of diplomatic support from his friends. Certainly, his speech was the usual fire-breathing stuff, full of Nazis (us) and degenerates (us, again). But, like the parade, it was full of bluster but short on detail.

Standing on stage on Red Square, Putin lashed out at the West, saying a "real war has been unleashed against Russia" and sought to portray Ukraine as a "hostage" of the West and its "neo-Nazi" allies.

He said that Russia's future "rests on" soldiers fighting in Ukraine. "There is nothing more important now than your combat effort," the Russian

president said, addressing troops fighting in Ukraine, some of whom were present at the parade. He continued: "The security of the country rests on you today, the future of our statehood and our people depend on you."

The leaders of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, the six-member grouping of post-Soviet states (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia) that Putin wants the world to view as a Nato-equivalent, were present, but none seemed particularly happy to be there.

Notably, the three most important, Alexander Lukashenko (illegitimate leader of Belarus), Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (president of Kazakhstan) and Nikol Pashinyan (Armenia's prime minister and chairman of the CSTO Security Council) seemed eager to keep as much distance from Putin as possible.

This is not sentimental Kremlinology – the dark arts of trying to work out the Kremlin's "who's hot and who's not" list, based on who is standing where and next to whom – this stuff matters and is a rare glimpse into the inner workings of Putin's kleptocracy.

What to make of it all? Putin has sought to position himself as the legitimate heir to, indeed as the personification of, the spirit of the wartime generation. He sees the Victory Day parade as the manifestation of his power.

If ever there had been a time to show off military prowess, this was it.

We are now 15 months into Russia's two-week lightning offensive and Moscow has gone from saying "We'll be in Kyiv in three days" to "Don't worry, Putin wasn't killed in the drone attack on the Kremlin last night".

Putin needed to show strength and control today. The latter he achieved, over cadet bands and about a dozen all-terrain vehicles painted green.

The former? Not so much, and that will have been noticed around the world and, possibly more worrying for Putin, inside Russia.

Hamish de Bretton-Gordon: Page 14 Editorial Comment: Page 15

Nothing to see here: how parade has shrunk



West destroys Russia's 'Snake' hacking tool

By Danielle Sheridan DEFENCE EDITOR

THE UK and its allies have destroyed Moscow's "premier espionage tool", it has been announced.

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ, along with the FBI and security forces from New Zealand, Australia and Canada, revealed technical details about how they successfully dismantled the "Snake malware" implant.

The groups said yesterday they hoped to help organisations understand how Snake operates and suggest mitigations to help defend against the threat.

A senior FBI official told reporters: "We assess this to be their [Russia's] premier espionage tool. Our ability to take it down, and then publicly provide network defenders with the ability to now defend their networks against it, we believe makes it untenable for the FSB [Russia's Federal Security Service] to reconstitute after this operation."

The malware and its variants have been a core component in Russian espionage operations for two decades.

The international spy agencies working on breaking the code identified Snake infrastructure in more than 50 countries across the world. America's

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency stated that the implant has been used to collect sensitive information from specific targets, such as government networks, research facilities and journalists.

Paul Chichester, the National Cyber Security Centre director of operations, said: "The advisory lifts the lid on a highly sophisticated espionage tool used by Russian cyber actors."

"We strongly encourage organisations to read the technical information about Snake malware and implement the mitigations to help detect and defend against this advanced threat."

"We have got to adapt our support just as Ukrainians evolve and adapt tactics to defend themselves"

is one of the reasons that Joe Biden is resisting Ukraine's requests for longer range munitions.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "Any decision to proceed with procurement of a particular capability will be made by the IFU Executive Panel, an international board which oversees the governance of the fund."

◆ Britain is to formally proscribe the Wagner group of Russian mercenaries as a terrorist organisation, *The Times* reported. Proscription would make it a criminal offence to belong to the group, attend its meetings, carry its logo in public or encourage support for it, as well as imposing financial sanctions which would have implications for its ability to raise funds. The group would be barred from using UK courts to stifle criticism from journalists and campaigners.

£2.2 million and can be fired from a fighter jet at targets as far as 350 miles away.

A defence source said Ukraine had asked for long-range missiles and, as a result, the UK was looking at what could be done. However, they said the "moves slowly" and it could take "months" to see capabilities made available. They added that the UK has "often led the charge" in supporting Ukraine, citing thousands of Next-generation Light Anti-tank Weapons and the 14 Challenger II tanks sent to

Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian pilot training on RAF fighter jets.

In January, Ukraine said it expected the West would send long-range missiles capable of striking almost 200 miles behind Russian lines.

They would be used to target Russia's fragile supply chains, hitting ammunition depots, warehouses and other infrastructure critical to its invasion.

With Ukraine's spring counter-offensive looming, it is understood the IFU executive panel, which consists of the UK, Norway, Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, will consider what weapons will be sent.

A defence source suggested the IFU was not the right system to send a weapon such as Storm Shadow. Some fear a risk of escalation if the Storm Shadow is delivered to Ukraine, which from journalists and campaigners.

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World news

Khan seized by paramilitary police in corruption inquiry

Former prime minister's supporters break into military's headquarters and call for 'shutdown'

By Samaan Lateef in New Delhi

PROTESTERS enraged by the arrest of Imran Khan, Pakistan's former prime minister, broke into the headquarters of the army yesterday in an unprecedented show of defiance.

Mr Khan, the country's former cricket captain, was seized in the morning by security forces who stormed the

Islamabad High Court before forcing him into an armoured car. Video footage showed dozens of officers from the paramilitary Rangers Police force pushing Mr Khan, who walks with a limp after an assassination attempt last year.

Protesters descended on cities and military sites across the country as leaders of the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf called for a national "shutdown". Political tensions were at boiling point after Mr Khan, 70, over the weekend named Faisal Naseer, a senior officer in the feared Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) military spy network, as responsible for two attempts on his life. Dozens of protesters were filmed



Ministers say Imran Khan was arrested, left, because he failed to show in court for causing losses to the national treasury. Below, the aftermath of a protest by the supporters of Mr Khan in Karachi yesterday

breaking into the home of a military commander in Lahore before destroying his furniture and setting the building on fire. Police fired tear gas and water cannons at protesters in the capital Islamabad and Karachi, the country's largest city. In Rawalpindi, demonstrators broke through the gate to the army's headquarters.

Cyril Almeida, a political columnist, said the break-in at general headquarters was "unreal". He wrote on Twitter: "Either the revolution is here or something terrible is about to unfold."

Mr Khan has been locked for months in a confrontation with the military, which he alleges engineered his overthrow last year in a no-confidence vote.

He was attending court to face one of 100 charges of corruption filed against him since he left power. He claims the charges are fabricated. It was unclear yesterday whether the paramilitary Rangers had the authority to arrest him.

Rana Sanaullah, the interior minister, said Mr Khan had failed to appear before the court despite being issued with notices. "The arrest has been conducted by the National Accountability Bureau for causing losses to the national

treasury," he said. Allies of the former prime minister called it an "abduction".

Aamer Farooq, chief justice of the Islamabad High Court, demanded an explanation from the capital's police chief and the interior ministry. Mr Farooq said he would summon Shahbaz



Imran Khan, left, and his lawyer Gohar Khan who was injured in the arrest

Sharif, the prime minister, if he did not receive a satisfactory response. A witness, who did not want to be named, said Mr Khan was "grabbed the collar, lifted from his wheelchair" and then "dragged out on the road".

Gohar Khan, Mr Khan's lawyer, said his client was beaten over the head and in the leg where he was shot. Azhar Sidique, a senior lawyer, said the arrest was illegal and unconstitutional.



AKHTAR SOOMRO/REUTERS

Terror chiefs and civilians die in Israeli strike on Gaza

By James Rothwell in Jerusalem and Siham Shamalakh in Gaza City

ISRAELI air strikes on the Gaza Strip early yesterday killed three Islamic terror chiefs and at least eight civilians, including women and children, according to Palestinian officials.

The Israeli military said it had targeted the senior commanders of Islamic Jihad, the second largest militant group in Gaza, and 10 of the group's weapons manufacturing sites and compounds.

Powerful explosions echoed around the Gaza Strip for several hours as Israeli warplanes carried out the attacks there and in other residential areas, with smoke and flames rising into the sky being captured on video.

Initial reports suggested that a number of the civilians killed in the air raids were the wives and children of the Islamic Jihad commanders, identified by Islamic Jihad as Jihad Ghanam,

Khalil Al-Bahtini and Tareq Ezzaldin.

Palestinian health officials in Gaza said four children, including Hajar al-Bahtini, the five-year-old daughter of Khalil Al-Bahtini, and two of Tareq Ezzaldin's children were killed, along with four women, and a further 20 people were wounded, some critically.

Jamal Akhsian, a senior Palestinian doctor, and his wife were also killed in the Israeli attacks, they added. Israel said it had targeted militants who posed an immediate threat to its civilians.

"We've stopped our strikes for now. Our assets are in the air ready to respond to any threat to our civilians," said Lt Col Richard Hecht, a spokesman for the Israel Defence Forces.

Islamic Jihad said: "We will not abandon our positions and the resistance will continue, God willing."

The Israeli military said it was aware of reports of civilian deaths but did not issue an immediate comment.

Passengers stung to death by killer bees after coach crash

By Natalia Penza

SIX people including a mother and her daughter, eight, have died after being attacked by killer bees following a traffic accident in Nicaragua.

The victims were among about 60 passengers on a coach that came off the road on Monday and ended up crashing in an area where African honeybees were being kept in hives.

The insects are said to have reacted by stinging 45 passengers on the bus as they escaped from the vehicle.

Although the coach was damaged after plunging more than 160ft off the road into a coffee plantation where the bees were being kept in wooden hives, local reports said doctors were attributing the victims' deaths to the insect stings. Initial reports put the number of dead at four.

It later emerged that two of the most seriously injured victims had died in

hospital. The crash happened in the municipality of San Sebastian de Yali, about 115 miles north of the Nicaraguan capital Managua.

The victims included a woman, 47, named locally as Eneyda Torrez Zelaya, and her daughter Andrea Carolina Garcia Torrez, eight. Another of those killed was a woman, 84, named as Reyna Isabel Olivias Montalvan. A four-year-old boy is said to be in a serious condition. Photos of those injured show the victims with dozens of red welts covering their upper bodies.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing, although initial reports point to the 22-year-old driver losing control of his vehicle because of mechanical faults.

Africanised bees are known colloquially as the "killer bee" and they are typically more defensive, reacting to disturbances faster and chasing people further than other varieties.

British boy murdered in Thai drug deal gone wrong

By Blathnaid Corless

A BRITISH teenager found dead in Thailand was murdered after a drug deal went wrong, the suspect involved in the case has said.

Woramet Ben Taota, a 16-year-old dual national, was found dead on May 7 in Lampang province in northern Thailand after going for a ride on a scooter. He was discovered in a forest with injuries that had apparently been caused by a blunt instrument.

Chaiwat Boonkarin, was suspected of the crime and yesterday the 44-year-old confessed to murder, Thai media reported. He told police he arranged to meet the teenager to complete a drug deal, but an argument ensued because Chaiwat thought he had stolen something and was lying to him.

Chaiwat said that he became angry and hit the boy with a piece of wood until he died, according to reports.

CCTV footage has revealed the teenager's final movements. The footage, recorded the day before his body was found, captured him riding a blue scooter with a girl police say he was romantically involved with. Suraphitchaya Khamsa, 16, was riding pillion with him at 4.25pm local time as they visited her grandfather. They dropped off another girl, who was also seen on the bike, then rode away together at 7.18pm.

Woramet's other girlfriend in the case, Yam, has been found safe and well after being reported missing. However, detectives are searching for another girlfriend, Suraphitchaya (known to friends as Ping Pong), who may have been the last person to see him alive.

His British grandmother, Lilian Graham, told MailOnline that he "was with a girl and they went to the forest to meet a man. We are all devastated. Ben's father Steve is going to Thailand tonight."

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Virus scientists banned from China over Covid leak fears

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

VIRUS hunters who carried out controversial experiments on bat coronaviruses before the pandemic have been forced to rein in their work to keep their funding.

EcoHealth Alliance, who were working with Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) to collect and study bat viruses before the pandemic, have been allowed to restart experiments after a three-year suspension, but with significant restrictions.

The National Institutes of Health has forbidden the team from carrying out any research in China and banned the collection of bat or human samples.

It has also prohibited scientists from culturing chimeric viruses, carrying out infection experiments or doing anything that has the potential to enhance the virulence or transmission of a virus.

The team has been told it must operate at biosafety level 3 – the laboratory grade for studying infectious agents or toxins that may be transmitted through the air and cause a potentially lethal infection. Previously, work at WIV was being carried out under biosafety level 2.

Scientists told the journal *Nature* that they had never seen a grant with so many stipulations.

US-based EcoHealth, headed by Peter Daszak, the British zoologist, said it had also agreed to "additional oversight mechanisms" under the four-year \$2.9million (£2.2million) grant.

Mr Daszak said it was still possible to carry out research with the restrictions, adding that the sensitive political climate had made previous operations more difficult. Biosafety experts said that the restricted scope reflected the concern about the work carried out by scientists before the pandemic.



First cut is the deepest Young novice monks have their hair shaved during a ceremony at the Jogyesa Buddhist temple in Seoul, South Korea. Children taking part in the annual ritual stay at the temple until Buddha's birthday on May 27 to learn about the religion and experience what it is like to live as a monk.

Italy seeks exit from China 'belt and road' deal

Meloni move expected to antagonise Xi as experts say initiative is 'not compatible with pro-Western stance'

By Nick Squires in Rome

ITALY has signalled it will withdraw from China's Belt and Road Initiative, regarded by critics as a Trojan horse for Beijing to advance its interests.

Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, told Kevin McCarthy, the US House

speaker, last week that while a final decision has not yet been made, her government wants to exit the deal.

The benefits to Italy of signing up to the worldwide infrastructure project, which was originally intended to link East Asia to Europe, have been few.

China had pledged modest investments in the ports of Genoa and Trieste, "but even they did not materialise in full", said Federico Santi, a senior analyst at Eurasia Group.

He said Beijing had recently stepped up its lobbying efforts to try to convince Rome to stay in the deal as it would be a

big loss symbolically for China", adding: "This decision, if confirmed, will antagonise the Chinese government."

Relations between Europe and China have become increasingly fraught over Beijing's support for Russia in the Ukraine war.

Italy became the only G7 nation to sign up to the Belt and Road project in 2019, in a move criticised by Giuseppe Conte, the then prime minister. The accord was due to automatically renew in March 2024 unless Italy pulled out.

Stefano Stefanini, a senior adviser at the Institute for the Study of Interna-

tional Politics in Rome, said that if Italy did not withdraw, it risked causing a clash with the United States.

"Italy has to decide which side it is on," he wrote in *La Stampa*, last week.

Remaining with the Belt and Road Initiative would be "choice that is hardly compatible with Italy's pro-

Western stance", Mr Stefanini said.

The economic benefits of the scheme come with strings attached.

"The Chinese, who are born merchants, never give anything away for free – as many countries in Africa and Asia are finding out," he said. There is

no easy way to exit the accord without upsetting China and there will be "inevitable reprisals" by Beijing, Mr Stefanini added.

The move could be announced at the G7 summit in Japan next week.

Francesco Sisci, an Italian expert on China who is based in Beijing, said he was not convinced the Italians would rip up the accord. If they did, they would have to do so very carefully.

"It is crucial that Italy handles this with finesse," he said. "The Chinese reaction will depend on how the Italians approach it. Knowing Italy and the Ital-

ians, they may decide it's too difficult. They may extend it – it's possible."

Critics say the Chinese investment projects, now extended to Latin America, Africa and Oceania, are often a debt trap for unsuspecting countries.

So far, more than 140 nations have signed up to the scheme or are interested in doing so. But many have found themselves saddled with huge debts, including Pakistan, Zambia and Ghana. In Europe, there are fears that Beijing is using projects to win influence in the Balkans, investing in countries such as Serbia and Montenegro.

Beijing expels Canadian envoy in tit-for-tat row over meddling

By Our Foreign Staff

CHINA expelled Canada's consul in Shanghai yesterday in a tit-for-tat move after a Chinese diplomat was sent home accused of trying to intimidate a political critic of Beijing.

The Chinese foreign ministry labelled Jennifer Lynn Lalonde "persona non grata" in a statement published online yesterday, adding "China reserves the right to further react". She was told to leave China by May 13.

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes this and has lodged serious demarche and strong protest to Canada," the statement said, referring to Ottawa's decision to expel a Chinese diplomat in Toronto.

"As a reciprocal countermeasure in reaction to Canada's unscrupulous move, China decides to declare Jennifer Lynn Lalonde, consul of the Consulate General of Canada in Shanghai persona non grata," it added. "China reserves the right to further react." Neither Canada's

foreign ministry nor its embassy in Beijing or Shanghai consulate replied to requests for comment.

The move by Beijing comes after Mélanie Joly, Canada's foreign minister, said that Zhao Wei, the Toronto-based Chinese diplomat, must leave the country. Canada, she said, would "not tolerate any form of foreign interference in our internal affairs".

'We remain firm in our resolve that defending our democracy is of the utmost importance'

She said: "We remain firm in our resolve that defending our democracy is of the utmost importance," adding that diplomats in Canada "have been warned that if they engage in this type of behaviour, they will be sent home".

The expulsions plunged the two nations into a fresh diplomatic row after

years of souring relations. It follows an outcry led by Michael Chong, the Canadian parliamentarian, over allegations that China's intelligence agency had planned to target him and his relatives in Hong Kong with sanctions for voting in February 2021 for a motion condemning Beijing's conduct in the Xinjiang region as genocide.

Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, has faced growing pressure to take a hard line with Beijing after disclosures in recent months that it sought to sway Canada's 2019 and 2021 elections. The latest allegations were used by critics to accuse him of inertia in the face of foreign meddling.

Relations between Beijing and Ottawa have been tense since Canada's arrest in 2018 of a senior Huawei executive and the detention of two Canadian nationals in China in apparent retaliation. After China's ambassador was summoned last week, Beijing described the move as "groundless slander and defamation" by Canada.

Trudeau faces most damaging scandal yet

By Nick Allen and Rozina Sabur in Washington

When Michael Chong put his name to a motion in the Canadian parliament declaring China's treatment of its Uyghur Muslim minority to be genocide, he gave little thought to his family.

But not long after the motion passed in 2021, Chinese intelligence agents were on the hunt for his relatives in Hong Kong to send Mr Chong a blunt message.

The intimidation tactic was designed to "make an example" of Mr Chong, a strong critic of China's human rights record, and to "deter others from taking anti-PRC [People's Republic of China] positions," according to intelligence leaked last week.

Canada on Monday expelled Zhao Wei, the Toronto-based diplomat accused of being involved in the cross-border harassment campaign.

But the question lingering over Justin Trudeau's government is "what took so long?"

Mr Chong, Conservative shadow foreign minister, said: "What's deeply disturbing is that the Canadian government knew a [Chinese]

diplomat in Toronto was involved, and they did nothing about it." Critics of Mr Trudeau said the latest scandal could prove his most damaging yet because it pointed to a lack of command of security threats facing Canada.

Canada's liberal prime minister has denied knowledge of the harassment campaign, which was detailed in a 2021 report by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

After the information became public last week Mr Trudeau said he had been in the dark, that he found out about the Chinese plot from the newspaper, and blamed Canadian spies for not telling him. He said: "We asked what happened to that information, was it ever briefed up out of CSIS? It was not."

"CSIS made the determination that it wasn't something that needed to be raised to a higher level."

In a committee hearing, Jody Thomas, Mr Trudeau's national security adviser, told a different story.

The information had been sent by CSIS to her department in the Privy Council Office. That left the Canadian public asking what Mr Trudeau knew, and when did he know it.

On Thursday, Mr Chong told the House of Commons that Ms Thomas's version "contradicts what the prime minister said yesterday". In a debate

several other Conservative MPs accused the liberals of "lying". On Friday, Mr Trudeau again blamed his own intelligence service.

He said: "I shared the best information I had at the time both to Chong and to Canadians. It's also clear that information never made it up to the political level in my office, to me."

"We're making it very, very clear to CSIS and our intelligence officials that when there are concerns that talk specifically about any MP, or about their family, those need to be elevated."

Mr Chong said: "The prime minister is solely responsible for the machinery of government. That he chose to set up the machinery of government in a way that didn't inform him of a serious threat is astonishing."

"There's a pattern here of a government not treating national security and defence seriously."

Mr Trudeau has already survived a series of ethics scandals relating to governmental decisions, and others involving his holiday on the Aga Khan's private island, a \$6,000 (£3,500) hotel room in London, and "elbowgate" in which he elbowed a female MP.

A recent poll gave him an approval rating of 37 per cent, his lowest since 2021, with 57 per cent of Canadians disapproving of his performance.

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The pernickety young should learn the joys of cut-price eating

ROWAN PELLING



What lengths would you go to in the frenzied pursuit of a smaller supermarket bill? I pushed the boundaries of decency on the eve of the Coronation by keeping the long-suffering staff of Wimbledon's Waitrose waiting 10 minutes at closing time as I attempted – and kept failing – to download the chain's shopping app. Why? Because a friend had just told me their "Fish Friday" offer granted a 25 per cent discount on piscine delicacies, meaning I could knock a tenner off my celebratory buffet.

So, when I read that an increasing number of shoppers were buying "yellow sticker" discounted groceries (two fifths of households last month, according to data from Barclays) I thought, "Why so late to the penny-pinching party?" I never buy anything at full cost if it's sitting next to a cheaper, wizened version that's just hours away from a "do not resuscitate" order.

The Food Standards Agency has warned that cost-conscious shoppers may put their health at risk by consuming "spoilt" food. Well, yes, they might if they place their purchases in a humid spot for weeks and let them bloom with mould. But the British public aren't blithering idiots; we know you should eat not-so-fresh sea bass before you turn to those miracles of longevity that are a decent box of eggs.

I don't want to boast, but I once made a delicious omelette from a box of Burford Browns that had been sitting in my fridge seven weeks beyond the sell-by date – and my entire family survived the experience. But then I was raised by a war-baby mother who hoarded tins of Harold Wilson era Bird's Custard Powder (bulk bought to survive the three-day week) well into the late 1980s. Wasting food was a grievous sin, second only to keeping the radiators on past March.

But, for me, the patron saint of thrifty groceries was the late British beat poet Michael Horovitz, whom I met when working on a magazine in Soho in the early 1990s. Although his methodology was really pleading and scavenging, not shopping. The writer chatted up staff in the West End branch of Cranks – the seminal health-food chain – and would drop by at closing time to claim the day's last loaves and sandwiches free, as a form of artistic patronage.

He had similar arrangements with a couple of Italian cafés and would wander by my office later to share his spoils. This first alerted me to the glorious fact that the cheapest time to shop, if you don't mind lack of choice, is two minutes before the doors are locked. Only last week I bought six delectable pastries from a posh deli for a fiver (full price £18) because the assistant was so keen to evict me. Meanwhile, squeezed-middle sushi lovers will be aware that Itsu sells off all its remaining wares for half-price half an hour before closing.

There are limits, of course, to this vigorous parsimony. I once dipped my hand into an open packet of Alpen in my uncle's Pimlico flat and consumed a stale mouthful before I noticed it was heaving with larvae, and my late mother-in-law offered me some Carr's water biscuits that were older than Nefertiti and crumbled to air in my hand. But nurturing healthy scepticism round sell-by dates is a skill worth instilling in the pernickety young who seem to think you can catch botulism from a refrigerated, week-old lasagne.

We should emulate French matrons at a farmer's market: pinching the produce to see what life's left in it, then haggling for a cutthroat deal. The benefits are obvious: less waste and everything tastes sweeter when you don't need to rob a bank to afford it.



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PR will be the price for the Lib Dems propping up a Labour government

The Tories are the victim of an electoral pincer movement that might just turn into a formal pact

PHILIP JOHNSTON



It was fascinating to see Sir Keir Starmer and Sir Ed Davey in their best bib and tucker at the Coronation on Saturday, chatting away amiably. What could they possibly have been discussing just two days after the parties they lead had performed so well in the local elections in England?

One benefit of such a grand Royal occasion is that it is possible to carry out political business in the full glare of the television cameras without recourse to clandestine liaisons that invariably get rummled.

State funerals, in particular, are always greatly anticipated since they bring together presidents, prime ministers and diplomats from around the world. In one episode of *Yes, Prime Minister*, Jim Hacker explains the rationale of a "working funeral" to his wife: "It is a heaven sent opportunity to have some meaningful conversations ... You can have some very useful discussions when the organ is playing but have to shut up during prayers."

So, did our two knights of the opposition manage a "meaningful conversation" as the trumpets blared and Sir Antonio Pappano took the brilliant Coronation orchestra through its paces? It would be astonishing if they hadn't, even if it was only to

arrange a chat at some point to discuss tactics ahead of the general election.

They will deny it, of course. No deals, no pacts, no coalitions. Yesterday, in an interview with the BBC Sir Keir dismissed the idea of a deal with the Lib Dems, calling it a "hypothetical question". But he refused to rule it out. Indeed, what last Thursday showed was that an anti-Conservative pincer movement is under way, without anything formal being agreed.

In the Midlands and the North – the so-called Red Wall demolished by Boris Johnson in 2019 – Labour is on course to retake many of the seats lost then. In the South, the Lib Dems are the main threat to the Conservatives and seemed to benefit from anti-Tory tactical voting.

The Conservatives lost more than 1,000 councillors and control of almost 50 local authorities. Labour gained 536 councillors and 22 councils, while the Lib Dems took control of 12 authorities including Windsor and Maidenhead and Stratford-on-Avon, as well as three in Devon, a traditional heartland.

Sate funerals, in particular, are always greatly anticipated since they bring together presidents, prime ministers and diplomats from around the world. In one episode of *Yes, Prime Minister*, Jim Hacker explains the rationale of a "working funeral" to his wife: "It is a heaven sent opportunity to have some meaningful conversations ... You can have some very useful discussions when the organ is playing but have to shut up during prayers."

So, did our two knights of the opposition manage a "meaningful conversation" as the trumpets blared and Sir Antonio Pappano took the brilliant Coronation orchestra through its paces? It would be astonishing if they hadn't, even if it was only to

while the new Tories turn out to be less grateful than expected and revert to their old allegiances.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, writing in this newspaper on Monday, observed that the 2019 local elections were dreadful for the Tories, yet they won an 80-seat majority just a few months later. But they were a unique set of circumstances, combining Theresa May's removal, Boris Johnson's rise, Jeremy Corbyn and Brexit – an explosive political cocktail never to be replicated.

This feels more like 1997, when bad local results the previous year and a consistently poor showing in the opinion polls – with the Tories on occasions 30 points behind Labour – translated into a disastrous general election. We often remember the scale of Sir Tony Blair's victory, with a majority of 179, the largest in post-war history, but forget that the flip-side was the worst Conservative showing since 1832, with a net loss of 178 seats.

Their woes were exacerbated by tactical voting by Labour supporters for Lib Dems in constituencies where the latter had the best chance of ousting the Tory candidate. Post-election analysis suggested this gave the Liberal Democrats 21 extra seats. Moreover, the Lib Dems won a total of 34 seats in England in 1997, so tactical voting probably accounted for something between half and two thirds of the seats that they secured. Is history about to repeat itself?

Certainly, last Thursday's results suggested that tactical voting is back so far as the Tories are concerned. Labour's vote share and its opinion poll lead is not enough to win outright, but the Lib Dems had their best result since 2010, performing well in the shires where they were already the main local opposition. So, will Sir Keir and Sir Ed

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be tempted to put this on a more formal basis and agree to soft pedal, or not even contest, seats where the other has the best chance of winning? The Liberal Democrats have been burned before, both when the Coalition came to an end in 2015 but also by Sir Tony in 1997.

Paddy Ashdown was led up the garden path by all sorts of promises that evaporated as soon as Labour had a stonking majority and didn't need him. Even a manifesto pledge to hold a referendum on proportional representation (PR) was jettisoned, let alone an understanding that the Lib Dems would be invited into government even if Labour won outright.

Ashdown recounts in his diaries a meeting after the 1996 local elections where Sir Tony said his colleagues were pleased at the way people are increasingly voting tactically. "In the past, they would have seen your success as a threat. Now they welcome it," he told Ashdown. But when he was pressed on PR, he equivocated. "I am now very confident that I can get to where I want to be," said Sir Tony. "And that is recommending, in my own time, electoral reform. But Gordon still believes that it's too early for PR."

And therein lies the Lib Dems' dilemma. If they so damage the Tories that Labour wins big, then all talk of "new politics" and constitutional change goes out of the window. Even when they got a referendum on electoral reform in 2011, public indifference and the hostility of their Coalition partners killed it at birth.

This time, the Lib Dems will want a copper-bottomed guarantee of PR if they are to enter any formal pact with Labour. Somehow, I doubt that Sir Ed received one in Westminster Abbey on Saturday.

It is the squeeze from both sides that will most worry Tory election planners

Russia's losses are worse than anyone thinks

Estimates of the Kremlin's military casualties may be far too low given Kyiv's use of new precision weapons

HAMISH DE BRETTON-GORDON



It was a curious sight. Russia's annual Victory Day parade, a display of military might and a celebration of its role in defeating Nazi Germany, could only muster a solitary T-34. The serried ranks of tanks seen in recent years were absent; many of them will be lying burned out in the Donbas. Vladimir Putin's speech was desperate, even delusional. He claimed civilisation was "at a decisive turning point"; that a "real war has been unleashed against Russia"; that the West seeks the "disintegration and destruction" of Russia. The only person driving towards that goal is Putin himself.

His army is in a shambolic condition, with multiple reports indicating that troops are fighting without adequate

body armour. Young men are conscripted and thrown into the meat grinder of the Donbas, backed by antiquated tanks. They face forces combining modern Western equipment with significant new tactical innovations. And they are being slaughtered.

Over the past century, battlefield casualties for Western forces have seen a steady decline. Modern medical techniques, antibiotics and military developments have all played their role. But assumptions based on this experience may not work when estimating the losses suffered by Putin's poorly equipped conscripts.

Ukrainian reports of Russian casualties resemble something from the fronts of the First World War, with hundreds killed and injured each day. Western analysts have tended to be more conservative in their estimates.

But this conflict is not like those we have seen previously. Kyiv's forces are innovating new ways of conducting warfare, with drones at their heart.

Tech-savvy young men and women are repurposing and re-engineering for the battlefield off-the-shelf and inexpensive equipment developed for peace.

This is a game-changing moment. Russia's armed forces are centred around the use of artillery; various

sources list Moscow's expenditure of shells as multiples of Ukraine's. And yet even pessimistic assessments show a casualty ratio skewed heavily in Ukraine's favour, despite being theoretically outgunned.

The key to this appears to be innovation. What is unique to the Ukraine conflict is the use of both drones as striking weapons and as platforms for observation. Some analysts suggest that using the standard ratios of deaths/wounded will be very far from reflecting the lethality of this new mode of warfare. Some have gone so far as to suggest that the vast majority of artillery rounds and mortar shells fired by Kyiv's forces will be watched by drone, allowing for – in artillery terms, at least – pinpoint accuracy.

And the pace of change is set to continue. The Ukrainians have trained 10,000 drone operators, who will add to Kyiv's capability to observe and guide indirect fire. This type of attack was called precision targeting when I first went to Afghanistan in 2008. In those days we would have a huge Nimrod aircraft with 20 or so operators on board, flying at 20,000ft with a single camera. There would be five or six of us on the ground monitoring the live feed; if the right target was identified, we

called in a precision air strike from a fighter jet. We conducted a few of these strikes per week. Later, we moved on to Reaper drones with hellfire missiles. But these strikes were rare; what Kyiv is doing is new.

Fighting a battle for national survival, every tank or enemy combatant is a fair target. The Ukrainians are developing techniques not only focused on precision attack but also on directing artillery fire. Battlefield footage may look like the First World War – trenches, shells and casualties abound – but we have moved on from rare balloon spotters sending messages to guns. Now, there are hundreds of tiny drones with amazingly capable cameras, giving detailed pictures and highly accurate metadata back to the guns. This is a type of warfare which few in Nato have ever experienced; when Russian casualty rates as estimated by the West appear to be half what the Ukrainians are claiming, it is surely possible that the Ukrainians are right.

This is backed up by the scramble in Russia to find soldiers. Both sides might lack ammunition, but the Kremlin appears to be running out of soldiers to fire that ammunition. The long-term costs for Russia are likely to be devastating.

The Coronation of King Charles III

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Having ascended the throne last September, King Charles III's Coronation takes place on May 6. This unique collection of pages from The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph chronicles the major events of His Majesty's extraordinary life.

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Putin's military might has vanished

The spectacle of a single Second World War tank traversing Red Square in Moscow on Victory Day was emblematic of the damage the conflict in Ukraine has inflicted on Russia. The T-34, an 83-year-old Soviet-era relic of the "Great Patriotic War", traditionally leads the parade but is usually accompanied by modern fighting machines to show off the nation's military might.

But this year, the event was markedly scaled back, with just 51 vehicles. Last year there were 131, and in 2021 almost 200. The Russians claimed the parade was reduced on security grounds following the recent drone attack on the Kremlin, which they blamed on Ukraine. But analysts believe the decision was taken to conceal the considerable losses to men and material suffered in Ukraine.

Certainly, the Russian authorities are having to resort to ever more desperate means in order to fill the gaps in their military's ranks. Conscripts have been sent to the front line, reportedly often lacking basic equipment such as body armour or even ammunition. The Kremlin has also grown reliant on mercenaries, notably the Wagner Group, whose loyalties some believe to be suspect.

Vladimir Putin's "special military operation" was supposed to end on this day last year. Military planners earmarked yesterday as the deadline for securing Kyiv, ousting the Ukrainian government and installing a Moscow-backed regime.

Not only has it failed to conquer Ukraine, but the Russian army has also become bogged down in a war of attrition in the east and is braced for a counter-offensive.

Some observers are sceptical that Ukrainians will be able to make significant gains in the coming months, not least because they have not been provided with all the weapons that they have requested from the West. None the less, they clearly remain set on driving the invader out of their country.

Russia's attempts to crush Kyiv's morale via attacks on critical infrastructure and civilian areas seem to have increased its determination to prevail.

Indeed, Putin disastrously underestimated the resilience and courage of the Ukrainian people and the unity of the West in the face of aggression, while grossly overestimating the competence of the Russian military.

In truth, Nato also thought that Ukraine would not last long and all assumptions about Russian capabilities have had to be revisited. Those Western leaders who thought that backing Kyiv with military and financial support was pointless have been proven humiliatingly wrong.

Putin's capacity for self-delusion was again in evidence in his speech yesterday in which he blamed the West for aiming to subjugate Russia. He said a "real war has been unleashed against Russia" and sought to portray Ukraine as a "hostage" of the West and its "neo-Nazi" allies.

Unfortunately, this rhetoric still resonates among many Russians, but even they must wonder why the great Victory Day military spectacle looked so threadbare this year.

Some troops taking part were even taken off the front line to attend and were addressed directly by Putin. "There is nothing more important now than your combat effort," the Russian president said. "The security of the country rests on you today, the future of our statehood and our people depend on you." Certainly his own future does.

Policing protesters

Saturday saw the greatest state occasion for 70 years. The Coronation, watched by hundreds of millions all over the world and attended by 300 leaders and dignitaries, was conducted with all the brilliance associated with British pomp and circumstance. That it went off without a hitch was testament to that inherited expertise and all the training and hard work that underpinned it.

Security was a great concern, especially for the King's procession to Westminster Abbey and back to Buckingham Palace accompanied by the massed ranks from the Armed Forces of the UK and the Commonwealth. On the fringes, republicans protested against the monarchy as they are entitled to do in a free country. What they are not allowed to do is disrupt proceedings because they do not like them. Democratic freedoms do not extend to causing harm or preventing lawful events going ahead.

It was feared that extremists would draw attention to their cause by scaring horses or locking themselves to objects. The job of stopping them fell to the Metropolitan Police, which arrested about 50 people on suspicion of seeking to cause trouble. Few have so far been charged and some have been exonerated, but that does not make the police action wrong and nor has it turned this country into a neo-fascist state, as some of the more absurd reactions have suggested.

Typically, Labour and Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, have jumped aboard a bandwagon to denigrate the police for ensuring that this great event was not ruined by a tiny minority of zealots. The Met deserves the nation's gratitude. Now its officers must show the same resolve dealing with Just Stop Oil protesters blocking the highways.



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Putin sought to portray Ukraine as a 'hostage' of the West and its 'neo-Nazi' allies

The police had a public duty to prevent disruption at the Coronation

SIR – How frustrating to hear that the Metropolitan Police force now "regrets" detaining the anti-monarchist protest organisers at the Coronation (report, May 9).

I was relieved that the "shouty yellow banner brigade" did not completely disrupt proceedings. I would think there are others who were likewise impressed by the swift removal by police of obvious troublemakers. It's the job of our police force to enable peaceful protest, not to allow disruptive activists to steal the limelight and spoil major events for the majority of peaceful citizens.

Rosy Drohan
Marksbury, Somerset

SIR – Demonstration is a democratic right and should be protected; disruption is an abuse of that right and should be prevented.

Nik Perrott
Bristol

SIR – The anti-monarchist protesters arrested at the Coronation should

think themselves lucky they don't live in a republic like France. The police there do not hesitate to use tear gas and water cannons to disperse anyone protesting against the president.

Roger Jackson
Stockport, Cheshire

SIR – The Metropolitan Police deserve great credit and our grateful thanks for the way that security was maintained at the Coronation.

The intelligence work behind such an exercise must be enormous. These days, enemies of the State use highly sophisticated methods of disruption.

The Met has suffered from considerable criticism over the past few years, but no other force could have protected us in the way that it did: quietly, and in the background, ensuring an incident-free day.

Adrian Lloyd-Edwards
Dartmouth, Devon

SIR – I found the news that police had arrested republican protesters, prior to the Coronation starting, chilling in the

Letters to the Editor

Tory inheritance tax

SIR – The inequities and unfairness of inheritance tax are well known, but Eir Nolsøe has taken the debate to a whole new level by explaining how Norway and Sweden have gained by doing away with it (Business, May 9).

I resigned from the Conservative Party in protest against a further extension of the threshold freeze by Jeremy Hunt (it's been in place since 2010), but your article has given me a flicker of hope. Rishi Sunak would indeed be wise to abolish the tax: it raises little, costs vast amounts of time and money to administer, and causes misery to the bereaved due to its labyrinthian complications. A number of recently widowed friends have spent years trying to negotiate it.

When George Osborne, then shadow chancellor, talked about raising the threshold to £1 million, the surge in Conservative popularity caused Gordon Brown to postpone thoughts of a general election. If Mr Sunak abolished it, he and the Tories might be in with a chance next year.

Lauren Groom
Teffont Evias, Wiltshire

EV rollout

SIR – Melanie McDonagh (Comment, May 9) is right – the consequences of going all out for electric cars have not been thought through.

Even if there was an almighty improvement in the roll-out of charging points, this would be unlikely to meet demand – especially in cases such as the mass migration of cars along the A30 to Cornwall, which only happens in the month of August.

The first electric vehicles were built in the 1890s and no doubt they will continue to have a place in short-haul delivery work. However, for long haul, it would seem prudent to apply more effort to the development of hydrogen-powered vehicles. It would be a mistake to base all our future transport investment on what could turn out to be the "Betamax solution". It is useful to remember that airships were once considered to be the future of aviation.

Frank Dean
Stockport, Cheshire



Goal driven: an AI robot takes a shot during half time at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Taxing non-doms

SIR – Almost every day we hear plans from Labour as to how they are going to spend the additional money raised when they start taxing non-doms on their overseas assets and income.

It is worth remembering why the non-dom tax situation exists. Britain has always had an insatiable appetite for capital and, in order to encourage foreigners to bring their wealth here, we have promised to tax them only on the income generated and assets held in the UK, while not touching income and assets they have outside the UK.

Labour's plans are certainly not going to encourage more to bring their capital here. Indeed, I suspect it is likely that many who are already here are going to go home or elsewhere, meaning that the Exchequer will not only lose the tax on non-dom overseas assets and income, but also the sums that these non-doms are paying at the moment from their UK income and assets.

Policy built on envy never works and when the folly of it is finally realised, it is extremely difficult to repair the damage done.

Alastair MacMillan
Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire

Birds in decline

SIR – The report (May 8) on dwindling farmland bird numbers blames changes in agricultural practices for the decline.

Around here the land is largely farmed as it was 25 years ago; however in the intervening years skylark, green plover, curlew, cuckoo and several species of songbird have all but disappeared, to be replaced with kite, buzzard, sparrowhawk, magpie, jackdaw and crow, not to mention greatly increased numbers of grey squirrel, fox and badger.

While changes in agriculture may have some effect, the fact that land managers are no longer allowed to exercise effective predator control has a much bigger impact on bird numbers.

John A Landamore
Lutterworth, Leicestershire

Take your pick

SIR – Geoffrey Carr (Letters, May 9) highlights the oddity of delivery companies recommending that customers use pick-up points to reduce emissions.

My wife has been an avid user of such pick-up points all her life and can recommend them. She calls them "shops".

Keith Phair
Felixstowe, Suffolk

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Keith Phair
Felixstowe, Suffolk

AI can't be more frightening than human folly

SIR – I don't believe that we should be afraid of AI ("The potential of artificial intelligence", Leading Article, May 5). We have endured natural intelligence since humanity evolved and look where that has brought us – to the brink of nuclear extinction.

If we were to remove human characteristics from all our decision-making – traits such as greed, nationalism, tribalism, religion, racism, sexism, stupidity and all the deadly sins – the world would

be a better place, if rather dull.

Brian Farmer
Braintree, Essex

SIR – Using AI cameras to catch motorway litter louts (report, May 8) is a wonderful idea.

They should start on the southbound access to the M25 from the A3, where the volume of litter thrown from vehicles can make driving hazardous on a windy day.

Tony Parrack
London SW20

GPs and patients need advance appointments

SIR – What is needed to avoid "the 8am scramble" is for GPs to return to the advance appointment system that existed prior to the pandemic ("GP model needs more than sticking plasters", Leading Article, May 9).

For three years, all appointments have been treated as "same day", regardless of why they are needed. The sooner surgeries return to the advance booking of appointments and reserve same-day appointments for those who need them, the better things will be for both staff and patients.

Judith Rixon
Bourne, Lincolnshire

SIR – Rishi Sunak's proposal that common conditions are to be managed by pharmacists must be close to the last step in the degradation of the NHS.

This new "initiative" will lead to a rise in inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics. Patients will shop around until they get what they want, leading

to multiple consultations for conditions that resolve themselves.

The Prime Minister is symptom-swatting the problems facing the NHS and avoiding taking the necessary decisions to improve the recruitment and retention of the 10,000 extra GPs needed to restore the doctor-patient ratio to that of 2016.

Dermot Ryan FRCP
Kegworth, Leicestershire

SIR – My daughter is a receptionist at a doctor's surgery. I asked what she thought of her new role as a "care navigator". She replied: "I am already in that role: I started in February as a 'GP assistant' with a pay rise."

"Essentially, the same as I was doing before. There hasn't been much time to complete the extra responsibilities. Another 'sticking plaster' in my view, but the extra money is appreciated."

Desmond Mulvany
Shepperton, Middlesex

Father figures

SIR – My father and his three brothers referred to their father, a Seaford Highlander of the Victorian era, as "The Pate" – short for The Pater (Features, May 9).

James McNie
Rafford, Moray

Legging it

SIR – Recent correspondence about kleptomaniac cats (Letters, May 9) reminds me of my neighbours' dog, Bruce. Having escaped one Sunday lunchtime, he returned triumphant with a freshly-cooked, still warm leg of lamb.

Since there was no pursuit, we wondered what the baffled family thought as they sat down to their enforced vegetarian meal.

Mark Robbins
Bruton, Somerset

Slightly cackhanded policing gave this joyless group a moment in the limelight it doesn't deserve

MADELINE GRANT



The arrest of six anti-monarchy protesters at the Coronation seems like rather cackhanded policing from the Met. Having initially promised to allow a demonstration by the pressure group Republic, the force arrested Graham Smith, its chief executive, without any crime having been committed. Scotland Yard has since expressed "regret" for those arrests, although the Met's Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley has defended the wider policing operation; Smith has called them "a direct attack on our democracy".

Expect to hear more of this hyperbole. Incompetence rather than malice looks to be the driving force here, but it's still a shame that British republicanism has been gifted a much-coveted spot in the limelight. All this attention affords them an outsized influence they don't really deserve.

Far from being a mainstream movement, republicanism belongs to the great tradition of English

eccentricity: people with an unpopular, niche pursuit, who are fanatically convinced that said pursuit is of much greater interest or importance than it is. Though scepticism of monarchy is fairly common, its placard-wielding cousin should be seen as a quaint pastime, closer to Morris dancing or Esperanto. For the serious hobbyist, the pursuit can be all-consuming – and there's nothing wrong with that.

However, there is a difference. While watching a model railway's eyes light up can warm even the most cynical heart, the same cannot be said of the cause of British republicanism. An overwhelming sense of joylessness emanates from its followers, who pride themselves on being "rational" and "evidence-based". In practice, they are more likely to be found snarking on Twitter. When even *The Guardian* is admitting that you had to be "either an algorithm or half-dead" not to have felt something at the moment of anointing at the Coronation, it's clear this is a strange and melancholy pursuit.

They specialise in meanness of spirit and purse – as when Humza Yousaf urged the Coronation's costs "be kept to a minimum". Following in the footsteps of ferry-gate and census-gate, the idea of the SNP being suddenly concerned about waste is exquisite enough, but last week's display was an incalculable exercise in soft power. What the bean-counters miss most of all is that humans crave escapism and spectacle, especially when times are tough, just as US cinema-goers flocked to Busby Berkeley's kaleidoscopic dancing

extravaganzas during the Depression. You have to go into the DNA of English republicanism to understand why none of this catches on. Under the Protectorate, the Puritans suppressed traditional games, from cock-fighting to maypole dancing. After breaking up the blood sports, the animals involved were slaughtered – prompting Thomas Macaulay's quip that the Puritans hated bear-baiting, "not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators". Life was simply less colourful under the Commonwealth, and British republicanism has maintained that Puritan streak ever since.

You strongly suspect the pageantry is what they object to, as much as the inbuilt inequalities. This makes them less attractive to ordinary people, most of whom don't mind a bit of pomp from time to time.

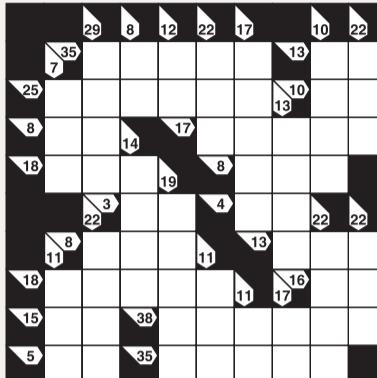
The Puritans, for all their faults, had a rationale which, though flawed, could be expressed beautifully. They had Bunyan, Milton, Cromwell, the then-thrilling idea of a direct relationship to God, unimpeded by ecclesiastical authority. Modern-day republicanism has yet to find a compelling narrative of its own which might unify a

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

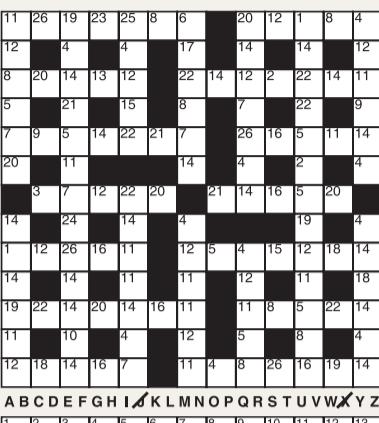
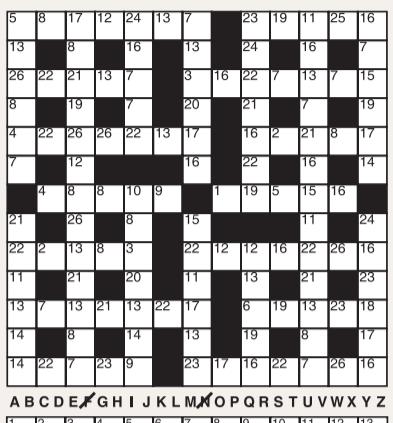
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as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

MODERATE NO 4650



CODEWORDS

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

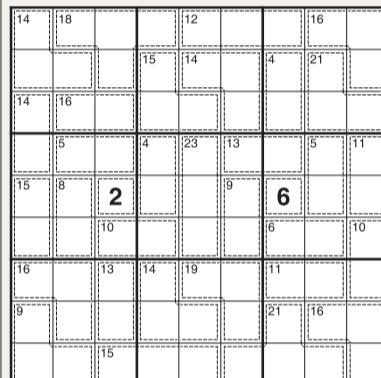


For today's right-hand codewords solutions call 0905 757 0134. For up to five extra letter clues call 0905 757 0130 or text DTCODE (leaving no spaces) to 64343. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390.

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. Solution tomorrow.

MODERATE



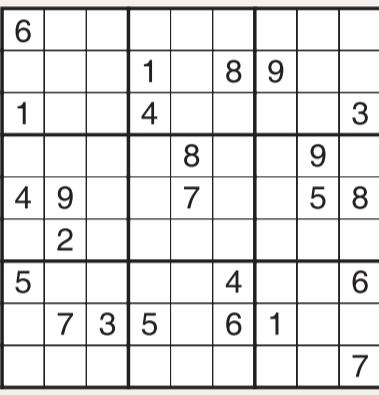
SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. Solutions tomorrow.

REGULAR NO 6220



TOUGH NO 6220



Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spell out a term relating to biology. Solution tomorrow.

OUT IN LOVE
GET COD NIECE
DEVILS IN LOCI

MIND GYM

NO 4059

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. Solution below.

BEGINNER	72	5/6 OF THIS	x1.25	TRIPLE IT	-71	HALVE IT	4/11 OF THIS	+35	+9	X BY ITSELF	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	16	x7	x3.25	HALVE IT	-65	+13	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-89	7/11 OF THIS	ANSWER
ADVANCED	162	+9	X BY ITSELF	5/6 OF THIS	x1.9	-72	✓	x13	TRIPLE IT	-555	ANSWER

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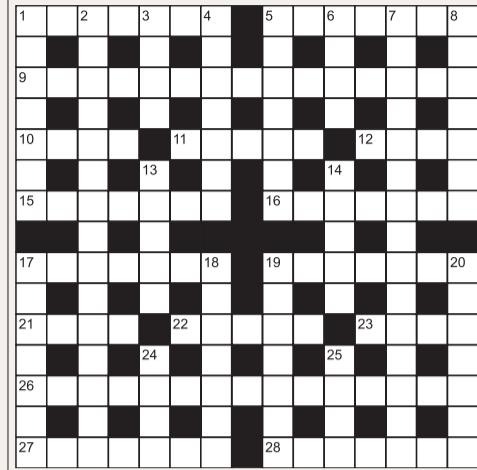
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TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3058
MUSAUS

Notes

- Across**
 1 Grip without power thus becomes restrained (7)
 5 Excellent, taken for a ride so calmed down (7)
 9 High-street saver establishing companionship? (8,7)
 10 Study concerning the traditional CE (4)
 11 Run literally goes round, for example, square (5)
 12 Draw river bank (4)
 15 Rat's final intention? (7)
 16 Demand in steep dish of oysters (7)
 17 Civil char grabbing most of break on the way back (7)
 19 Brass put aside? Clear saving succeeded with mine (4,3)
 21 Rule that limits naturalism? (4)
 22 Latest info force ignored in volatile matter identifying scum (5)
 23 Heading to pharmacy it will get this? (4)
 26 It may be sliced, examined and analysed by a superior thing? (9,6)
 27 Maritime duty is not overturned by new generation (7)
 28 Continue scam about plague hospital's wiped out (5,2)
- Down**
 1 Jazz fan closing bleak club (7)
 2 Film no actor could get produced? (8,7)
 3 Spin southern fish (4)
 4 Is youth able to become a mess? (7)
 5 Release distinctive doctrine in shortened treatise (7)
 6 Loud and outstanding clock (4)
 7 Perhaps late-night post exceptional bouncer worked, VIP cedes, "really staying current" (7,8)
 8 Possibly jolly tryst, we hear, run down (3,4)
 13 Son burst into Grease song (5)
 14 Passage in large part of church (5)
 17 Quarry in coastal feature also (7)
 18 Mouth opening from this in ready repartee (7)
 19 Unsettled, I can do travels round motorway (7)
 20 Chutzpah by Spain aboard vessel (7)
 24 Cheapskate farcically holds back cheese (4)
 25 Informally however, Queen is a divine being (4)

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word.

Can you find the nine-letter Panagram?
Solution tomorrow.



Up to 7 words - Word Finder,
8 - Wordsmith, 17 - Word Wizard,
26 - Word Master, 35 - Word Genius,
44 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3057



Help with clues
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All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
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PLUSWORD

NO 353

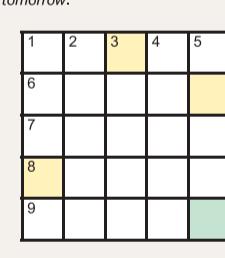
Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing.
Solution tomorrow.

Across

1 Capaldi, Scottish singer
6 From Dublin, e.g.
7 High-IQ society
8 Arise
9 Precipitous; expensive

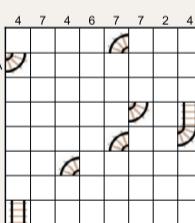
Down

1 Posh cars
2 Upright
3 Flinch
4 Problem; progeny
5 Pointed



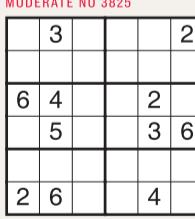
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. Solution tomorrow.

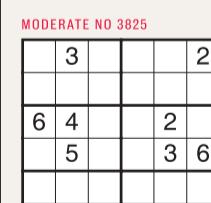


MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2x3 box contains the numbers 1-6. Solution tomorrow.



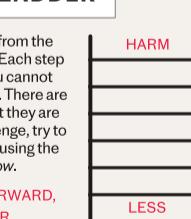
MODERATE NO 3825



MEDIUM NO 3826



WORD LADDER



Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. Solution tomorrow.

AREA, FOR FEAR THAT, FORWARD,
BOTHER, MALE DEER

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THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

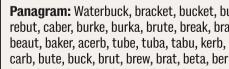
Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6219



PlusWord No 352



Killer Sudoku



Codewords 1 and 2



Today's puzzles

Telegraph Toughie

Toughie No 3057

Maze

Maze No 3057

Notes

Business

How supermarkets are keeping their prices up

Despite tumbling costs, the big chains are putting the squeeze on shoppers, writes Daniel Woolfson

Supermarkets were lauded for feeding the nation in a time of crisis during the pandemic, but they now find themselves cast as Public Enemy No 1.

With prices on shelves rising at a rate not seen in decades, shoppers are looking for someone to blame.

Supermarkets have found themselves in the line of fire as politicians, shoppers and farmers accuse major grocers of profiteering and "greedflation".

After weeks of criticism, Sainsbury's threw down the gauntlet to rivals yesterday when it slashed the price of bread and butter, citing a fall in wheat and dairy prices. A loaf has now been reduced by 10p to 75p.

However, Sainsbury's bread still costs 20p more than it did in February 2022, according to data from Asosia.

The higher price comes despite the fact that the wholesale cost of wheat has fallen to below what it was ahead of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It raises questions about whether supermarkets are truly passing on falling costs to consumers.

Sir Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, is calling for an official inquiry into "greedflation", suggesting food manufacturers and supermarkets are unfairly using inflation as cover to feather their own nests.

"We start with the consumer and are they getting a fair deal in this really tough time," Sir Ed asks.

"Those people who are saying there is nothing to see here – if there's nothing to see, put your case to the competition authorities."

Campaigners like Sir Ed are angry that food prices are falling slowly – or in many cases still rising – even as the wholesale cost of everything from energy to wheat falls from the highs seen last year.

The Office for National Statistics waded into the debate earlier this year, revealing that the cost of food had surged 19.2pc in the year to March despite international food prices beginning to fall.

The stats body told the BBC last month: "You would expect to see [global food price falls] reflected in supermarkets but we're not there yet."

The Commons cross-party environment, food and rural affairs committee has said it may summon supermarket bosses to be grilled on why prices have not yet come down in any meaningful way.

"Greedflation" and profiteering are loose terms but Sir Ed says it is first and foremost about how much is being charged at the till.

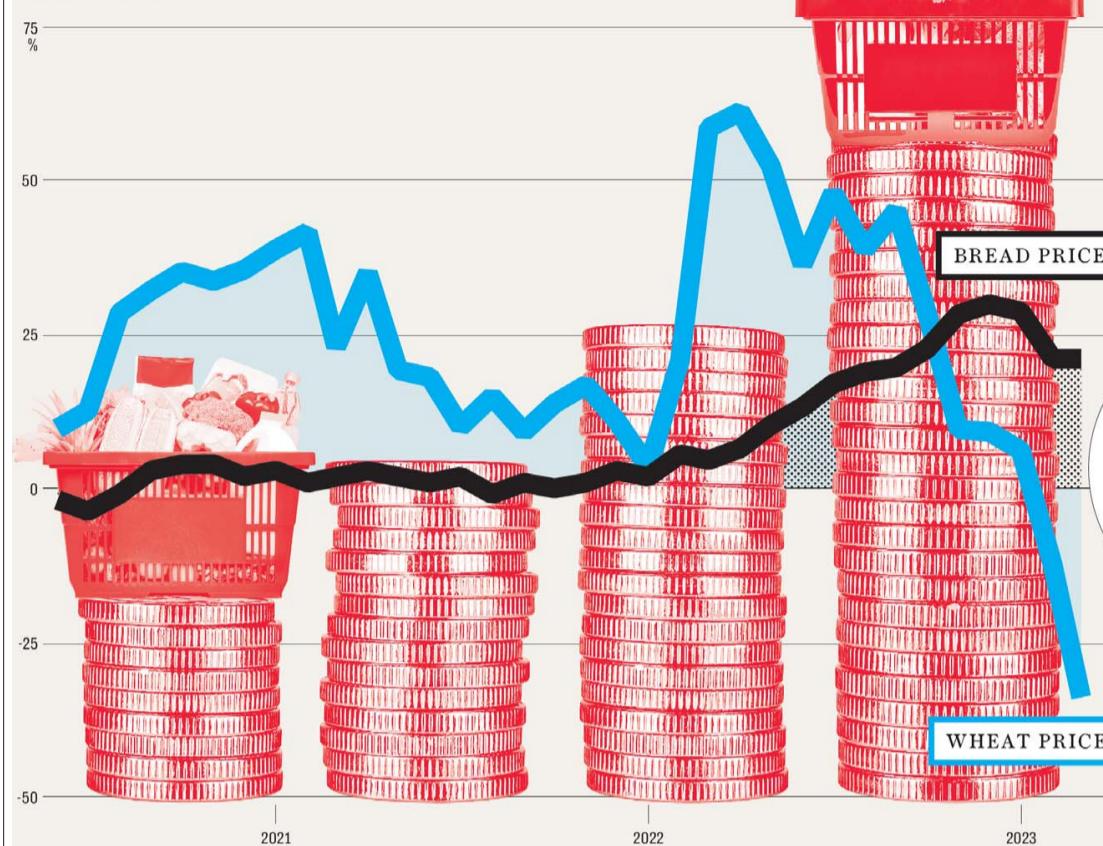
He is concerned that supermarkets are taking a "rocket and feather" approach to prices: raising them quickly as their costs rise – the rocket – but lowering them much more slowly when inflation pressure eases – falling like a feather.

Petrol stations were heavily criticised by motorist groups last year for taking this approach with fuel when oil prices surged then dropped back following the invasion of Ukraine. Supermarkets have defended

'Greedflation' growth

Wheat costs down sharply – but price of bread barely falls

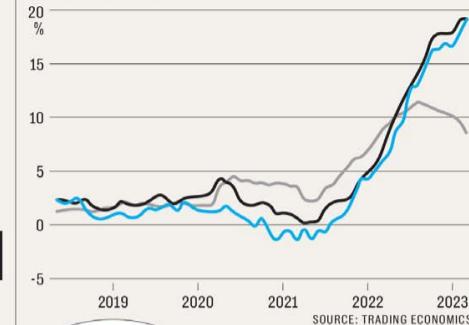
Annual percentage change



SOURCE: ONS AND INVESTING.COM

Food inflation remains stubborn in UK and EU

National inflation rates



SOURCE: TRADING ECONOMICS



SOURCE: SOURCES: TESCO, SAINSBURY'S, ASDA, MORRISONS

Are consumers getting a fair deal in this really tough time? If stores say there's nothing to see here, let them put their case to competition authorities'

themselves by saying they too are facing huge cost increases, not just for food but wages and energy too.

"Many supermarkets have seen profits fall in the past year due to the high cost of energy, transport, and labour, as well as higher prices paid to food manufacturers and farmers," says Andrew Opie at the British Retail Consortium (BRC).

Tesco's profits fell 51pc to £1bn last year. Asda's profits fell almost a quarter to £886m in 2022, while Morrisons made a loss last year.

Sainsbury's suffered a 5pc fall in profits. Chief executive Simon Roberts claimed Britain's second largest supermarket was doing "all we can" to rein in inflation and keep prices as low as possible.

Opie says: "Retailers are investing heavily in lower prices for the future. "To further help those impacted by the high cost of living, supermarkets have expanded their affordable food ranges, locked the price of many essentials, and continue to offer support to vulnerable groups.

"When cost pressures facing retailers do eventually ease, retail

prices will follow fast as they fiercely compete for market share." While the cost of items such as wheat, dairy and energy has been easing in recent months, there are still commodity prices that remain elevated.

Ged Futter, director of retail consultancy The Retail Mind, says: "There are different parts of [food] where inflation is still really high. Things like sugar, chocolate and energy are still high.

"Everybody has talked about 'greedflation' but there's no evidence."

There are signs that supermarkets may be beginning to cave in to public pressure.

Tesco recently slashed the price of milk for the first time in three years in an attempt to undercut Aldi and Lidl, prompting all other major grocers to follow suit.

Yet it is not just shoppers who say they are getting a raw deal. Suppliers of fresh produce and farmers complain they are being underpaid by supermarkets.

Ali Capper, the chair of industry group British Apples & Pears, says the cost of growing apples has gone up by almost a quarter over the past year.

However, supermarkets are offering to pay just 0.8pc more on average for the fruit. "It's just extraordinary," she says. "If that's not profiteering, what is?"

Compared with big suppliers such as Heinz and Unilever, which can threaten to pull their products from shelves if retailers don't agree to what price their products should be sold at, farmers are often small businesses with "not enough leverage" to demand a higher price, she says.

"The Government could launch an investigation to look at the share of profit in the supply chain, because it's just not fair," she says.

Meanwhile, one supermarket supplier who sells packaged goods claimed some retailers were refusing to pay higher prices to wholesalers while still bumping them up in store.

"[They] only accepted half of our price increase and then took the whole consumer increase," says the boss of one food company. "So they did increase their margin."

Profits made by big food and drink suppliers like Heinz and Unilever certainly outstrip those being made by supermarkets. These companies too

have faced accusations of profiteering. Alan Jope, the chief executive of Marmite, Dove and Magnum owner Unilever, insisted this was not the case when questioned last month.

He pointed out that Unilever's profit margins have shrunk from 18pc to 16pc, in effect forcing shareholders to bear some of the brunt of inflation.

In contrast, supermarkets generally work with margins of about 3pc.

However, that is a margin that many squeezed shoppers may still resent.

It is also cold comfort for farmers who believe they are getting a raw deal.

"I would say that you're still making a profit," says Capper. "The businesses that I'm representing are not, they're making losses."

"If family farming businesses make a loss, who suffers?"

"They do and their employees do when they have to make those employees redundant when those businesses go bust, when those family farming partnerships don't have anything to retire off or pass down to the next generation."

"It's business breaking and it's not fair."

'Retailers have expanded their affordable food ranges, locked the price of many essentials and offer support to vulnerable groups'

Ryanair rules out hydrogen flight as it places biggest Boeing order

By Oliver Gill

RYANAIR has unveiled its biggest-ever aircraft order as one of its top executives said the switch to hydrogen or electric powered planes will not happen "in my lifetime".

The budget carrier has agreed a \$40bn (£31.7bn) deal with Boeing to buy 150 of the manufacturer's 737 Max 10 jets with an option for a further 150.

The planes will be delivered between 2027 and 2034 and be powered by

conventional aircraft engines. Neil Sorahan, 51, Ryanair's finance chief, who was in Washington to sign the landmark deal with Boeing, said that it was a clear sign of what the future held for commercial aviation.

Hydrogen or electric power may be the future, he said. "But I'm not sure they will get there in my lifetime."

He likened hydrogen jets to space rockets that carry a handful of passengers with huge tanks of fuel. Unlike sustainable aviation fuel, made from used

cooking oils and other waste, he said hydrogen was not a "drop-in solution" and would require "massive investment" in infrastructure. "So I'm afraid it ain't going to get there. Batteries don't have the capacity at this stage to get the range that is needed."

Ryanair hopes the new plane order will take the airline from carrying an estimated 225m passengers in the year to March 2026 up to 300m by 2034, at which point the carrier would have a fleet of 800 jets. Ryanair chief executive

Michael O'Leary joked that in Ryanair's view the jet would never be cheap enough but for Boeing it is always far too cheap



by 2050. Mr O'Leary, who sat alongside Mr Sorahan and Boeing chief executive Dave Calhoun at the deal-signing yesterday, appeared to have buried the hatchet after an 18-month row over Boeing plane prices.

He said: "For us it will never be cheap enough but in Boeing's view it is always far too cheap."

The 230-seat 737 Max 10, the largest plane in the 737 Max range, has yet to be certified by regulators in the US and Europe. Two fatal crashes in October 2018 and March 2019 led to all 737 Max aircraft being grounded between March 2019 and December 2020.

The plane is now being cleared for use on a version-by-version basis.

Relations between Ryanair and Boeing soured last year as the Irish airline became increasingly frustrated with delivery delays. Mr O'Leary said the relationship with Boeing was "a bit like a marriage... we have occasional rows and occasional splits and then we come together and then kiss and make up".

Households face another year of £2,000 energy bills

By Rachel Millard

HOUSEHOLD energy bills are unlikely to fall below £2,000 for at least almost a year, new analysis shows.

Cornwall Insight has forecast that the price cap on bills will remain above £2,000 until at least the first quarter of 2024. The leading analyst said yesterday that it now expects the price cap will fall to £2,062 from July, followed by £2,098 in October and £2,162 at the start of next year.

All three forecasts are below the current level of £3,280 but far higher than where the price cap stood before gas prices started surging. The cap was set at £1,138 in mid-April 2021.

The price cap sets the maximum level energy suppliers can charge customers on default tariffs, which most households currently use.

The Government has stepped in to subsidise supplies so that typical household energy bills have been limited to between £2,500 and £3,000 since October 2022, at hefty cost to taxpayers.

Cornwall Insight said it was likely energy suppliers will start introducing new fixed-rate tariffs close to the price cap level now that gas markets are calmer. However, it cautioned that bills remain unaffordable for many and vulnerable to geopolitical events. Craig Lowrey, principal consultant at

SUPREME COURT/EPA-EFE/REX



Game on Lord Pannick, the barrister who defended Boris Johnson over Partygate, has been hired by Activision Blizzard in its legal battle to rescue its sale to Microsoft.

'Narrow' mindset holds back City, warns ex-BT chairman

By Simon Foy

A "NARROW British way of life" is holding back the City of London, the former chairman of telecoms giant BT has warned.

Jan du Plessis, who is chairman of Britain's accounting watchdog, said a cultural objection to embracing change and boosting executive pay was causing the Square Mile to fall behind rival financial hubs such as New York and Paris.

He told Bloomberg that the City still has a "peculiarly, quite narrow British way of life" that made it resistant to reforms such as introducing dual-class share structures.

The City grande said: "It's clear that over the last five, 10 and 15 years, we have been declining as a financial capital in almost any metric. Certainly relative to the US."

"The reality is that you go to the US and they are paid multiples of what people are paid here, stratospherically different levels, and they are being very successful. And no one seems to care."

The comments came after the boss of the London Stock Exchange warned last week that Britain is being held back by a campaign against high pay.

Julia Hoggett said a pay disparity between UK chief executives versus their US counterparts had "not received

enough attention" and called for a level playing field to stem an exodus of companies from the Square Mile.

Mr Du Plessis, who previously was chairman at FTSE 100 miner Rio Tinto, also hit out against the influence of proxy advisers, saying they increasingly object to pay reports and are "a law unto themselves". There are growing concerns in the

Financial Reporting Council, said the City still has a "quite narrow British way of life".

City that shareholder advice groups are pushing a narrow agenda that could harm the Square Mile.

The advisers make recommendations to big investors about how they should vote at companies' annual meetings on issues such as board membership and pay. Proxy advisers are increasingly taking a hard line on issues such as pay, climate change and gender diversity.

Mr Du Plessis said the publication of ratios between chief executive pay and the lowest-paid worker is "yet another political tool to try to embarrass companies, boards and their chief executives".

Chinese-backed Vodafone merger 'difficult' amid security fears

By Matthew Field

VODAFONE's talks to merge its UK business with that of Chinese-owned rival Three face an "extremely difficult" conclusion amid calls for any deal to be examined on national security grounds.

Three's owner CK Hutchison, controlled by 94-year-old Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing, and FTSE-listed Vodafone hope to push through a merger of their UK mobile units in a deal valuing the combined business at about £15bn.

While City sources have speculated that the tie-up is imminent, Frank Sixt,

mobile arm with Three UK has been fiercely opposed by China-sceptic MPs and by unions amid concerns around national security and jobs.

The merger between Britain's third and fourth largest mobile operators would create a business with a combined 27m customers.

The deal is likely to prove a key litmus test of Britain's tightened-up takeover regime. The tie-up is expected to create a joint venture between Vodafone and Three, where the Hong Kong-owned company will hold a 49pc stake that could reduce over time.

However, union bosses at Unite have written to Margherita Della Valle, Vodafone's chief executive, warning of "profound national security questions" over the potential merger and have been lobbying MPs and officials over the deal.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Conservative Party leader, has urged officials to block any transaction.

Further complications could arise from any competition concerns over the merger, although industry executives believe it stands a good chance of being approved to reduce the number of players in the UK's mobile market.

Mr Sixt's remarks came as a British government minister visited Hong Kong for the first time in five years in a bid to boost business ties. Lord Johnson, the investment minister, held talks with Hong Kong leaders and met with Victor Li, chairman of CK Hutchison, to discuss its investment plans in the UK.

A Business Department spokesman did not comment on whether the merger talks with Vodafone were discussed. In its results for the first quarter yesterday, Three said it had grown its UK revenues by 5pc to £610m, and now had more than 10.3m customers.

finance chief at CK Hutchison, warned that the talks faced hurdles. He said: "It is probable ... that we will reach an understanding with our friends at Vodafone. Although I would say they [Vodafone] are extremely difficult to draw a conclusion with on the one hand, but on the other hand they are, in the end, very good partners."

"So the first part makes me a little bit more sceptical, but the second part makes me a little bit more optimistic."

A spokesman for Three UK would not comment on what the difficulties holding up the talks might be. Sources close to the parties insisted they believed discussions had been "very positive" and were progressing to their conclusion. Vodafone's potential merger of its UK

Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative Party leader, has called for officials to block the merger between Vodafone and Three

Spokesman for Three UK would not comment on what the difficulties holding up the talks might be. Sources close to the parties insisted they believed discussions had been "very positive" and were progressing to their conclusion. Vodafone's potential merger of its UK



Lebanese protest
Savers in Beirut staged a protest outside the Banking Association yesterday. They are demanding access to their assets. Since 2019, Lebanese banks have enforced formal capital controls because of currency shortages, severely restricting people's savings.

FTX founder asks court in US to dismiss criminal charges

By Matthew Field

THE founder of FTX, the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange, has asked US judges to dismiss criminal charges brought against him since the implosion of the business last year.

Lawyers for Sam Bankman-Fried argued that many of the claims made against the 31-year-old were impermissible or outside the court's remit.

The exchange's former boss denies more than a dozen criminal charges

including wire fraud and breaches of US campaign finance laws and bribery rules.

FTX filed for bankruptcy in November with a multibillion dollar hole in its accounts amid a flood of withdrawals. Mr Bankman-Fried has been accused of using customer funds to run a risky trading operation at a sister hedge fund that also faced huge losses.

At one stage, FTX was the world's second largest digital coin exchange, valued at \$32bn (£25bn), giving Mr

Bankman-Fried a personal net worth of \$16bn.

On Monday, his lawyers demanded that a New York court throw out 10 of the charges he is facing. His legal team argues that some of the latest charges are void as they were not part of the extradition agreement under which Mr Bankman-Fried was delivered from the Bahamas to the US last year.

Mr Bankman-Fried, who has been placed under house arrest and is living with his parents in California, has

instructed James Lewis KC, the British extradition law expert, to help build his case. He also hopes to dismiss charges of campaign finance wrongdoing, arguing that tens of millions of dollars in donations to political candidates were made legally.

His lawyers state in court filings that the alleged campaign finance violations "resoundingly lack supporting factual allegations". They accused the government of a "classic rush to judgment".

A trial is scheduled for October.

Goldman pays \$215m to settle claims it underpaid female bankers

By Simon Foy

GOLDMAN SACHS has agreed to pay \$215m (£170m) to settle a long-running lawsuit that alleged it underpaid female bankers for years.

The Wall Street giant struck a deal with lawyers representing nearly 3,000 female associates and vice-presidents

who worked at the lender and claimed they were undervalued by male bosses.

Goldman said it will hire an independent expert "to conduct an additional analysis on performance evaluation processes" at the bank, as well as conduct "pay equity studies".

About a third of the proceeds are expected to be set aside for paying the

plaintiffs' legal fees. The original complaint was launched by two former female employees in 2010, who won the right to lead a class action suit in 2018.

Adam Klein, a lawyer at Outten & Golden who represented the women, said the settlement "offers meaningful relief to our clients". The case had been

scheduled to go to trial next month in New York in what would have provided a rare public testimony about alleged gender discrimination on Wall Street.

Jacqueline Arthur, global head of human capital management at Goldman, said the bank was "proud of its long record of promoting and advancing women and remains committed to

ensuring a diverse and inclusive workplace for all our people".

The claim was first brought by Cristina Chen-Oster, who joined the investment bank in 1997. She filed a discrimination complaint with an employment commission in July 2005 before launching formal legal action in 2010.

Last year, a former female managing

director at Goldman released a book about her time at the bank, which included allegations of overt sexism and bullying.

Jamie Fiore Higgins, who worked at the bank for 17 years, claimed to have been "mooed" at by her male colleagues when she used a lactation room after the birth of her second child.

Purplebricks shares collapse as estate agent warns of crunch

By Melissa Lawford

SHARES in Purplebricks collapsed by more than 65pc yesterday after the troubled estate agent warned it could soon run out of cash.

In a trading update, Purplebricks said that falling numbers of properties on its books meant its earnings and revenue for the year were looking weaker than anticipated.

Instructions fell by nearly half in the last three months of 2022, dropping from 10,964 a year earlier to just 5,672.

The struggling business, which is seeking to sell itself in a rescue effort, warned it may run down its cash reserves as a result.

Purplebricks has £9.1m in the bank and the board no longer expects to return to profit this financial year. The company said that a payment



Purplebricks, which is seeking a buyer, said instructions have fallen by half

provider that it works with had been withholding some funds as a result of its precarious position.

The board is now focusing on efforts to sell the business to stave off a cash crunch.

A "small number" of parties are in talks about buying Purplebricks and negotiations are ongoing.

However, the estate agent warned that the sale was likely to value Purplebricks at "materially below the company's current share price".

Purplebricks' share price fell 3.6p to close at 1.9p yesterday. The stock was worth nearly £5 in 2017.

The online estate agent started looking for a buyer in February after a turbulent 18 months of scandals, a profit warning and shareholders' calls for the sacking of Paul Pindar, its chairman.

Purplebricks' value has plunged by nearly 90pc since the start of this year.

LinkedIn closes jobs website in China as US platforms quit

By James Titcomb

LINKEDIN will shut down its app in China, closing one of the last big US internet platforms still operating in the country.

The professional social network, owned by Microsoft, will close its jobs website in China later this summer, Ryan Roslansky, its chief executive, told staff. Mr Roslansky said LinkedIn had struggled to establish itself in the country as he also announced that LinkedIn would cut 716 employees.

The job losses are partly because LinkedIn is closing almost all of its operations in China, as well as conducting a wider restructuring owing to "shifts in customer behaviour and slower revenue growth".

The company said it would retain a small team in the country to support Chinese employers using the service to hire overseas.

LinkedIn launched in China in 2014 but shut off most aspects of the social network in 2021 amid rising internet censorship from Beijing. It retained a stripped-down version of its website focused on job listings, without the messaging and commenting features.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are all banned in China, where social networks are closely monitored for posts criticising the country's leaders.

Microsoft buys stake in British AI tools start-up

By Matthew Field

MICROSOFT has bought a stake in a British artificial intelligence (AI) company just days after claiming the country was an unattractive place to do business.

The \$2 trillion (£1.6 trillion) US behemoth has invested in Builder.ai, a London-headquartered company developing tools to automate app design and coding.

News of the investment comes after Microsoft executives warned last week that Britain was becoming less attractive to enterprise.

Brad Smith, Microsoft's president, said the EU was a "more attractive place to start a business" after Britain's competition watchdog decided to block its takeover of gaming giant Activision.

Founded in 2016, Builder.ai's tools break down app development into Lego-like chunks, so non-technical businesses can put together apps with the assistance of automation tools and advice from professional engineers.

Microsoft has ploughed billions of dollars into a new wave of artificial intelligence technology, including a \$10bn deal with Silicon Valley company OpenAI, which developed the ChatGPT chatbot. The size of the investment in Builder.ai was not disclosed.

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MALNUTRITION APPEAL



**TREATING MALNUTRITION IS ABOUT MORE THAN FOOD.
IT'S ABOUT MEDICAL CARE.**



An MSF nurse helps a mother feed her four-month-old malnourished child in Madarounfa clinic, Niger. Photograph © Oliver Barth/MSF

**DR JENNA BROOME IS A
DOCTOR RECENTLY RETURNED
FROM ETHIOPIA**

"The malnutrition crisis in Ethiopia is the worst I've ever seen. You walk into our feeding centres and there are malnourished children everywhere. All our beds are full, family members are sleeping on the floors, mattresses line the corridors and, every day, more desperately ill people arrive. We just can't turn anybody away."

People walk for miles to get to us, carrying their children. We see kids brought in who are really sick, almost at the point where they won't survive. But with just a little bit of care and some focused treatment, we see them turn around. We give them antibiotics, oxygen and blood transfusions and, once they are stabilised, start them on therapeutic food and they begin to get better. You see their personalities come back, they start to smile, they come alive again.

It's the best feeling in the world witnessing something like that, watching kids who could barely lift their heads a few weeks earlier running and playing. It's so moving to see parents having their little ones restored to them.

Malnutrition isn't just hunger. These children have an inability to fight off infectious disease because their immune systems have been so compromised that they need a whole range of medical care.

But one thing I've learned working for MSF is that it doesn't take that much to combat malnutrition. With the right treatment and care, kids can really bounce back. You don't need a lot of fancy kit. You need antibiotics, vaccinations, basic medical equipment, therapeutic food, and doctors and nurses who can do the work. You can do an awful lot with very little.

It's completely unacceptable that children are still dying of starvation in 2023 when it's so treatable and preventable. And it's not just in Ethiopia. In Nigeria, in South Sudan, in Somalia, MSF teams are treating men, women and children caught up in this ongoing malnutrition crisis.

If MSF wasn't there, many of these children would die. We need your support to keep reaching and treating people affected by this malnutrition crisis. We can't do it without you."

YES, I would like to support MSF's Malnutrition Crisis Appeal

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Card number Expiry date /

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(open 8am - 10pm 7 days a week) or make your donation online by searching '**'MSF CARE'**'.

gift aid it

Ben Marlow



Royal Mail's boss bullied out by union militants

Departure of Simon Thompson as chief executive creates instability just as company hoped for period of calm after industrial dispute

The threat of administration at Royal Mail appears to have passed, at least for the time being, after a deal with the trade unions brought a desperately needed end to one of the most protracted and bitter pay disputes of our times.

That is to be warmly welcomed. One can understand why the company felt compelled to consider extreme measures to break the deadlock but subjecting an institution of such rich heritage to the upheaval and uncertainty of insolvency would have been tantamount to vandalism.

Perhaps it's naïve to think that the threat of bankruptcy was ever a realistic prospect. It may only have been a negotiation tactic – an attempt to focus minds as the talks repeatedly hit a brick wall. Nevertheless, for thousands of posties no doubt exhausted by the saga, it must be a huge relief to no longer have such speculation hanging over them.

Still, any hope there might have been that the company was poised to sail serenely through calmer waters will have been dashed by the news that chief executive Simon Thompson is expected to fall on his sword in the coming weeks.

It risks creating more instability at the Royal Mail, at a time when the exact opposite is needed. Worse, it risks handing the Communication Workers Union a spectacular public relations coup in its fraught battle with the board.

It sends the wrong message and risks emboldening union bosses in future disputes if they think they hold the power to unseat senior executives. Thompson had been in the job for only two years – a desperately short time even by somewhat flighty standards of UK plc.

There is no doubt that he has proven to be a divisive figure, and at times Thompson didn't help himself with his robotic style. The moment that he was caught reading from an autocue on breakfast TV when talks were at a delicate stage will go down as one of the PR gaffes of the decade.

But then at times the impression was that the CWU was so dead-set on a fight that even the Dalai Lama would have struggled to negotiate a peace settlement.

Thompson's appearance at a select committee of senior MPs earlier this year appears to have sealed his fate, which is unfortunate. The episode had all the look of a man who had been thrown to the wolves by colleagues only too glad for the spotlight to be on someone else.

Thompson has to accept some responsibility for arriving unprepared for the showdown. Ditto for sounding so uncooperative at times during the proceedings. But surely there is an army of advisers whose job it is to ensure that management is briefed to within an inch of their life before such high-profile events, especially when this particular one had all the look of a giant stitch-up in the hands of chairman Darren Jones.

The Labour MP has built up something of a following on the Left for his perceived skewering of company bosses during his time overseeing the business select committee but the impression was that he had already made up his mind about the Royal Mail chief.

This was reinforced by the relatively easy ride that was given to CWU general secretary Dave Ward, who comes across as a man who would fight his own reflection. Once the committee had decided to recall Thompson for a second hearing, with chairman Keith Williams in tow this time, on the basis that he may have provided "inaccurate information" to parliament, there was almost certainly no going back.

Yet Royal Mail should have stood by him. Very few people would have emerged from an ordeal as bruising as this with their reputations enhanced. Indeed, he deserves credit for coming away with any resolution at all. It was the mother of all hospital passes, and if Thompson at times lacked warmth, is it any wonder?

The CWU and some of its members were about as hostile as it is possible to be from the very start. They set the tone for talks, and not once did the union soften its stance, leaving the company little choice but to meet them head on.

Nor was there ever any acknowledgement that modernisation was needed at an organisation where many of the working practices are from a bygone era. Thompson was right: without change, Royal Mail would soon be rendered an irrelevant dinosaur in an industry being turned upside down by Amazon and others.

Can you imagine a more thankless task than trying to drag a company, where the union gets to choose which posties get the coveted flat routes, into the 21st century? But in trying to speed up change, Thompson was wrongly attacked as an enemy of the honest working man, rather than a harbinger of much-needed reform that would ironically help secure the future of the Royal Mail.

The postal service was taken to the brink by the dispute. In the end, in the face of such fierce resistance, and with Royal Mail losing millions of pounds a day, the board was forced to water down many of its proposals, and the union was able to declare victory despite the fact it accepted a below-inflation pay deal.

Industrial action has brought the country to a standstill over the past year, at a cost to the economy of billions of pounds, and to the repeated detriment to the lives of the working people that the trade union movement claims to represent.

Thompson's premature exit risks giving bullying union bosses the last laugh.

JEREMY WARNER



If the Government is to let high numbers of people into the country, it must provide sufficient homes

It's the reason that dares not speak its name, the elephant in the room – burgeoning net immigration. Insanely high, and increasingly unaffordable, house prices have many causes, yet it is remarkable how little mention this particular one ever gets.

If adding to the population through migration at the rate of a small-sized city every year, it is scarcely surprising that there should be an acute shortage of housing.

House prices were off a tad last month, according to the latest Halifax survey, but perhaps more remarkable is quite how little they've fallen since the peak in August last year. Given the surge in interest rates, making housing even less affordable and mortgage servicing costs far more expensive, a significantly bigger correction might by now have been expected. That there hasn't been one is in part about a continued dearth of supply.

In the year to last June, the latest official data, net migration in the UK surged to 504,000, a new record. Yet just 252,540 new dwellings were added last calendar year, a shortfall of almost exactly 50pc, or even higher taking account of the additional impact of natural population growth. Even

acknowledging that each new unit is likely to house two or more people, there is simply not enough housing to go around, a phenomenon reflected not just in very high prices but also in surging rents. These costs are absorbing near record levels of disposable income, eating deep into other forms of consumption which have already been badly damaged by the cost of living crisis.

Net immigration in the UK is at exceptional levels right now, with large numbers of Ukrainians and Hong Kongers added to the usual flow. This is generally not expected to last.

We've also seen the number of overseas students come surging back after the hiatus of the pandemic. Though students count as migrants, the great bulk of them are unlikely to settle in Britain as full-time residents.

Even so, the idea that Brexit would stem the flow of new arrivals, or that net migration might be reduced to the "tens of thousands", as once promised by the former prime minister David Cameron, is plainly for the birds. He never came anywhere close.

Pretend asylum seekers in small boats, though politically very high profile, have little to do with the underlying problem; most of the migration is entirely legal. True, the numbers coming in from Europe are much lower than they were before Brexit. Many have also gone back, with little intention of returning.

Yet their numbers have been more than made up for by new arrivals from elsewhere in the world, particularly the sub-Continent and Africa.

I'll come to some of the reasons for this surge later, but if you are going to have such high levels of immigration, it is incumbent on the Government to

ensure sufficient supply in housing, social services and basic infrastructure to meet the extra demand. It has not.

On housing, there is barely enough in the way of additional development to meet even new household formation from the existing population, never mind the new arrivals.

Successive housing ministers have promised to nail the shortfall with planning reform. Virtually all have had to admit defeat. Under Michael Gove, the Government has pretty much given up on the chase altogether.

The Levelling Up Secretary has both in effect abandoned local authority housing targets, and axed the mooted Oxford Cambridge Arc development that would supposedly have delivered a million new homes. Not that it seems to have done him any good. Last week's Tory party drubbing in local elections can be partly attributed to over-development fears. Please don't call it Nimbysim, but opposition to further house-building proved fertile ground for the Lib Dems and the Greens.

On becoming prime minister, Boris Johnson pledged to transform the UK into a "high-wage, high-skill, high-productivity economy" partly driven by limiting cheap migrant labour. Initially, there were a few signs of success. Wages surged in road haulage because of a shortage of lorry drivers, and coming out of the pandemic there was a significant rise in real wages. Soaring inflation since then has put an end to that. But the Government's new immigration policy has scarcely helped, either. It has continued to be relatively easy for employers to bring in migrant labour.

The median salary for men between 22 and 29 was £26,856 in 2021, and for women £25,115. Yet under the

'Adding a small-sized city every year to the population, a housing shortage is scarcely surprising'

Government's points-based system for "skilled workers", companies can still hire from overseas for as little as £20,480 per annum.

Employers complain bitterly about labour shortages, but there are five million UK residents of working age on out-of-work benefits. Bringing in labour from outside is still preferred to the hard yards of getting the unemployed back into work.

Policy is at sixes and sevens: the problem of undersupply in the housing market is made worse by still relatively liberal immigration rules, which in turn act as a brake on wages. The economically inactive then have less incentive to go back to work; employers likewise have fewer reasons to invest in training and productivity. Meanwhile, expenditure on out-of-work benefits just keeps on growing.

But don't look to Labour for better alternatives. If a report in the *Financial Times* is to be believed, the party would only make a bad situation worse by significantly increasing the costs to overseas buyers and limiting all new developments to first-time buyers for the first six months. Nothing would be more guaranteed to further reduce the supply of new homes. Who is going to build in the first place if an incoming Labour government attempts to confine demand in this way?

There is an old truism about immigration and welfare: you can either have free movement or high welfare, but not both, or you will soon find yourself overwhelmed.

Similarly with housing. You can either have lots of immigration or highly restrictive planning laws, but not both, or you'll break the system. It is just such a destructive combination that we have today.



Line in sand
A model dressed as Ariel from *The Little Mermaid* on Cullercoats beach, near Newcastle. The event was part of a campaign backed by sustainable lavatory paper maker Oceans to highlight the damage from marine pollution.

Bring India into G8 to confront nonsense of the Brics

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD



The democracies must outwit China by turning G7 into a standard bearer of pluralist values

The Brics brand of rising economic powers began as a marketing gimmick by China-worshippers at Goldman Sachs. It never had any coherence, and should have disappeared from the media lexicon long ago. Yet it refuses to die. The Brics idea has roared back to life, dividing the world along an unnatural line of cleavage.

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa have little in common. Some are democracies, others are one-party dictatorships at war with democracy. Some were colonies within living memory, others are today's imperialists. Some are energy and food importers. Others live off commodity rents.

As a group, they have failed to sustain the promise of economic take-off, assumed to be inevitable 15 years ago. It is America that has rebounded, China that has suffered a collapse in productivity growth and is sliding into the middle income trap.

The Brics share a vaguely-stated aim of "multipolarity" – but China is not trying to achieve anything of the sort. Its own strategy documents aspire to dominance over the world's economic and technological infrastructure, with Beijing setting the rules of a new global order.

Yet for all the absurdities, the Brics club is expanding. Twelve countries have applied to join and another six are

putting out feelers. The Brics bank in Shanghai has been upgraded politically under Brazil's ex-leader Dilma Rousseff, even as it is downgraded financially to AA by Fitch Ratings. Egypt and Bangladesh have joined, and Uruguay will soon follow.

It aspires to be the rival Bretton Woods lender for the global South, breaking the stranglehold of Washington, and free from the harsh lending conditions of the IMF, or so applicants think. The actual terms of debt restructuring under China's Belt and Road are draconian.

There is much heady talk of a Brics currency to deficit dollar supremacy. Brazil's president, Lula da Silva, says: "Every night I ask myself why all countries have to base their trade on the dollar."

Of course it makes sense for Brazil to sell iron ore and soybeans to China under yuan contracts. But Lula of all people ought to know why the dollar endures. His country explains the riddle. So does Russia.

Brazil and Russia each looked like commodity superpowers during the bubble of the early 2000s, supplying energy, metals and food for Asia's industrial revolution. But both were succumbing to the Resource Curse.

Their industrial cores were being hollowed out by overvalued currencies.

Both sank into a lost decade when the commodity supercycle deflated. The combined GDP of Brazil and Russia was \$4.7 trillion (£3.7 trillion) in 2011; it was \$3.4 trillion by 2021 (World Bank data). In the meantime the US vaulted from \$15.6 to \$23.3 trillion.

The Brics story is really about China. It is taken as given in the global South that China's GDP will soon overtake America's. This looked plausible for a brief moment circa 2008.

It seemed self-evident that China, growing at double-digit rates, would inherit the Earth by compound

arithmetic. The dollar was then at rock bottom. Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen refused to accept it as payment.

Peak oil was in vogue and America had become dangerously reliant on energy imports. The US current account deficit had ballooned to 6pc of GDP. China's surplus was 10pc of GDP.

What most people did not know is that US free enterprise and technology had already cracked the potential of shale. Within a decade the US was again the world's biggest producer of oil and gas, with energy and chemical feedstock prices low enough to power a US manufacturing renaissance.

The heart attack in the US banking system in 2008 was not the crisis of capitalism that China supposed it to be. It was just an episode in the Schumpeterian cycle of creative destruction.

We can see in retrospect that China suffered deeper damage. The Central Party School falsely concluded that it vindicated the Communist model of top-down control of bank credit and five-year industrial plans. Hubris ran rampant.

China doubled down on a development model that was already obsolete. The economic return on each yuan of credit hurled at construction and industrial overcapacity has fallen from about 1:1 in 2008 to nearer 1:3 today. China may have missed its chance to reform in time.

It is following Japan and Korea into demographic collapse, with the big difference that it is becoming old before it is rich. Xi has progressively abandoned the Deng Xiaoping model that delivered 40 years of supercharged growth. He strives for global technological ascendancy but has reverted to Maoist thought control and treats tech entrepreneurs as a threat to Party control.

China's structural growth rate is heading for 2-3pc, converging on

mature US growth rates long before it has caught up. Informed opinion no longer thinks that China's sorpasso is inevitable before 2030, and if it does not happen this decade, it will not happen this century given America's demographic edge – so long as America does not self-destruct: the new Fukuyama thesis.

The Brics revival today is different from its original flowering in 2008. This time, what anti-Americans object to is US strength. The dollar is too strong for global comfort. The US has weaponised control over the dollarised system of global payments and credit to enforce American foreign policy.

If the Brics are not the economic force of global imagination, does it matter whether or not applicants want to join? Yes it does, because this amorphous front for Chinese ambitions has succeeded in capturing the political microphone of the global South, reviving a superannuated concept that ought not to exist.

The West is paying a high price for dragging its feet on reform of the UN Security Council and the Bretton Woods regime. To have pushed India and Brazil into the embrace of this racket has been a failure of statecraft. But it is also reversible.

Lula's visceral anti-Americanism and infatuation with China make Brazil a tough nut to crack. India offers more strategic promise right now. Pessimists say India has already drifted into the autocratic camp under Narendra Modi but this is too bleak and defeatist. Civil society is alive and well.

Indian leaders have been attending G7 summits intermittently as a guest over the past 20 years. It is time to invite India to play its full part in an expanded G8 and turn this body into a muscular, unapologetic, standard bearer of pluralist values.

The G8 should be the best club to join. The democracies must beat China at its own game.

Business comment

Ben Marlow



Royal Mail's boss bullied out by union militants

Departure of Simon Thompson as chief executive creates instability just as company hoped for period of calm after industrial dispute

The threat of administration at Royal Mail appears to have passed, at least for the time being, after a deal with the trade unions brought a desperately needed end to one of the most protracted and bitter pay disputes of our times.

That is to be warmly welcomed. One can understand why the company felt compelled to consider extreme measures to break the deadlock but subjecting an institution of such rich heritage to the upheaval and uncertainty of insolvency would have been tantamount to vandalism.

Perhaps it's naïve to think that the threat of bankruptcy was ever a realistic prospect. It may only have been a negotiation tactic – an attempt to focus minds as the talks repeatedly hit a brick wall. Nevertheless, for thousands of posties no doubt exhausted by the saga, it must be a huge relief to no longer have such speculation hanging over them.

Still, any hope there might have been that the company was poised to sail serenely through calmer waters will have been dashed by the news that chief executive Simon Thompson is expected to fall on his sword in the coming weeks.

It risks creating more instability at the Royal Mail, at a time when the exact opposite is needed. Worse, it risks handing the Communication Workers Union a spectacular public relations coup in its fraught battle with the board.

It sends the wrong message and risks emboldening union bosses in future disputes if they think they hold the power to unseat senior executives. Thompson had been in the job for only two years – a desperately short time even by somewhat flighty standards of UK plc.

There is no doubt that he has proven to be a divisive figure, and at times Thompson didn't help himself with his robotic style. The episode had all the look of a man who had been thrown to the wolves by colleagues only too glad for the spotlight to be on someone else.

Thompson has to accept some responsibility for arriving unprepared for the showdown. Ditto for sounding so uncooperative at times during the proceedings. But surely there is an army of advisers whose job it is to ensure that management is briefed to within an inch of their life before such high-profile events, especially when this particular one had all the look of a giant stitch-up in the hands of chairman Darren Jones.

The Labour MP has built up something of a following on the Left for his perceived skewering of company bosses during his time overseeing the business select committee but the impression was that he had already made up his mind about the Royal Mail chief.

This was reinforced by the relatively easy ride that was given to CWU general secretary Dave Ward, who

Markets

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Government securities

	High	Low	(£)	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	104.69	101.36	Treas 6% 25	101.55	-0.28	4.92	4.11	
Low	115.45	109.23	Treas 6% 28	111.44	-0.35	5.38	3.71	
10-year	123.69	97.02	Treas 4% 32	103.96	-0.44	4.09	3.73	
	128.22	102.70	Treas 4% 36	102.89	-0.57	4.13	3.96	
	139.78	96.52	Treas 4% 50	107.65	-0.63	4.41	4.08	
Index	390.60	357.58	Treas 2% IL 24	375.26	-0.14	6.67	1.33	
Linkited	387.96	299.91	Treas 4% IL 30	338.88	-1.05	1.22	0.37	
Bonds	299.85	205.34	Treas 2% IL 35	242.95	-1.00	0.82	0.54	

10-year Government Bonds

	Spread's	Yield's	Spreads	Yield's
France	2.87	-0.53	-0.65	
Germany	2.34	-	-1.18	
Japan	0.42	-1.92	-3.10	
Great Britain	3.85	-1.51	-0.33	
United States	3.52	-1.18	-0.33	

The share prices, price-to-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence +0.26%

	High	Low	(p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	3714	2624	Babcock Int'l	314	-2	-	9.7	
Low	1037	7024	BAE Systems	9914	-1.14	2.7	19.4	
	3964	3154	QinetiQ	371	-0.20	2.36		
	1604	640	Rolls-Royce	1515	-1.16	-10.0		
	178	111	Senior	1704	-1.14	0.8	35.0	

Banks +0.08%

	High	Low	(p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	1984	1284	Barclays	1533	-1.16	4.7	5.0	
Low	1659	843	Close Bros	920	-0.34	7.2	8.3	
	6534	4344	HBC	5994	-0.44	4.4	10.1	
	545	386	Lloyds Bk Gp	4647	-1.56	5.2	6.3	
	3134	2104	NatWest Group	2614	-2.04	5.3	7.7	
	3434	1934	Santander	275	-1.3	3.0	15.8	
	7991	5154	Standard Ch	6044	-0.24	2.5	8.9	

Beverages +1.06%

	High	Low	(p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	3960	3363	Diageo	3631	-0.39	2.1	25.9	
Low								

Chemicals -2.44%

	High	Low	(p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	7521	5862	Creda Int'l	6734	-1.10	1.6	14.5	
Low	2394	1755	Johnson Mat	1909	-0.34	4.0	17.0	
	1953	1482	Victrex	1504	-1.60	4.0	17.2	

Construction +1.69%

	High	Low	(p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
52 week								
High	3944	2322	Balfour Beatty	3933	-0.36	2.7	8.4	
Low	515	313	Barratt Dev	4933	-1.10	7.3	9.8	
	2484	1572	Bellway	2400	-4.2	5.8	12.2	
	4549	3120	Betterley Grp	4988	-2.1	10.5		
	349	215	Boot H	240	-1	2.8	9.6	
	614	32	Costain	59	-0.4	6.3		
	10011	6214	Grafton Gp	1847	-0.24	3.9	9.4	
	2445	1330	Morgan Sindall	1782	-1.8	5.7	13.4	

Winners and losers (pc)

	Travel & Leisure	Media	Support services	AIM	Mining	Aerospace & defence	Household goods	Retailers	Tobaccos	Oil & Gas	Engineering / Industrial	Investment trusts	Telecommunications	Beverages	Information technology	Construction	Chemicals	Property
▲	2.02	0.84	0.69	0.42	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.21	0.17	-0.63	-0.68	-0.72	-0.90	-1.06	-1.25	-1.69	-2.44	-3.23
▲	1.88	0.72	0.64	0.40	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.21	0.17	-0.63	-0.68	-0.72	-0.90	-1.06	-1.25	-1.69	-2.44	-3.23
▲	1.74	0.68	0.63	0.42	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.21	0.17	-0.63	-0.68	-0.72	-0.90	-1.06	-1.25	-1.69	-2.44	-3.23
▲	1.69	0.63	0.59	0.41	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.21	0.17	-0.63	-0.68	-0.72	-0.90	-1.06	-1.25	-1.69	-2.44	-3.23

Major price changes FTSE 100

	Risers 38	Fallers 61
52 week		
High	3716	1657
Low	2624	1136

Results Roundup Previously Published * (2)

Company	Turnover (£)	Pre - tax (£)	EPS(p)	DIV(p)	Pay Day	XD

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Shell's meaty profits more than cover its dividend and form the main plank of investment case

RUSS MOULD
QUESTOR
STOCK PICKS



Investors who are prepared to focus on dollars and cents, rather than ESG issues, will be pleased to see the oil and gas giant pumping out cash

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules; telegraph.co.uk/questor

The bumper first-quarter profits published by Shell last week will upset environmental campaigners and many householders alike, especially those who are finding it hard to pay their bills or keep their car topped up.

Even global tax payments of \$5.6bn (£4.5bn) in the first three months of the year - \$2.1bn more than in the equivalent period in 2022 - may not assuage their fury. But those investors who desire reliable income and are prepared to focus purely on dollars and cents, nickels and dimes rather than debate environmental, social or governance (ESG) issues, will be pleased to see the oil and gas giant pumping out cash. Shell handed over \$6.3bn via buybacks and dividends in the first quarter alone and annualising that equates to £20bn, or a cash yield in the double-digit percentage range.

That is probably the key number right now because Shell's earnings do take some studying.

On the face of it, the business model of an oil major is easy enough to understand. They explore and drill for and then produce hydrocarbons; they ship and refine them; they trade them; and they sell refined product at petrol stations or end-products like chemicals. Simple. Quantifying how well they do this is a different matter and besides statutory measures such as pre-tax or net (after-tax) income, Shell also refers

Shell
BUY
Oil major remains a staple stock for income investors

to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda), adjusted Ebitda, adjusted earnings and earnings on a CCS (current cost of supply) basis, which excludes the effect of changes in the oil price.

To quote Ed Murrow, the late American broadcaster: "Anyone who isn't confused really doesn't understand the situation."

To cut through all of that, it may be simplest to look at net, or after-tax, income. In the first quarter, Shell reported net profit of \$8.7bn, compared with \$7.1bn a year ago. That increase may seem odd, bearing in mind the average prices received by Shell for its oil and natural gas fell by a fifth and two fifths respectively from the first quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of this year. But Shell booked a \$3.9bn writedown on its Russian assets in the first quarter of last year, so profits were down this time compared with a year ago once that is taken into account, thanks to lower hydrocarbon prices, no great change in output and higher taxes.

That meaty net profit figure more than covers the dividend, which equates to a 3.9pc forward dividend yield, according to analysts' consensus estimates, and the buyback. As such, it forms the main plank of any investment case for the stock, even if any portfolio-builder who runs strict ESG screens is likely to be unmoved and stick to their own personal principles, especially if



Key numbers

- ◆ Market value: £162bn
- ◆ Last full-year dividend (Dec 22): 86p
- ◆ Yield (Dec 23E): 3.9pc
- ◆ Turnover (Dec 23E): \$346bn
- ◆ Pre-tax profit (Dec 23E): \$46.1bn
- ◆ Net debt (Mar 23): \$81.8bn
- ◆ Return on capital (Dec 22): 24.6pc
- ◆ Cash conversion (Dec 22): 68pc
- ◆ PE ratio (Dec 23E): 7.0x

they believe oil firms to be profiteering. The sheer scale of the net profit number inevitably raises that issue.

This column, however, views commodity producers as price takers rather than price givers, by the very nature of their business - a commodity comes with little or no differentiation, by definition, so the supplier's key tools to attract buyers are efficiency of production and price. And there are so many influences on the oil price, ranging from global economic growth to geopolitics and sanctions, environmental pressures, the role of Opec and more.

Shell probably has more influence on price for refined products, especially those for sale on petrol station forecourts, although drivers will do their best to shop around. The company's acknowledgement that trading of crude oil, refined products and petrochemicals contributed strongly to first-quarter earnings is harder to defend against profiteering

'Shell looks cheap on yield and relative to the company's £155bn in net assets, but a fall in oil values is a key risk to its share price'

claims, and campaigners will be pleased, in this context, to see the increased tax charge.

The debate is unlikely to die down and may only recede if oil and gas prices go lower and drag Shell's earnings with them. That remains a key risk to the share price and any falls here could offset the benefits of the income, if an investor is obliged to sell the paper at an inopportune moment and has to crystallise any losses.

Fears of a recession leave Brent crude back near \$70 a barrel, so the effect of Opec's April production cut is proving short-lived (to perhaps show how hard it is to profit and bend a global market like oil to anyone's will). But analysts are already forecasting decreases in net income in 2023, 2024 and 2025, so this is hardly news. The shares look cheap on yield and relative to the company's £155bn in net assets, while a forward price-earnings ratio of seven looks undemanding. Shell remains an income staple.

Lidl seeks 1,500 warehouse staff to serve new stores

Lidl is hunting for 1,500 staff to fill its latest and largest warehouse, as the supermarket chain continues its UK expansion.

The discount retailer is recruiting for its Luton-based distribution centre ahead of its August opening, which will serve more than 150 stores in London and the surrounding counties once it becomes operational.

Lidl has also submitted a planning application for a warehouse in Leeds, which is expected to create 400 jobs. It has invested more than £700m on regional warehouse space in the last five years, including in Motherwell, Peterborough and Doncaster.

The German-founded supermarket hopes the centres will fuel its goal of exceeding 1,000 stores in the UK.

Credit Suisse boss to join UBS board following merger

The chief executive of Credit Suisse will join UBS's leadership team once the Swiss banking rivals merge later this month.

UBS said Ulrich Körner will join its group executive board as part of a reshuffle of senior management.

The board will have overall responsibility for both UBS, which rescued Credit Suisse in a £2.6bn deal in March, and the 167-year-old lender.

Each will continue to have its own subsidiaries and branches.

UBS said that Mr Körner, 60, will be responsible for ensuring Credit Suisse's "operational continuity and client focus", as well as supporting the integration process. Mr Körner became Credit Suisse's chief executive last year to turn around the business.

JD Sports in talks to buy French giant Courir for €520m

JD Sports is in talks to buy French sportswear giant Courir for €520m (£452.9m), as it moves to further expand into Europe.

The British retailer is hoping to acquire Courir from Equisone Partners Europe for €325m in cash and €195m in assumed debt.

Courir has 313 stores across six countries in Europe, plus an additional 36 locations under a franchise agreement in north-west Africa, the Middle East and French overseas territories.

The chain has annual sales of €609.8m and pre-tax profits of €47.4m.

JD said Courir's range of female-focused stores would particularly help broaden the opportunities across the business.

Church rebellion against Shell backed by adviser

An influential advisory firm has urged investors to oust the chairman of Shell as the oil giant faces a backlash for its failure to set green targets.

Pirc, a proxy adviser service, said Shell had failed to fully set out how it will cut its carbon emissions in line with hitting "net zero" by 2050.

It urged shareholders to vote against Shell's green transition plan and against the re-election of Sir Andrew Mackenzie, the chairman, at its AGM.

It comes just hours after the Church of England Pension Board also revealed it would be voting against the company.

Shell said it "strongly disagrees with the pension board's changed position," and added: "Our strategy remains unchanged - to become a net zero energy company by 2050 or sooner."

Glencore to build huge battery recycling plant

Europe's largest battery-recycling plant is to be built by FTSE 100 mining giant Glencore on Sardinia.

The Swiss company plans to convert its Portovesme zinc and lead smelter on Sardinia into a recycling facility as it looks to tap into the shift to electric vehicles (EVs).

Glencore and Canadian recycling firm Li-Cycle, which owns 10pc of the Sardinian plant and is working on the conversion, hopes to recycle batteries from 600,000 used electric cars each year from 2027.

Li-Cycle already has a recycling centre in Rochester, near New York, and it thinks 10pc of lithium demand can be met with recycling by 2030. The plant will also recover sought-after minerals cobalt and nickel.

Deloitte's audit of Joules faces FRC investigation

Deloitte is under investigation over its audit of clothing retailer Joules, which collapsed into administration last year and was snapped up by Next.

The Financial Reporting Council said it was investigating the audit of Joules's financial accounts for the year to the end of May 2021.

Prior to its collapse, the retailer warned that it did not expect to be able to repay a £5m loan as shoppers reined in their spending.

Joules was bought out of administration by Next for £34m, partnering with Joules founder, Tom Joule, for the deal.

A Deloitte spokesman said: "We will co-operate fully with the FRC's investigation and remain committed to the highest standards of audit quality."

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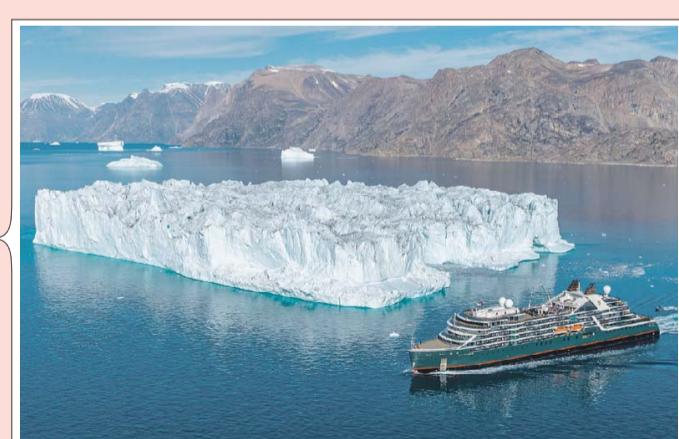
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Obituaries

Terrence Hardiman

Actor of varied gifts who struck fear into a generation of children as the 'Demon Headmaster'

TERRENCE HARDIMAN, the actor, who has died aged 86, spent much of his career playing authority figures and was probably best known as the Demon Headmaster, terrifying children witness in the eponymous CBBC production, which ran for three series from 1996 to 1998.

Adapted by Helen Cresswell from Gillian Cross's series of stories, *The Demon Headmaster* was an immediate hit. An extraordinary 60 per cent of children aged four to 14 watched the first series, and pre-broadcast trials were so successful that a second series was commissioned months before the first was screened.

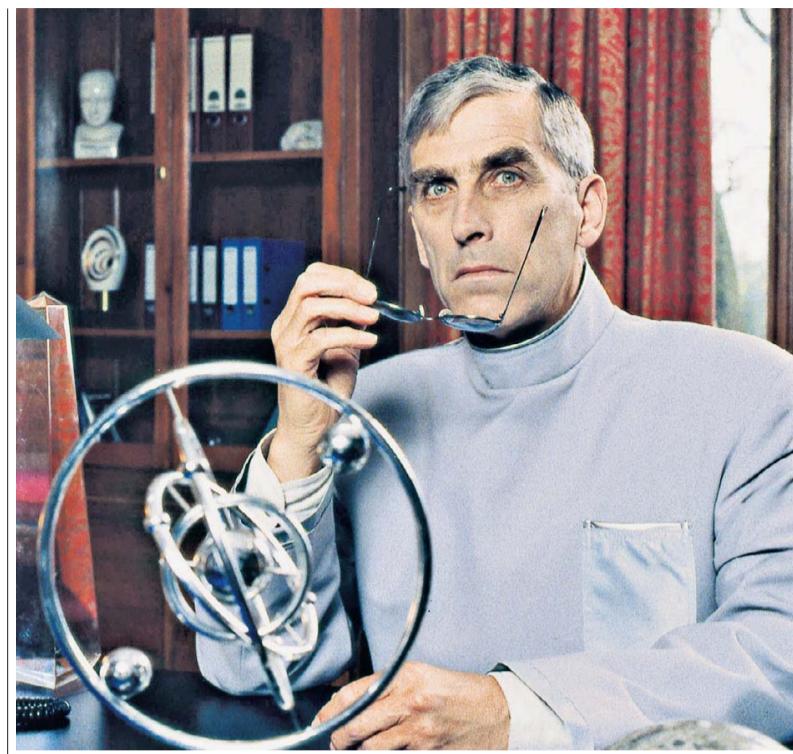
With lines like "It's a pity there should be children at all; childhood is such a useless waste of time," Hardiman sneers splendidly as the power-crazed Headmaster (as he is known), who controls children by lifting his dark glasses and staring at them with his mesmerising greenish eyes. He brainwashes them into saying like automatons: "The headmaster is a marvellous man," but his ultimate aim is revealed to be even more sinister – to genetically alter the human race, wipe out all children and take over the world.

Hardiman often found himself cast as villains, his roles including German soldiers in Second World War television drama series such as *Colditz* (as a Gestapo officer) and *Wish Me Luck* (as a German general), though there were notable exceptions.

As Luftwaffe Major Hans Dietrich Reinhardt in the third series (1979) of the BBC's acclaimed *Secret Army*, he was a "good German", a melancholy war hero and recipient of the Iron Cross, who sees that Germany is losing the war but is nevertheless determined to penetrate the Brussels-based resistance group Lifeline – only to end up betrayed by his Gestapo nemesis Standartenführer Ludwig Kessler (Clifford Rose) and shot by a firing squad.

Hardiman was also a favourite on the pantomime circuit, memorably as Squire Skinflint in *Mother Goose* and a truly malicious Abanazer in *Aladdin* – and he delighted audiences round the country in *Classic Ghosts*, comprising two stage adaptations of famous ghost stories, MR James's *Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come To You, My Lad* and Dickens's *The Signalman*.

But the actor in person was as far removed from his screen persona as it was possible to be. On visits to schools and children's centres he always had time for children and staff. Away from the screen he volunteered thousands of hours of his time to record audio books for the Calibre Audio Library, which provides audio books for people unable to read print, work which



Hardiman, above, as the Demon Headmaster and, right, in *Secret Army* as 'the good German', Reinhardt



earned him a Silver Centurion service award in 2013.

The son of a policeman, Terrence Hardiman was born in Forest Gate, east London, on April 6 1937 and educated at Buckhurst Hill County High School, Essex. He read English at Fitzwilliam House (now Fitzwilliam

College), Cambridge, where he trod the boards with the Marlowe Society and the university Amateur Dramatic Club, alongside Derek Jacobi.

After graduation Hardiman established himself as a stage actor and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company. Among his credits was, in 1968, the demon Mephistophilis in *Doctor Faustus* at Stratford-upon-Avon; Hardiman's future *Secret Army* co-star Clifford Rose also featured in the cast, as the Chorus.

His first big television break was as a police inspector in *Softly, Softly*, the spin-off from the original *Z Cars*, a casting, he reflected in an interview, that had probably "suggested the pattern of me as an authority figure to directors with limited imagination". But, he had "no complaints – I earned a living."

His film and television roles over the years included numerous policemen, lawyers and doctors, among them the barrister Stephen Harvey in Granada Television's *Crown Court* from 1972 to 1983.

In Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning film *Gandhi* (1982), Hardiman

was the prime minister Ramsay MacDonald; on stage in 2008 he played Neville Chamberlain in Howard Brenton's *Never So Good* (Lyttelton), about the life and career of Harold Macmillan, delightedly waving his agreement with Hitler before, a moment later, glumly announcing the outbreak of war.

Hardiman's gift for comedy was evident in his panto roles and as Charles Pooter, the fictional diarist, in the 1979 BBC television adaptation of George and Weedon Grossmith's *Diary of a Nobody*; while in a 1995 episode of the BBC's time-travel sit-com *Goodnight Sweetheart*, when Nicholas Lyndhurst's character goes back to the 1940s, Hardiman gave a brilliantly observed recreation of John Le Mesurier's *Dad's Army* bank clerk Sergeant Wilson, complete with upper-class drawl and mannerisms.

In the Dickens spoof *The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff* (BBC Two, 2011) he stole his scenes as the deranged Martin "Fruitcake" Christmasham, complete with a stuffed goose strapped to his head. Other small-screen roles included Grand Wizard Egbert Hellibore in four episodes of *The Worst Witch* (again for CBBC, 1999); the Abbot of Shrewsbury in *Cadfael* opposite his old university friend Derek Jacobi; and in 2010 he appeared as Hawthorne, head of Starship UK and leader of a sinister monk-like group called the Winders in the *Doctor Who* story "The Beast Below", with Matt Smith as the Doctor.

When Hardiman reprised his Demon Headmaster role in a cameo for a revived CBBC version in 2019, he told *Radio Times* that he had never expected the series to be so popular: "I started to be recognised in the street... And there were people – youngsters – looking at me, and shouting out at me, and making fun of me, which is very healthy.

"It stopped me being too grand! But then the slightly more remarkable thing, I found, was that it wasn't just children who were watching. It was parents and other people, too."

As he reflected, however, it was perhaps not so surprising that his character had remained popular to the present day: "I mean, he's a horrible person who wants to rule the world. He believes, passionately and deeply and dangerously, that his way is the way that the world should go.

"And we've had a few people in political positions, haven't we, in the world, like that?"

Hardiman is survived by his wife, the actress Rowena Cooper, and by two children.

Terrence Hardiman, born April 6 1937, died May 8 2023

Jah Shaka

Sound-system operator who pioneered reggae in the UK

JAH SHAKA, who has died in his early 70s, was a key figure on the British reggae scene for half a century, a Rastafarian sound system operator who stuck to his love of roots and dub music and bolstered the popularity of those art forms with material released on his own record label.

Shaka was first and foremost a player of records, running his own sound system from the 1970s onwards, his fiercely bass-heavy speaker system rattling the windows of town halls and community centres into the early hours.

But he also became well-known for the more than 40 dub albums he produced with the likes of Horace Andy, the Twinkle Brothers, Mad Professor and Johnny Clarke. Never one to respond to the twists and turns of fashion, he adhered to a Rasta-inspired "roots and culture" agenda which sometimes left him on the periphery of reggae, yet in the long run he remained at its heart, and his output influenced a number of younger artists in Britain, in and outside the genre.

Mysterious and self-contained, Shaka gave so little away about himself that few details of his life are publicly known. Born around 1948 in the rural parish of Clarendon, Jamaica, he moved to Britain with his parents in 1956 as a young boy, settling in south-east London.

He showed talent at church and in school on the drums and guitar, and recalled once being caught by a teacher with a mouth organ – a forbidden item – in his pocket. Offered the chance to avoid punishment by showing he could play the instrument, he did so, drawing applause from his fellow pupils. "That was my first idea that I might be able to entertain people," he said.

In his teens Shaka hooked up with Freddie Cloudburst, one of the first generation of British sound systems run by immigrants from Jamaica. After getting to grips with the technical aspects, he soon graduated to choosing records and deejaying, forming his own Jah Shaka outfit in 1969, named after a 19th-century Zulu warrior.

Shaka's venture was part of the second movement of British sound systems, set up by younger men who had spent most or all of their time in the UK. His "warrior style", influenced by Black Power and Rastafarianism, epitomised the new breed of



He created a spiritual mood in sessions often lasting 12 hours

more serious-minded operators, determined to reflect the tastes and concerns of British black youth.

With huge speaker stacks, special effects and hypnotic bass, Shaka created a formidable "surround sound" that massaged the internal organs. Many other operators had a host of selectors and deejays to help them out, but Shaka did more or less everything himself. He would often be transported by the spiritual atmosphere he had generated, singing and dancing with abandon during sessions that could last up to 12 hours.

By the late 1970s Shaka's sound system was regarded as one of the best in the country, and in 1980 he featured in the film *Babylon*, playing himself in a dancehall clash with a fictional rival, Ital Lion. That year he also launched his Jah Shaka Music label.

Later in the 1980s, as reggae moved into a more frivolous era in which "slackness" (sexualised lyrics) ruled and demand for his style of sound system waned, Shaka held to his more spartan path. He also set up the Jah Shaka Foundation, supporting projects in Jamaica, Ethiopia and Ghana.

By sticking to his principles he re-emerged with his reputation intact and with a new band of followers drawn from a wider fan base, including the US and Japan.

Despite some setbacks – he was injured in a house fire in 2000, and had much of his equipment stolen in 2006 – he continued to be booked up for gatherings and festivals, and had various engagements lined up at his death.

Jah Shaka, born circa 1948, died April 12 2023

Dame Rosemary Cramp

Archaeologist who excavated the monastic home of the Venerable Bede and recorded early sculpture

DAME ROSEMARY CRAMP, who has died aged 93, specialised in the archaeology and art of the Anglo-Saxon world and was the first woman to be appointed to a chair at Durham University.

Her most notable work included excavation of the Monkwearmouth-Jarrow Abbey, a Benedictine double monastery founded in the late 7th century in the Kingdom of Northumbria. Over two centuries it became the leading centre of Anglo-Saxon learning, home to the Venerable Bede, earning an international reputation for scholarship before being sacked by Viking raiders in the 9th century and subsequently abandoned.

Though Bede, most famous for his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, referred to the abbey in his writings, he gave no indication of its lay-out, and when Rosemary Cramp began her work there in 1959 there was almost no archaeological knowledge of the site.

Over nearly 30 years of excavations, as well as remains of the 7th- and 8th-century buildings, Rosemary Cramp found evidence of the abbey's international cultural and economic links, including exotic pottery and the largest quantity of shards of 7th-8th century coloured window glass, "like jewels lying on the ground", from any site of a similar date in Europe.

In an interview with the British Academy in 2019 she recalled that some areas of interest lay under the backyards of a neighbouring housing estate: "It was sometimes difficult to get access to them, but eventually you were nobody unless you had a trench in your yard."

To encourage local interest she got young children to look after the trenches at night: "As a reward they were allowed to trowel through the barrows of excavated soil to see if any bit of pot had been missed; sometimes they found them. And when they had done three years of that, I had a special trench in which they could learn how to trowel properly."

Her other major achievement was to establish and guide a long-running research project, supported by the British Academy and involving scholars and volunteers across England, recording pre-Conquest stone sculpture. Since its foundation in 1977, the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, as it is known, has produced 13 (out of a planned 16) beautifully bound illustrated volumes, covering 32 English counties. Volume I was



Rosemary Cramp in the field and, right, an Anglo-Saxon stone carving from St Wilfred's monastery church, now in Hexham Abbey, one of many examples collected in the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture



devoted to Northumberland and Co Durham.

Late 19th-century antiquarians were aware of only about 167 sites containing Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture, Rosemary Cramp noted in 2019: "To date, we have recorded 3,528 stones from 1,101 sites."

The sculptures told a story of the vibrancy of Anglo-Saxon culture after the departure of the Romans: "My Italian friends are absolutely amazed... In Italy and in parts of France, professional carvers carried on working after the Roman period, and they kept on turning out the same stuff. But in England... a true vernacular in stone carving develops, producing a much greater variety."

In a 2008 essay Rosemary Cramp observed that the distinctive development of figural representation in Anglo-Saxon art illustrated its adaptiveness and its love of ambiguity. Changes in the depictions of human and divine figures from static icons to animated and individualised characters, she suggested, indicate a change towards a more intimate relationship between the human and the divine, and the growing

importance of the individual in late Anglo-Saxon piety.

She was glad that the Anglo-Saxon period has come to be recognised as the origin of so much that has come to define England and the English: "So much of our laws and our statutes started there. Our parishes and our settlement patterns were laid down then. And in spite of the Norman Conquest, vigorously and rigorously people continued to speak and write in English, and maintained what had been some of the earliest vernacular literature in Europe."

Rosemary Jean Cramp was born on May 6 1929 at Cranoe, Leicestershire, into a family which had farmed for generations near Market Harborough. From Market Harborough Grammar School she went up to St Anne's College, Oxford, to read English.

In her 2019 interview she recalled that when she was about 12, her younger sister announced that she had found "some nice things" for the floor of a little house they were building together. After consulting a children's encyclopaedia, Rosemary identified the nice things as pilae tiles (used in underfloor heating systems) of what she assumed had been a Roman villa.

Thinking she ought to report the find, she wrote to Kathleen Kenyon, the only archaeologist she had heard of. "She sent me back the first typewritten letter I had ever received, saying: 'This is evidence, and you must stop what you're doing, report it to a museum and leave it for the moment!'"

The site lay fallow until Rosemary was about to go to Oxford when a man claiming to have worked with Sir Mortimer Wheeler turned up at the family home. They dug a "wobbling trench" into the site and found the remains of a wall.

The find was reported in the *Market Harborough Advertiser*, and when Rosemary arrived at Oxford she received a summons from the archaeologist MV (Margerie) Taylor, asking her to visit her at the Ashmolean Museum. Arriving in Miss Taylor's office she saw, to her embarrassment, the newspaper on her desk "with this picture of me leaning on a spade and the caption: 'She is going to Oxford.'"

"You think you have found a Roman villa. What makes you think it is a villa?" Miss Taylor demanded to know, and was unimpressed with Rosemary's answer: "She asked if I had been taught to survey? No. Could I draw sections? No. She went through everything an

archaeologist ought to be able to do, and then said, 'I think you had better be trained!'"

Rosemary duly attended a course at Corbridge, and spent her leisure time as a student with the Oxford University Archaeological Society. During her English studies, meanwhile, she specialised in early literature "from primitive Germanic to Spenser". After graduation she remained at St Anne's teaching Anglo-Saxon, combining her knowledge of language and literature with her growing expertise as an archaeologist, while working on a BLitt thesis, out of which came her first published paper on "Beowulf and Archaeology".

In 1955 Rosemary Cramp moved to Durham University as a lecturer, and was instrumental in the following year in the founding, with Eric Birley, of the Department of Archaeology. From 1971 to 1990 she served as head of department, laying the foundations for its international reputation as a leading centre of research, and continuing to work there as an Emeritus Professor until her final years.

In *Image and Power in the Archaeology of Early Medieval Britain*, a Festschrift published in her honour in 2001, former students recalled, as one put it, her "combination of personal kindness, academic rigour and outrageous sense of fun". One recalled how, on a dig, she had thrust a bag of tomatoes into his hand to supplement a "vitamin-deficient lunch" with the words: "I will not have scurvy on my digs!"

A second festschrift, *Eedificia nova, Studies in Honour of Rosemary Cramp*, was published in 2008.

Rosemary Cramp served, variously, as a member of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, a trustee of the British Museum, a member of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (now Historic England), chairwoman of the Archaeology Data Service, president of the Council for British Archaeology, president of the Society for Church Archaeology and vice-president of the Royal Archaeological Institute.

From 2001 to 2004 she was President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, which awarded her its Gold Medal in 2008. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006. She was appointed CBE in 1987 and DBE in 2011.

Rosemary Cramp, born May 6 1929, died April 27 2023

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Television & Radio

The week in radio Charlotte Runcie



Radio 2 roundly dismissed the Coronation as cute and quaint



Claudia Winkleman presented her Saturday-morning show but the tone was all wrong

In the end, it was the more niche corners of radio, around the edges of the schedules, that brought the most light. I've recently become fond of listening to *Farming Today* (Radio 4, Monday to Saturday), because my small children keep similar morning hours to farmers. On Bank Holiday Monday there was an edition called *The Crown and the Countryside*, exploring King Charles's life on the land. There were clips of his 1970 speech on organic farming, and his 2020 appearance on *Farming Today*, 50 years later, re-affirming his commitment to those principles. In another life, it was suggested, King Charles would probably be a farmer. In this life, presenter Vernon Harwood made a strong case for the King, and more widely for the whole institution of the monarchy, as being a vital part of the British farming landscape, with a strong and lasting influence on British farming and food production.

From field to table, and *The Food Programme* (Sunday, Radio 4) had Ken Hom cooking a celebratory spiced coronation lamb dish. The secret to the recipe, he said, was to "have a couple of glasses of Champagne before you start cooking", and this was culinary advice I can absolutely get behind.

Presenter Jaega Wise joined in with a community lunch and led a discussion of community food initiatives, and how the history of how coronations have inspired new food dishes and feasting of all kinds. Along with *Farming Today*, this was an intelligent and thoughtful tracing of how the monarchy is entwined with our culture more than we might realise.

Back to Radio 2 on Sunday night for the *Coronation Concert* (Radio 2, Sunday), and this was a much better fit for the station, foregrounding music and a party atmosphere. Zoe Ball and Dermot O'Leary were scheduled to introduce the broadcast, with Jason Mohammad commenting, but Ball was taken ill at the last minute, so Scott Mills filled in. As Mills is gearing up to host the station's Eurovision coverage this weekend, he was already getting into character, and his presence brought a certain "Good Evening Europe" quality to the proceedings. When the Eurovision party descends, hold onto your party hats: that really will be camp as Christmas.

embarrassed that they were having to cover it at all. "I do come from quite, like, a royalist family," Whitehall said, adopting the tone of the confessional. Winkleman, who is always a warm and funny broadcaster, described Whitehall's mother's commitment to travelling to London to see the Coronation as "adorable". Kindly meant, but a wee bit patronising, no?

I'm just not sure the BBC always got the mood right over the weekend, which was a shame, because so much of the build-up to the Coronation across radio was insightful and well-rounded. If the national broadcaster starts framing a major constitutional event and its accompanying public celebrations as quaint, adorable, and somehow cute, it's at risk of switching off its critical faculties altogether, and that's not a road anyone wants to go down. Yes, Radio 2 had more of an entertainment than an educational or informational remit over the weekend (while Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio 5 Live, the World Service and BBC Sounds all simulcasted the Coronation itself, Radio 2 largely stuck to its regular schedule), but it's still part of the national broadcaster, and it therefore does still have a responsibility to engage with the national moment. It all just felt a bit dismissive.

Anyway, Winkleman and Whitehall's little radio moment was all good fun, and self-awareness is a healthy thing. Still, I raised an eyebrow at some of the wider tone of apologetics to the BBC's Coronation coverage on radio across the weekend. They did, at times, seem slightly

embarrassed that they were having to cover it at all. "I do come from quite, like, a royalist family," Whitehall said, adopting the tone of the confessional. Winkleman, who is always a warm and funny broadcaster, described Whitehall's mother's commitment to travelling to London to see the Coronation as "adorable". Kindly meant, but a wee bit patronising, no?

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What to watch

RACE ACROSS THE WORLD
BBC One, 9pm & 10.40pm; Wales, 11.15pm; NI, 11.40pm



Best friends Cathie and Tricia provide the biggest thrills in tonight's finale of the competition

After eight weeks, A 16,000 km and two teams fallen by the wayside, the nail-biting race across Canada reaches its climax as the three remaining pairs battle to be first to make it to the final checkpoint in the port of St John's, the country's easternmost city, and the £20,000 prize. The final leg begins with more than 1,500 km still to race by land and sea across Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The leaders at this point are

Zainib and Mobeen, who have a 14-hour head start thanks to a lucky penultimate leg. But, as we know, bigger leads have vanished for others in the past, and it gives nothing away to say that fate soon levels things up for father-daughter team Monique and Ladi, and best pals Tricia and Cathie. It's the latter duo who provide the thrills tonight as their brave decision to take an unconventional route

ARTS

Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir

Sky Arts, 9pm
This week, the Moirs head for the Outer Hebrides in search of fun, conversation and raptors. They meet up with Orange Juice musician Edwyn Collins and his wife Grace for a very breezy plein-air painting session and inspiring encounters with a white-tailed sea eagle and majestic golden eagle.

COMEDY

Not Dead Yet

Disney+
This sitcom stars Jane the Virgin's Gina Rodriguez as

guarantees a tense dash to the finish line. This third series of the popular reality show has been the most engaging yet, so it's worth catching the follow-up programme at 10.40pm, in which the contestants get together for a final reunion to share their highs and lows. It's a series that will leave you simultaneously itching for adventure and appreciating your home comforts.

Gerard O'Donovan
with the dead. If you like *Ghosts* or *The Good Place* you might like this – but you'll know all the gags already.

DOCUMENTARY

Natural History Museum: World of Wonder

Channel 5, 8pm
Another run for a series that manages to capture both the wonders of natural history and the museum's unique ability to fire the imaginations of successive generations. Tonight, the secrets of a dinosaur's jawbone, a schoolgirl makes a glittering discovery in the playground, and a fly expert heads to Sussex in search of new species.

The Muppets Mayhem

Disney+
Imagine the Muppets doing *This is Spinal Tap* and you've got the concept for this jolly new series following *The Muppet Show* house band Dr Teeth and the Electric Mayhem as they attempt to make their first album in the face of self-inflicted chaos and endless corporate interference. It's fun to be back with the iconic puppets – you'll roar with laughter. GO



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Radio choice Charlotte Runcie



Book of the Week: Hands of Time

Radio 4, 9.45am

Mary Queen of Scots, as an imprisoned Catholic, owned a silver skull watch, and in the centuries following her execution, cheaper watches were eventually mass produced by Protestant craftsmen. These and other fascinating human stories

Frontlines of Journalism

Radio 4, 14.5pm

At what point does reporting become insensitive, or even exploitative? That's the theme of this episode of BBC News's international editor Jeremy Bowen's ongoing series about the quest for truth in journalism. Reflecting on traumatic scenes he witnessed during

The Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 - 6.00am Tweet of the Day

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909KHz

6.00am 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 8.00 5

Live Sport 10.30 Colin Murray 5.00

1.00am Dotun Adebayo 5.00

6.00am Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast 9.00

Alexander Armstrong 12.00 Katie Brethwick 4.00pm Margherita Taylor

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 10.00

Calm Classics 1.00am Bill Overton

4.00 - 6.00am Early Breakfast

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Business Daily 8.50 Witness History

9.00 The Newsroom 9.30 The Climate

Question 10.00 News 10.06 World

Book Club 11.00 The Newsroom 11.30

The Documentary: Murder in Mayfair

12.00 News 12.06pm Outlook 12.50

Witness History 1.00 The Newsroom

1.30 Tech Tent 2.00 Newshour 3.00

News 3.06 HARDtalk 3.30 World

Business Report 4.00 BBC OS 6.00

News 6.06 Outlook 6.50 Witness

History 7.00 The Newsroom 7.30

Sport Today 8.00 News 8.06 The

Climate Question 8.30 Healthcheck

9.00 NewsHour 10.00 News 10.06

HARDtalk 10.30 World Business

Report 11.00 The Newsroom 11.20

Sports News 11.30 The Documentary

his reporting during the Siege of Sarajevo, Bowen considers if it's enough for journalists simply to report the truth. Sensitively produced by Georgia Catt, there are some deep and troubling questions asked here. When war reporting can sometimes look like tourism, why do we need this kind of journalism, and what should it look like?

Murder in Mayfair 12.00 News

12.00am World Book Club 1.00 News

1.06 Business Matters 2.00 The

Newsroom 2.30 Assignment 3.00

News 3.06 Outlook 3.50 Witness

History 4.00 The Newsroom 4.30 The

Food Chain 5.00 - 8.00am Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Peeler 6.30 Five Red

Herrings 7.00 Catch-22 7.15 Young

Victoria 7.30 Women Talking About

Cars 8.00 Hancock's Half Hour 8.30

21st Century Blues 9.00 It's Not What

You Know 9.30 Hobby Bobbies 10.00

An Imaginative Experience 11.00

Peeler 11.30 Five Red Herrings 12.00

Catch-22 12.15pm Young Victoria

12.30 Women Talking About Cars

1.00 Hancock's Half Hour 1.30 21st

Century Blues 2.00 It's Not What You

Know 2.30 Hobby Bobbies 3.00 An

Imaginative Experience 4.00 Peeler

4.30 Five Red Herrings 5.00 Catch-22

5.15 Young Victoria 5.30 Women

Talking About Cars 6.00 Hancock's

Half Hour 6.30 21st Century Blues

7.00 It's Not What You Know 7.30

Hobby Bobbies 8.00 So Bad It's Good?

9.00 Short Cuts 9.30 Dark Corners

9.45 The Shadow Over Innsmouth

10.00 Lemn Sissay's Social Enterprise

10.30 Pick-Ups 10.55 The Comedy

Club Interview 11.00 Alex Horne

Presents the Horne Section 11.30

Dave Podmore: A Pod for Everyone 12.00

An Imaginative Experience 1.00am

Peeler 1.30 Five Red Herrings 2.00

Catch-22 2.15 Young Victoria 2.30

Women Talking About Cars 3.00

Hancock's Half Hour 3.30 21st

Century Blues 4.00 It's Not What You

Know 4

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.15 Morning Live** (S) **10.00 Scam Interceptors** (S) **10.45 Maximum Security** (AD) (R) (S) **11.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (AD) (R) (S) **12.15 pm** Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S) **1.00 BBC News at One; Weather** (S) **1.30 Regional News; Weather** (S) **1.45 Doctors** (AD) (S) **2.15 Countryfile Diaries** (R) (S) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (AD) (R) (S) **3.45 The Bidding Room** (R) (S) **4.30 Unbeatable** (S) **5.15 Pointless** (R) (S) **6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather** (S) **6.30 Regional News; Weather** (S)



MasterChef

BBC Two

6.45 am Bargain Hunt (R) (S) **7.30 Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip** (R) (S) **8.00 Sign Zone: 24/7 Pet Hospital** (AD) (R) (S) **8.30 Sign Zone: Take a Hike** (R) (S) (SL) **9.00 Nicky Campbell** (S) **11.00 News** (S) **11.15 Politics Live** (S) **1.00 pm Impossible** (R) (S) **1.45 Eggheads** (R) (S) **2.15 My Million Pound Menu** (AD) (R) (S) **3.15 Wonders of the Universe** (AD) (R) (S) **4.15 The Great British Sewing Bee** (AD) (R) (S) **5.15 Flog It!** (R) (S) **6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** (R) (S) **6.30 Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip** (S)



Turkey: Empire of Erdogan

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00 Lorraine** (S) **10.00 This Morning** (S) **12.30 pm Loose Women** (S) **1.30 News; Weather** (S) **1.55 Regional News; Weather** (S) **2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal** (AD) (R) (S) **3.00 Tenable** (R) (S) **4.00 Tipping Point** (S) **5.00 The Chase** (S) **6.00 Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.30 News; Weather** (S)



Dickinson's Real Deal

Channel 4

6.05 am Countdown (R) (S) **6.45 Cheers** (R) (S) **7.10 Cheers** (R) (S) **7.35 The King of Queens** (AD) (R) (S) **8.00 The King of Queens** (AD) (R) (S) **8.25 Frasier** (AD) (R) (S) **8.55 Frasier** (AD) (R) (S) **9.25 Frasier** (AD) (R) (S) **10.55 Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (AD) (R) (S) **11.55 Channel 4 News** (S) **12.00 Steph's Packed Lunch** (S) **2.10 pm Countdown** (S) **3.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** (R) (S) **4.00 A Place in the Sun** (S) **5.00 Help! We Bought a Village** (R) (S) **6.00 The Simpsons** (AD) (R) (S) **6.30 Hollyoaks** (AD) (R) (S)



Kids

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15 Jeremy Vine** (S) **12.45 pm Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly** (R) (S) **1.40 5 News at Luncheon** (S) **1.45 Home and Away** (AD) (R) (S) **2.15 FILM: Killer in the Cabin** (2022, TVM) Thriller starring Lelia Symington (S) **4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (R) (S) **5.00 5 News at 5** (S) **6.00 Eggheads** (R) (S) **6.30 Eggheads** (R) (S) **6.55 5 News Update** (S)



Natural History Museum

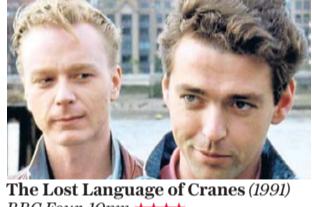
Film choice

**The Old Way** (2023)
Sky Cinema Premiere, 3.45pm ★★

Nicolas Cage's first Western may pique interest, but it is a disappointingly thin and lumpy affair. Cage plays a former bounty hunter now earning an honest living as a shopkeeper. There's a brief prologue, in which Cage promisingly sports a moustache the size of an Airedale terrier, before it switches to two decades later and we're led back to our hero as he's stumbled upon by the victim's bitter son (Noah Le Gros).

**Lady Bird** (2017)
BBC Three, 10pm ★★★

Greta Gerwig based her directorial debut on her memories of growing up in Sacramento as a Catholic schoolgirl. Saoirse Ronan is Christine, or "Lady Bird", as she has named herself, fighting her parents over her desire to escape to New York City and hurl herself into the big wide world. Gerwig's gorgeous, heartfelt film is about our domestic nests, and how difficult leaving them can be.

**The Lost Language of Cranes** (1991)
BBC Four, 10pm ★★★

This moving adaptation of David Leavitt's 1986 novel remains one of Britain's most influential pieces of LGBT film. When Angus Macfadyen's twentysomething Philip comes out as gay, his father Owen (Brian Cox) accepts him – at first. But the revelation ticks away at him, forcing him to reckon with his own sexuality. Cox, as ever, is fantastic, and was nominated for a Bafta for the role.



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BBC Four

9.00 am BBC News at Ten (S) **10.30 Regional News; Weather** (S) **10.40 Race Across the World** The contestants reunite and reflect on their journeys across Canada. Last in the series **See What to Watch** (AD) (S) **11.40 Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars** **12.45 - 6.00am News**

ITV3

11.30 am Maigret **12.40 pm Heartbeat** **1.40 Classic Emmerdale** **2.10 Classic Emmerdale** **2.40 Classic Coronation Street** **3.15 Classic Coronation Street** **3.50 Midsomer Murders** **4.00 Detectivists** Lance is obsessed with finding the thief that stole his gold (AD) (R) (S) **10.30 Newsnight** (S) **11.15 FILM: Red Joan** (2018) Cold War espionage drama starring Judi Dench **12.50am Sign Zone: Saving Lives in Leeds** **1.50 Sign Zone: Iolo's Borderlands** **2.20 Sign Zone: Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars** **3.20 - 6.30am This Is BBC Two**

ITV4

9.00 am The Champions **11.25 am Made in Britain** **12.25 pm Made in Britain** **1.00 Hot Shots** **1.10 ITV Racing: Live from Chester**. Coverage of the opening day of the May meeting **4.00 The Professionals** **5.05 Minder** **6.05 Giant Lobster Hunters** **8.00 BattleBots** **8.00 The Chase Celebrity Special** **9.05 FILM: The Rock** (1996) Action thriller starring Sean Connery **11.45 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage** **12.55 am Auto Mundial** **1.25 Motorsport Mundial** **1.55 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** **3.00 - 6.00am Shop: Ideal World**

Sky Arts

11.00 Noon Lucian Freud: A Self Portrait **1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected** **2.00 Leonard Bernstein By Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** **3.00 The Directors** **4.00 Discovering: Errol Flynn** **5.00 Tales of the Unexpected** **6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents** **7.00 Discovering: Matt Damon** **8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2017** **9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir** See What to watch **10.00 FILM: I Am Alfred Hitchcock** (2021) **11.40 Comedy Legends** **12.40 am A Brush with Comedy** **2.35 - 4.30am Cold War Steve Meets the Outside World**

Sky Atlantic

11.10 am True Blood **12.15 pm Game of Thrones** **1.20 Ray Donovan** **2.25 Ray Donovan** **3.30 The Wire** **4.35 The Wire** **5.45 True Blood** **6.50 True Blood** **7.55 Game of Thrones** **9.00 Perry Mason** **10.05 Succession** **11.15 Dreamland** **11.45 The Night Of** **12.55 am Sharp Objects** **2.00 The L Word: Generation Q** **3.00 - 4.05am Game of Thrones**

Film4

11.00 am The Far Country (1954) Western with James Stewart **1.00 pm 23 Places to Baker Street** (1956) Thriller starring Van Johnson **3.05 Sands of Iwo Jima** (1949, b/w) Adventure with John Wayne **4.35 The Wire** **5.15 Cowboy** (1958) Western starring Jack Lemmon **7.05 Failure to Launch** (2006) Comedy with Matthew McConaughey **11.15 Dreamland** **11.45 The Night Of** **12.55 am Sharp Objects** **2.00 The L Word: Generation Q** **3.00 - 4.05am Game of Thrones**

Drama

11.40 am The Bill **12.40 pm Classic EastEnders** **1.20 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** **7.20 Last of the Summer Wine** **8.00 The Coronation** **9.00 The Coronation** **10.00 New Tricks** **11.20 Silent Witness** **1.30 am Broken** **2.50 - 4.00am Classic Holby City**

Dave

11.40am Last of the Summer Wine **12.20pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.00** I Didn't Know You Cared **1.40 dinnerladies** **2.20 Open All Hours** **3.00** Hi-de-Hi! **3.40** Last of the Summer Wine **5.00** Dad's Army **5.40** Keeping Up Appearances **6.20 dinnerladies** **7.00** Hi-de-Hi! **7.35** Dad's Army **8.15** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **9.00** dinnerladies **9.40** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV **10.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **12.40am** Absolutely Fabulous **1.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV **2.00** Live at the Apollo **2.50** Mrs Brown's Boys **3.35-4.00am** Desmond's

ITV2

2.50 KGB: The Sword and the Shield **3.55 Military Masterminds** **5.05 Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan** **6.15 Air Forces** **7.20 KGB: The Sword and the Shield** **8.30 Military Masterminds** **9.40 Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan** **10.55 KGB: The Sword and the Shield** **12.00 Military Masterminds** **1.15am** Beautiful Serengeti **2.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: **11.00am FILM: The Purple Plain** (1954) Second World War drama starring Gregory Peck **1.00pm** Dick Bogarde **2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs** **3.00 FILM: The Lone Wolf Strikes** (1940) Comedy caper starring William Powell **4.00 FILM: Your Witness** (1950, b/w) Courtroom drama with Robert Montgomery **5.15 FILM: The Sea Shall Not Have Them** (1955, b/w) Drama starring Dirk Bogarde **6.00 Gideon's Way** **7.00 FILM: Perfect Friday** (1970) Crime comedy starring Stanley Baker **10.55 FILM: Richard's Things** (1980) Drama starring Liv Ullmann **12.55am FILM: The Hand** (1960, b/w) Crime thriller starring Derek Bond **2.10 FILM: The Way Out** (1955, b/w) Crime drama starring Mona Freeman **3.45-5.25am FILM: The Man Who Cheated**

More4

Sky Sports Main Event

Now Sky Sports News **1.00pm** Sky Sports News **2.00** Sky Sports News **3.00** Live Indian Premier League. Chennai Super Kings v Delhi Capitals **7.00** Live WSL. Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal (kick-off 7.30pm) **10.00** Sky Sports News **10.30** Back Pages. Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **3.00-5.30am** Live NBA Basketball. Golden State Warriors v Los Angeles Lakers (tip-off 3.00am)

Sky Sports Premier League

BT Sport 1

11.30am Premier League **1.00pm** Primeira Liga **2.00** Uefa Europa League & Conference League **3.00** Uefa Champions League **4.30** Premier League **5.00** Premier League Review **6.00** The Football's On **7.00** Live Uefa Champions League. AC Milan v Inter Milan (kick-off 8.00pm) **10.30** The Football's On **11.30** Premier League **12.45pm** Ticket to Paradise **2.00** Action thriller starring Idris Elba **3.55 The Old Way** (2023) Western starring Nicolas Cage See Film choice **5.35 The Good Life** (2018) Comedy starring Nicholas Lyndhurst **7.00** Ticket to Paradise **8.00** Ticket to Paradise **9.00** The Curse of Oak Island **10.00** Deadman's Curse **11.00** Diggings Up Britain's Past **12.00** A Cut Above **1.00am** Swamp People **2.00** Swamp People **3.00-4.00am** Swamp People

Discovery

Sky Documentaries

Now FILM: Battle of the Sexes (2017) The story of the 1973 tennis match between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King **1.40pm** Rise of the Superheroes **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: George Clooney **6.00** One Shot: The Football Factory **7.00** Edge of the Earth **8.05** Janet Jackson **9.00** SEAL Team **10.00** Strike Back: Shadow Warfare **11.00** Peacemaker **12.00** A Town Called Malice **1.10am** Brassic **2.05** The Force: North-East **3.00-4.00am** Hawaii Five-O

Today's television

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

Film choice

**The Old Way** (2023)
Sky Cinema Premiere, 3.45pm ★★

Nicolas Cage's first Western may pique interest, but it is a disappointingly thin and lumpy affair. Cage plays a former bounty hunter now earning an honest living as a shopkeeper. There's a brief prologue, in which Cage promisingly sports a moustache the size of an Airedale terrier, before it switches to two decades later and we're led back to

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- Fri 25 Tokyo, Japan
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- Sat 26 Tokyo, Japan
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 - Embrace the splendour of Tokyo's oldest temple, founded in the 7th century, and browse the shops along Nakamise Shopping Street, before admiring the view from atop the Tokyo Skytree tower
- Sun 27 Hitachinaka, Japan ★MAIDEN PORT★
- Mon 28 Miyako, Japan
- Tue 29 Hakodate (from Hokkaido), Japan
 - ★Recommended Excursion^x: Onuma National Park
 - Cruise the calm waters of the volcanically formed Lake Onuma in its namesake national park, keeping your eyes peeled for soaring birds overhead. Enjoy a unique perspective of the active volcano Mount Komagatake en route
- Wed 30 Sapporo (from Otaru), Japan

MAY 2025

- Sat 3 Cross the International Date Line
- Mon 5 Dutch Harbor, Alaska, USA
- Wed 7 Kodiak Island, Alaska, USA
- Thu 8 Whittier, Alaska, USA ★MAIDEN PORT★
- Fri 9 ★Cruising by the Hubbard Glacier★
- Sat 10 Icy Strait Point, Alaska, USA
 - ★Recommended Excursion^x: Spasski River Valley Wildlife & Bear Search
 - Watch for grizzly bears in one of their prime habitats while keeping your eyes peeled for other commonly seen wildlife such as deer, land otters, mink and bald eagles
- Sun 11 Ketchikan, Alaska, USA
- Mon 12 ★Cruising the Inside Passage★
- Tue 13 Victoria, Canada (arrive late am – depart late night) ★Recommended Excursion^x: Orca Whale Watching
- Wed 14 Vancouver, Canada
 - Disembark and transfer to the airport for your FREE^{>>} overnight flight to London[>]
- Thu 15 Arrive in London
 - Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Please note a day may be lost/gained when crossing the International Date Line. Cherry blossom season may vary.

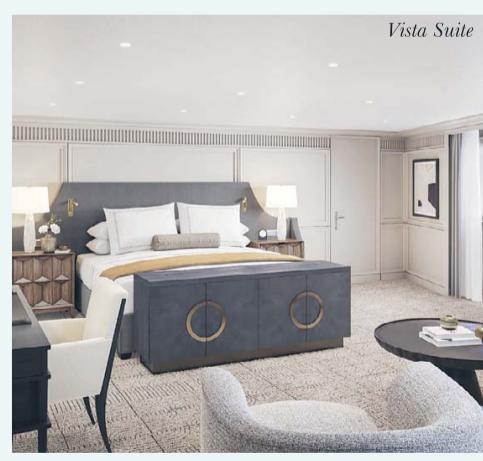
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Vista Suite	VS	£17,709	£14,799
Owner's Suite	OS		- SOLD OUT -

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Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

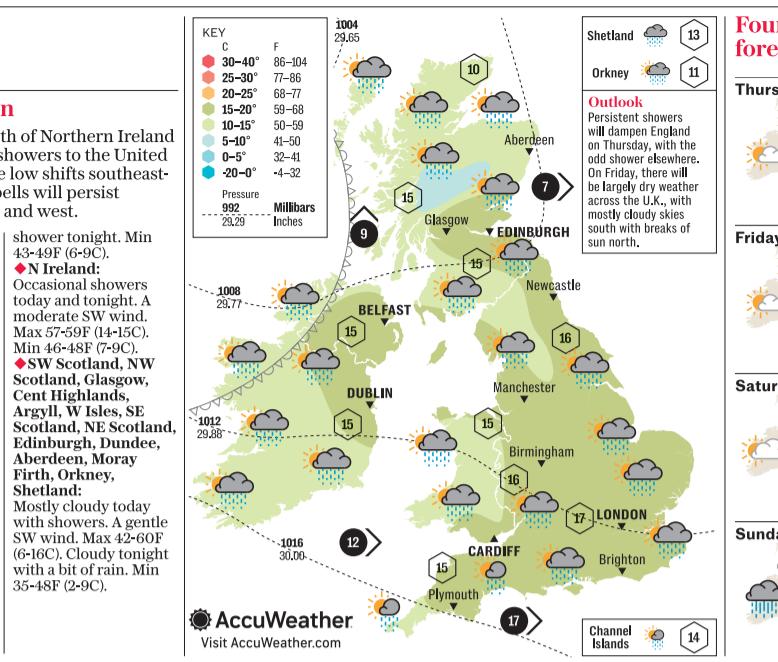
General situation

Low pressure just north of Northern Ireland will bring occasional showers to the United Kingdom today. As the low shifts southeastward tonight, rainy spells will persist generally to the north and west.

◆ London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Mostly cloudy today with periods of showers. A gentle W wind. Max 57-63F (14-17C). Overcast tonight with a few showers in spots. Min 45-50F (7-10C).

◆ NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England: Broken cloud today with showers. A moderate SW wind. Max 56-64F (13-18C). A shower along the west coast tonight. Min 42-49F (6-9C).

◆ Wales: Showers today. A fresh SW wind. Max 53-58F (12-14C). The odd



shower tonight. Min 43-49F (6-9C).

◆ N Ireland:

Occasional showers today and tonight. A moderate SW wind. Max 57-63F (14-17C). Min 46-48F (7-9C).

◆ SW Scotland, NW

Scotland, Glasgow, Cumbria, Argyl, W Isles, SE

Scotland, NE Scotland,

Edinburgh, Dundee,

Aberdeen, Moray

Firth, Orkney,

Shetland:

Mostly cloudy today

with showers. A

gentle SW wind. Max 42-49F (6-9C).

◆ Wales:

Showers today. A fresh

SW wind. Max 53-58F (12-14C). The odd

Four day forecast



European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max	Min	Daytime	°C	weather
Akrotiri	23	15	sunny		
Alicante	26	15	p/c/dy		
Amsterdam	16	13	rain		
Athens	22	16	p/c/dy		
Barcelona	21	16	p/c/dy		
Bari	20	17	p/c/dy		
Belgrade	20	6	p/c/dy		
Bendinorm	27	15	p/c/dy		
Bergen	16	11	rain		
Berlin	19	8	p/c/dy		
Biarritz	17	13	rain		
Bodrum	24	15	p/c/dy		
Bordeaux	19	13	rain		
Brest	16	12	rain		
Brussels	15	13	rain		
Bucharest	17	8	p/c/dy		
Budapest	21	2	sunny		
Cagliari	25	14	p/c/dy		
Chamonix	18	8	rain		
Copenhagen	19	5	p/c/dy		
Corfu	23	17	cloudy		
Cork	15	9	showers		
Corsica	23	12	p/c/dy		
Crete	22	13	p/c/dy		
Dublin	16	9	showers		
Dubrovnik	22	16	p/c/dy		
Faro	31	18	sunny		
Florence	27	12	p/c/dy		

Max Min Daytime

°C °C weather

	Max	Min	Daytime	°C	weather
Frankfurt	23	15	rain		
Funchal	26	19	p/c/dy		
Gdańsk	17	3	sunny		
Geneva	19	12	rain		
Gibraltar	30	18	showers		
Hamburg	21	9	p/c/dy		
Helsinki	15	-1	p/c/dy		
Innsbruck	23	12	showers		
Istanbul	16	12	cloudy		
Kyiv	13	5	p/c/dy		
La Rochelle	18	14	rain		
Liège	24	17	windy		
Lisbon	18	13	rain		
Locarno	23	14	p/c/dy		
Luxembourg	16	11	rain		
Madrid	29	15	p/c/dy		
Majorca	24	12	p/c/dy		
Malaga	26	17	p/c/dy		
Malta	22	16	windy		
Marseille	23	15	showers		
Menorca	23	15	p/c/dy		
Milan	22	16	p/c/dy		
Monaco	21	17	cloudy		
Moscow	14	-1	p/c/dy		
Nice	21	18	p/c/dy		
Nicosia	28	13	p/c/dy		
Oporto	21	16	rain		
Zagreb	17	10	p/c/dy		
Zurich	20	12	rain		

Max Min Daytime

°C °C weather

	Max	Min	Daytime	°C	weather
Oslo	17	6	p/c/dy		
Palermo	21	16	p/c/dy		
Paris	18	12	rain		
Perpignan	23	15	showers		
Prague	17	3	p/c/dy		
Reykjavík	13	9	rain		
Rhodes	23	17	p/c/dy		
Riga	19	0	sunny		
Rome	23	14	sunny		
Saint Malo	18	12	rain		
Salzburg	21	8	p/c/dy		
Santander	18	13	rain		
Santiago/Comp.	18	14	p/c/dy		
Sofia	13	10	cloudy		
St. Petersburg	15	1	p/c/dy		
Stockholm	18	4	sunny		
Tenerife	28	21	windy		
Tirana	23	13	showers		
Toulouse	17	13	rain		
Valencia	28	14	p/c/dy		
Venice	21	14	p/c/dy		
Vienna	18	5	p/c/dy		
Vigo	21	15	rain		
Munich	20	7	p/c/dy		
Naples	22	16	storms		
Nice	21	18	p/c/dy		
Warsaw	17	3	sunny		
Zagreb	17	10	p/c/dy		
Zurich	20	12	rain		

Nature notes

'Secret weapon' belts deployed

Conservationists trying to preserve 50,000 acres of the Cotswolds have unveiled their "grass roots secret weapon" – 100 grazing cows.

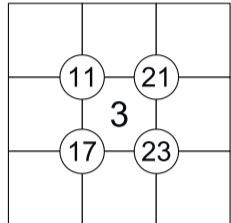
The National Trust is deploying 100 belted galloway cattle at the 21,000-hectare Stroud Landscape Project in Gloucestershire to help create a network of wild places that are more resilient to climate change.

Belted galloways, or belties as they are also known, graze on steep slopes and eat grasses that other animals find less palatable.

With their help, delicate plants and herbs, such as marjoram, thyme, vetches and rare orchids, are thriving, along with wildlife such as Duke of Burgundy butterflies and greater horseshoe bats.

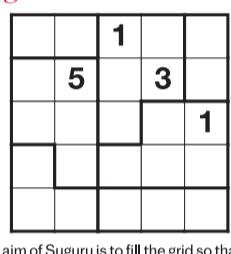
Deployed in the right numbers, belties manage grasslands and, depending on the wildlife being encouraged, can be moved around to leave grass long or short and fertilise it.

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4611



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Suguru NO 1699



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 4610: 687 | Suguru 1698: 941 | 325

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2023

TELEGRAPH PUZZLES BOOKS

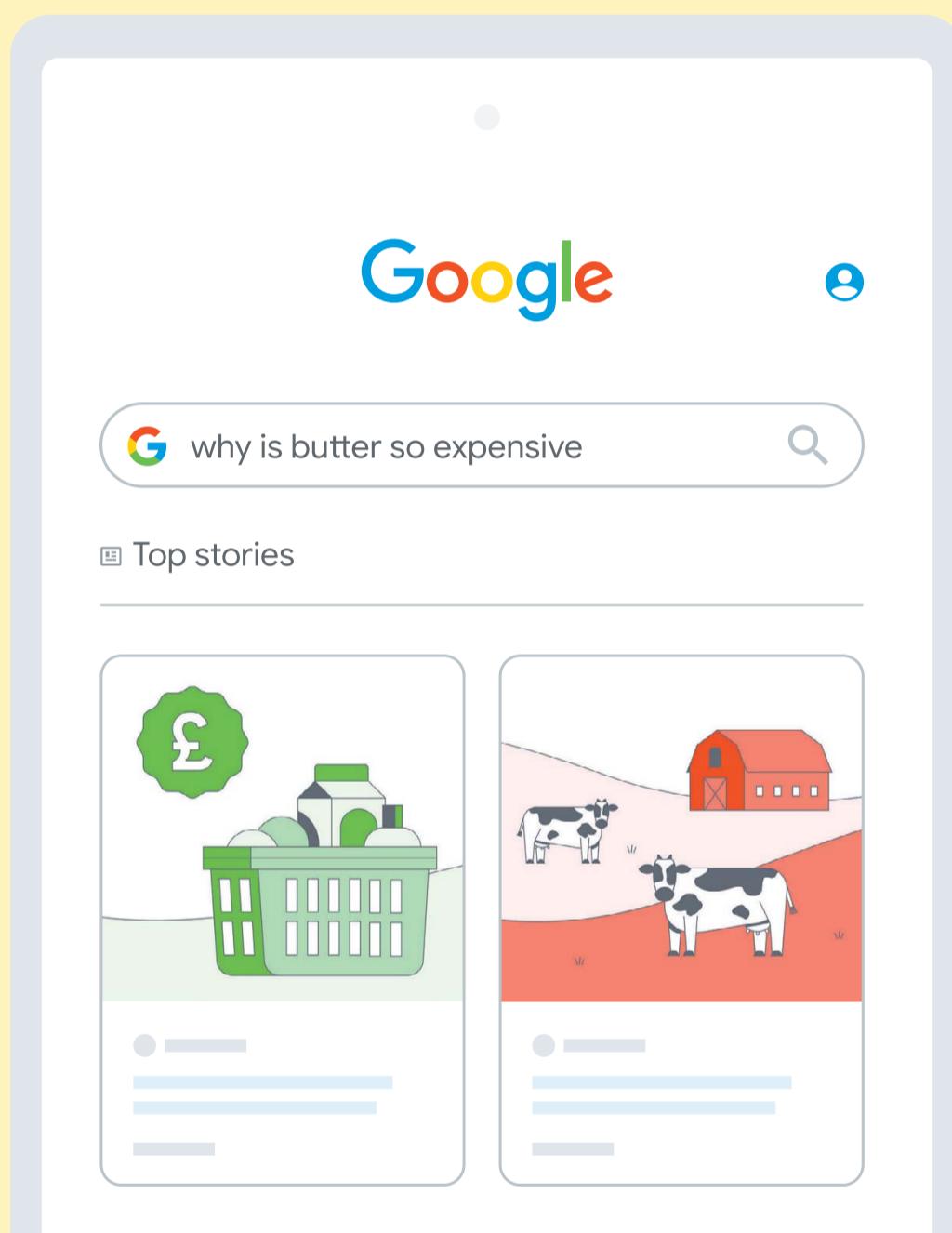
Purchase the latest Telegraph puzzles books via the Telegraph bookshop. Please call 0844 871 202 3390.

British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	1.7	0.72	16	11 showers
Aberystwyth	0.0*	0.02	15	12 showers
Antrim	4.4	0.07	19	9 showers
Aviemore				

Find the facts



UK searches for “why is butter so expensive” have increased by over 500% in the past year.* From stories about the weekly shop to reports on the economy, Google helps millions of people access reliable news they can depend on.

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*550% increase in the past 12 months, correct at 20 March 2023.

Sport

Your 12-page section inside

The Daily Telegraph

Features



The truth about
Boris Johnson
and the King

By Camilla Tominey

Features

'They had a 15-minute showdown over slavery'

Charles and Boris's strained relationship could be down to different philosophies. By *Camilla Tominey*

On paper, they would appear to have a great deal in common. One, an aspirational "world king", the other – a real one. Both committed environmentalists, Charles III and Boris Johnson even shared the same mentor, the late Sir Eric Anderson, who taught them at Gordonstoun and Eton respectively. They both spent time at Geelong Grammar School's outdoor-focused Timbertop campus in Australia in their formative years (the King spent two terms there in 1966, Mr Johnson taught there on his gap year). And then, of course, there is their shared chequered marital history, with both men going on to wed their mistresses.

Yet the allegation that the former prime minister "squared up" to the then Prince of Wales after he branded the Government's Rwanda deportation scheme

"an open mind". Yesterday, sources close to Mr Johnson said he did not recognise Mr Harri's account, which features in his new podcast, *Unprecedented*, describing it as "inaccurate". Regardless of what really happened in Kigali that day, there is no doubt that Mr Johnson and the King crossed swords on more than just immigration policy. Politically opposed on a number of issues, as one insider put it: "Boris is very much a *Telegraph* man whereas Charles is more of a *Guardian*-ista. I think he saw the King as more of a Gordon Brown type." Another source told *The Spectator* magazine that Mr Johnson regarded the King "as a sort of royal version of John Major – fussy, wet and meddling."

The tensions date back to Mr Johnson's years as mayor of London when he was famously 30 minutes late for his first meeting with the then Prince of Wales after taking the Tube in the wrong direction and being mobbed by a group of Chinese tourists on the escalator. According to Mr Harri, the ever punctual Charles was "unimpressed".

They wildly disagreed on planning decisions. Avowedly "pro-build" Mr Johnson disagreed with the King's opposition to the 180m-high Gherkin, dismissed his concerns about refusing more tower blocks as "absolutely crazy" and was contemptuous of the "pastiche" classical buildings designed by architects like Quinlan Terry, which the sovereign greatly admires.

Genetically modified foods, to which the monarch is publicly opposed, prove another pinch point, after Mr Johnson recommended Britain be "liberated" from rules restricting their use. There have even been suggestions that Brexit may have played a part in growing tensions, with the King allegedly expressing private concerns over the Johnson government's handling of post-Brexit farm subsidies and free-trade deals. It perhaps wasn't helpful to Mr Johnson for the King to write for *The Guardian* in 2021 highlighting how farming was going through a "massive transition" and "urging small farmers to band together to cope

The tensions date back to when Johnson, as mayor, was 30 minutes late to meet Charles

"appalling" has shone a spotlight on the sometimes testy relationship between these two rather complicated public figures. According to Guto Harri, No10's former head of communications, the ex-PM rounded on the then heir to the throne and warned him against interfering in politics during a 15-minute "showdown" at a Commonwealth summit in Rwanda last June. He also suggested that Mr Johnson strongly warned the King against giving a speech on slavery, saying: "I'd be careful or you'll end up having to sell the Duchy of Cornwall to pay reparations for those who built it." Relations, claims Mr Harri, "never fully recovered".

At the time, Downing Street denied there had been a row, with Mr Johnson saying only that the two men had a "good old chinwag" – although it didn't stop him publicly urging the King to keep



Just a chinwag? Boris Johnson, seen at the Coronation, 'had a row' with Charles, left, over Rwanda last year

with the coming shocks". Although he has never publicly expressed any Remain sympathies, the King, whose bloodline is half German, has always spoken fondly about the bond between Britain and Brussels, remarking during a trip to Berlin in 2020 as Mr Johnson was still negotiating his Brexit deal: "No country is really an island." He also made a point of giving regular speeches to the European Parliament as heir apparent – a move that caused Nigel Farage to later remark: "I was appalled at his call for the EU to have more power. He

seemed to hold the EU institutions in high regard."

According to one former minister, "It was the talk of the Commons tea room that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh supported Brexit while Prince Charles and Prince William supported Remain but it was only ever gossip. I don't think the rumours had any basis in fact." The shift in power dynamics once Mr Johnson became prime minister may also have had a bearing, according to someone close to him. "I can quite imagine Boris thinking, 'I'm PM and you're a

royal so you should have no locus in any of my decision-making – it's nothing to do with you'" When in Downing Street, Mr Johnson was said to be put out by the King's underwhelming response to his plan to recommission a new royal yacht – and concerned by a story alleging he had accepted on behalf of his charitable fund £1 million (£870,000) in suitcases from visiting Arabs. Having had his own financial affairs placed under heavy scrutiny, he appeared to resent the fact that the King was not apparently required to play by the same rules.

Could jealousy also have been a factor in their uneasy association? Several allies of Mr Johnson point to his closeness to late Queen – which was strongly in evidence even when he travelled to Balmoral to tender his resignation two days before she died last September. Although a previous visit to the Scottish Highlands in 2019 prompted courtiers to accuse the "unfocused" and "distracted" former prime minister of "disrespectful" behaviour after arriving in a "shambolic state" with his now-wife Carrie, his final meeting with the late Queen could



not have been more cordial. She went out of her way to counsel Mr Johnson on what he should do next, advising him not to hold on to the things that had gone wrong. "She was extremely maternal towards him," said one insider. "That last trip to Balmoral was quite momentous."

Another source added: "The late Queen basically treated him like her naughty son. There was real warmth between them and a glint in her eye whenever they were together. He really used to make her laugh." Another added: "He was in awe of the late Queen, totally in awe. And I think he probably regarded Charles as inferior by comparison. "Charles used to laugh at him whereas the Queen would laugh with him." Mr Johnson would also poke fun at the King behind his back, allegedly veering off the agreed script during a pre-recorded BBC eulogy to Charles to joke: "I liked his Duchy Originals biscuits, and we must all hope he hasn't taken the secret recipe with him to the grave." Another ally confirmed: "He always got on very well with the late Queen, Camilla and the princes. When he was with William and Harry, they'd be larking about like three mischievous schoolboys, but there was never the same chemistry

with Charles." So cordial were relations with Queen Camilla, that when the then London mayor went to visit her at Clarence House, she came out to the bike shed to meet him and later ended up opening two of the three new rape crisis centres he brought to the capital. It helped that Mr Johnson has always been incredibly close to her nephew Ben Elliot, who served as his party co-chairman from 2019 to 2022. "I remember him remarking of Camilla, 'What a great woman!'" added the ally. "They had a great relationship. It's not the maddest idea that there may have been a bit of jealousy on Charles's behalf. Boris is perhaps not the kind of bloke you want holding lengthy private meetings with your wife."

Since Liz Truss hardly had enough time to get to know the King, it is now down to Rishi Sunak to repair the relationship but even that hasn't started smoothly after he advised the King against attending Cop27 in Egypt and dragged him into the political fray during the signing of the Windsor Framework, when the Palace was forced to delay a meeting with Ursula von der Leyen. Yet Mr Sunak can surely count on more amiability with the Palace than the predecessor who took on the King in Kigali.

'I've had unlikely support since my Coronation arrest'

An anti-monarchy activist says our rights are being eroded. *Ed Cumming* reports

Matt Turnbull's Coronation day was over before it began. Turnbull, 35, who works in advertising, had agreed to drive a van full of placards for a Republic protest to a spot in Covent Garden. The protest had been pre-arranged with the police. When he pulled up in St Martin's Lane just before 7am, however, along with five other organisers, he was greeted by 30 or so police officers, who immediately started questioning them and searching the van.

"They found the luggage straps that we were going to use to attach the signs to trolleys to take them down to the protest," Turnbull explains. "They started shouting that 'they have things to lock on with' [i.e. to secure themselves to a building]. That's when the handcuffs went on. Then we stood on the street for 45 minutes while the police tried to work out what to do with us. It was pandemonium: it looked hilarious. Twenty more officers came down, so there were 50 police for six of us."

It was only after Turnbull started talking to a reporter that the police put him in a van and took him to the police station. He spent the next 12 hours in a cell before he was released at 11pm. They took away his watch and phone, so he had no idea what time it was until he was let out.

All charges were dropped, and a suited officer offered a full apology on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. Graham Smith, the chief executive of Republic, has said he will be seeking legal redress, and wants a "full inquiry" into a "disgraceful episode". In total, 64 protesters were arrested, leading to criticism from civil liberties groups and concerns that the new Public Order Act threatens the right to protest. Turnbull does not fit the stereotype of a republican protester. He was educated at Canford, a boarding school in Dorset, before studying theology at Oxford (he is also a friend: it was surprising, to say the least, to see him in handcuffs on the big screens at *The Telegraph*). Although his politics have always been left of centre, he is far from the stereotypical image of the crusty, glued-to-the-road activist.

"One of the things I was most worried about in my cell was that people would think I had planned to 'lock on', which I think is such an embarrassing action," he says. "People who do that look pathetic."

He became involved with Republic last March. "I wrote to Graham Smith to offer help with messaging and advertising. When the Queen died, I started putting a bit more effort into it. We always thought Prince Charles becoming King would be a window [for republican arguments]."

Turnbull says he has been left with the impression that the police care more about appearances than about civil liberties or the right to protest. "I think there's a

BBC, PAUL GROVER FOR THE TELEGRAPH

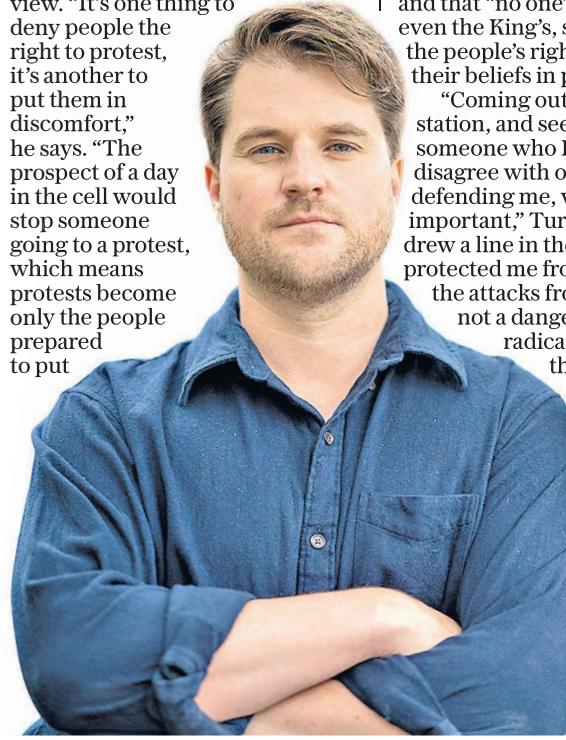


Under arrest: Matt Turnbull on Saturday; the former Oxford student, also below, says he is no fanatic

I've never done this stuff before. But we need to find a way to stand up for each other'

question around to what extent expressing anti-monarchy sentiment is still seen as beyond the pale," he says, "but it ties into a wider point which is what I think of as the 'village green preservation society' when it comes to policing. It's about aesthetics. A lot of the talk in the run-up to the Coronation was that they didn't want it to look bad, that it would look wrong for there to be dissent."

Turnbull says the episode has brought home the importance of the right to protest, and to be able to disagree with the establishment view. "It's one thing to deny people the right to protest, it's another to put them in discomfort," he says. "The prospect of a day in the cell would stop someone going to a protest, which means protests become only the people prepared to put



their body, minds and time on the line. If that becomes what protest is, you'll only get the people who fetishise it, where protest needs people like me who are not martyrs, who aren't brave, who would rather be in the pub than a police cell. You need those people to be able to protest too."

Turnbull continues: "Some have asked why we couldn't just protest five miles away, but you can never properly confront monarchy unless you're prepared to challenge the aesthetics of it. Life and society are messy. We should get better as a country at accepting the messiness, and that we don't have a homogenous idea of cultural identity any more." After he was released, Turnbull was reassured by the voices of support from the political Right and Left. David Davis said that while he disagreed with republican aims, their right to protest should be defended. In *The Spectator*, Brendan O'Neill, nobody's idea of a bleeding heart socialist, wrote a column in which he argued that the arrests were a "grotesque assault on freedom", and that "no one's feelings, not even the King's, should ever trump the people's right to freely express their beliefs in public".

"Coming out of the police station, and seeing O'Neill, someone who I fundamentally disagree with on so many things, defending me, was really important," Turnbull says. "It drew a line in the sand, which protected me from the worst of the attacks from the Right. I'm not a dangerous Leftist radical. I've never done

this stuff before. But we need to find a way as a country to stand up for each other and agree that there are some things, like protesting and wrongful arrest, that are sacrosanct and go across political lines."

'You don't really get cancelled anymore — that time is over'

Romesh Ranganathan and Rob Beckett are presenting the Baftas together for the first time. Guy Kelly meets them

"I'm gonna try and get him cancelled," Romesh Ranganathan says, nodding towards Rob Beckett. "That's the hope anyway. I'll just go, 'Rob, what's your view on...'" Beckett whips his head round in protest. "But it's so much easier for me to get cancelled than you!"

It's one way to approach your first time hosting the television Bafta Awards, which the pair of them will do for the first time this Sunday. In reality, Ranganathan, 45, and Beckett, 37, are two comics of such reliable ubiquity that they're about as safe a booking as you can find.

They may not be particularly edgy ("Hey, I've got a bit of edge, I spoke about smokers on my last tour..." Beckett protests), but they're definitely funny. Today, they're squirrelled in a small, uninteresting boardroom at Bafta's headquarters in Piccadilly, competing to make each other laugh as much as anybody else.

They take over from Richard Ayoade, who hosted the past three ceremonies. Ranganathan and Beckett have assiduously avoided watching past presenters, but they'll be well aware of what works and what doesn't. It is a tricky balance: Richard E Grant and Alison Hammond were criticised for being too "luvvie" at the Bafta film awards in February, but too arch and you might not be asked back.

The Academy itself has had a difficult few years. Two years ago it gave an Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema award to Noel Clarke, then had to retract it when allegations of verbal abuse, bullying and sexual harassment (which Clarke denied) were levelled



'We are both clean living, we've both had therapy, and having kids has made us better comics'

against him by 20 women a few weeks later. A lack of diversity among nominations is another frequent charge. In 2020 its president, Prince William, felt moved enough to tell a primetime audience: "Not for the first time in the last few years, we find ourselves talking again about the need to do more to ensure diversity in the sector and in the awards process. That simply cannot be right in this day and age."

But where the film awards have struggled, the TV version is a solid performer, especially with audiences – ratings for last year's ceremony were up 1.4million on 2021.

If you've seen *Rob & Romesh Vs*, the Sky show in which they travel the world taking on challenges (race Usain Bolt, run their own restaurant for the night), you'll know their warm and watchable rapport is genuine. They met over a decade ago, while playing pub gigs and competitions around

Bafta Television Awards 2023 – who should win... who will win

A total of 27 golden mask gongs will be doled out at the Bafta Television Awards, with a special award for historian David Olusoga and the viewer-voted Memorable Moment, for which Paddington taking tea with the late Queen is surely a shoo-in. But who will scoop the other major prizes? And who actually deserves to? Here's your handy guide to

the runners and riders...

DRAMA SERIES

Will win: *The Responder* (BBC One) First-time writer Tony Schumacher drew on his decade of night patrols around Merseyside for this raw, riveting thriller about a police officer coming apart at the seams.

Should win: *Sherwood* (BBC One) Playwright James Graham's richly rewarding

ensemble drama blended an archery whodunit with a vivid exploration of a community still divided by the miners' strike.

Also nominated: *Bad Sisters* (Apple TV+), *Somewhere Boy* (Channel 4)

MINI-SERIES

Will win: *This Is Going to Hurt* (BBC One) The blackly comic adaptation of Adam Kay's medical memoir was

heart-shattering and hilarious in equal measure. **Should win:** *The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe* (ITV) ITV dramas tend to



Mini-Series: *This Is Going to Hurt* (BBC One)

be snobbishly overlooked but a win for this droll true-crime dramatisation would buck the trend. And why no

nod for bold Western epic *The English?* **Also nominated:** *A Spy Among Friends* (ITVX), *Mood* (BBC Three)

SINGLE DRAMA

Will win: *I Am Ruth* (Channel 4) It made for gruelling viewing but the film about social media's impact on mental health, starring Kate Winslet and her daughter Mia Threapleton, is the

sort of worthy fare that Bafta judges lap up.

Should win: *Life and Death in the Warehouse* (BBC Three)

This hard-hitting drama used the testimonies of real "warehouse pickers" to tell a devastating story about the exploited workers who facilitate our online shopping habit.

Also nominated: *The House* (Netflix)

LEADING ACTOR

Will win: Ben Whishaw (*This Is Going to Hurt*) or Martin Freeman (*The Responder*)

Their critically acclaimed series scored six nominations apiece, so it looks like a straight scrap between Whishaw's overworked doctor and Freeman's frazzled copper for the win.

Should win: Cillian Murphy (*Peaky Blinders*)



Funny guys:
Romesh Ranganathan and Rob Beckett, main, with Prince William at the Royal Variety Performance in 2019, right; Ranganathan with his family in 2014, below

the country. "He always beat me, but I beat him in the diversity battle," Ranganathan deadpans.

"No comment," Beckett says.

"You can't afford to comment..."

They're not great believers in the culture war. "I don't think you really get cancelled anymore, you just can't get an audience," he continues. Ranganathan agrees. "It does feel like that time of everybody s---ing themselves about cancel culture and stuff like that [is over]."

Despite being best mates who are often booked to host together, (they did the Royal Variety Performance four years ago), Beckett and Ranganathan are resolutely not a double act. With an eight-year age gap, they met on the circuit, have never toured together, and host podcasts with other comedians – Beckett does *Parenting Hell* with Josh Widdicombe, Ranganathan does *Wolf and Owl* with Tom Davis.

"On paper we're very different, but you just gravitate towards people, don't you?"

Ranganathan says. He is a vegan, Hindu-born son of Sri Lankan immigrants who, until his parents emigrated to Crawley in 1975, came from a bloodline that was pure South Asian for 25,000 years.

Ranganathan was a maths teacher until giving it up for comedy in his early 30s. Beckett is the son of a lorry and cab driver from south-east London, who worked at a flower market until he started stand-up aged 23.

But they did both marry former teachers, Leesa and Louise; both have young children (Ranganathan and Leesa have three, Beckett and Louise have two); did both once work in Sainsbury's; and have both written memoirs that interrogate Britain's class system. Beckett's, *A Class Act: Life As a Working-Class Man in a Middle-Class World*, exposed the inequities of comedy as much as society generally.

"The Edinburgh [Fringe] was the biggest thing for me," Ranganathan says, "doing the circuit, there's no real barriers to entry, though you do run at a loss. But with Edinburgh, it can cost £10,000 to go and spend a month up there... So even though it is theoretically a level playing field, if



RI SCHROER; GEOFF PUGH/CAPITOL PICTURES

about their mental health challenges, including suicidal thoughts, and having therapy. Ranganathan's darkest period came in his late teens, a few years after his father was sent to prison for fraud and the family home was repossessed. Beckett was close to a breakdown in 2020, after which he saw a therapist for six months.

Both have stand-up tours this year and another series of *Rob & Romesh Vs*, plus a children's book for Ranganathan and a podcast tour for Beckett. Ranganathan's show is called *Hustle*, partly as he'll target "hustle culture" – the modern emphasis on hyper-productivity and ambition instead of work-life balance or rest.

"I just feel like we're already too far down the road of hard-working culture in this country, so this whole thing of every morning being an opportunity for you to make a list of things you want to smash that day..."

Beckett cuts him off. "The reality is that you want to be high paid, for low effort. High blag. When I worked at Sainsbury's, I'd work out how little I could do in an hour. When I worked in an office, I'd put ice cubes in the kettles, then ask people if they wanted tea, because I knew that'd take up 10 minutes of my time, not two."

From shelf-stacking in Sainsbury's to the most establishment slot in the calendar. Beckett grins again. "I know, it's quite funny really. I'm trying to think of it as just another job."

The Bafta Television Awards with P&O Cruises are on BBC One at 7pm on Sunday

A first-time nominee, surprisingly, but Murphy merits an honour for his searing swansong series as troubled Brummie gangster Tommy Shelby – a role he inhabited across a decade.

Also nominated:
Gary Oldman (*Slow Horses*), Taron Egerton (*Black Bird*), Chaske Spencer (*The English*)



LEADING ACTRESS
Will win: Maxine Peake (*Anne*), above
A refreshingly mature shortlist with an average age of 50. Peake was gut-punchingly powerful as Anne Williams, who spent 23 years

campaigning for victims of the Hillsborough disaster, including her own teenage son.
Should win: Billie Piper (*I Hate Suzie Too*)
Kate Winslet's star power could propel her to victory but Piper's taboo-busting tour de force was better. Sarah Lancashire will win next year for *Happy Valley*. We'd also like to have seen Emily Blunt recognised

for *The English*.
Also nominated:
Imelda Staunton (*The Crown*), Kate Winslet (*I Am Ruth*), Sarah Lancashire (*Julia*), Vicky McClure (*Without Sin*)

SCRIPTED COMEDY

Will win: *Derry Girls* (Channel 4)
The emotional final series of Lisa McGee's coming-of-age classic stuck the landing beautifully, with flashbacks

and A-list cameos. It interwove the personal and the political with aplomb.
Should win: *Big Boys* (Channel 4)



Scripted Comedy: Derry Girls (Channel 4)

Jack Rooke broke our hearts and tickled our funny bones with his adorable autobiographical campus comedy.

Also nominated:
Am I Being Unreasonable? (BBC One), *Ghosts* (BBC One)

INTERNATIONAL
Will win: *The White Lotus* (Sky Atlantic)
The swanky resort satire looks a cert, largely thanks to Jennifer Coolidge's meme-spawning performance. Yet the Sicily-set second series never quite lived up to its debut run.
Should win: *The*

Bear (Disney+)
The intense, dazzling drama about a bereaved Chicago chef was superior to *The White Lotus*. So was South Korean dynastic saga *Pachinko*.
Also nominated:
Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story (Netflix), *Wednesday* (Netflix), *Oussekine* (Itinéraire), *Pachinko* (Apple TV+), *Michael Hogan*

Allison Pearson

My seven-point plan to free GPs from the tyranny of NHS managers



After that thrashing at the local elections, the Government is well aware that one of the biggest sources of anger and frustration among voters is the inability to see a GP. With this in mind, the Prime Minister tasked the 300 brains in the Treasury who are assigned to the health service to come up with something "eye-catching" that he can announce. Let's call it the Primary Care Recovery Plan and promise £240 million for new telephone systems to end the "8am scramble". Oh, and minor ailments will be taken care of by pharmacists, not doctors.

As with many such policy gimmicks, this one shows all the signs of being dreamt up by people who have little contact with life as we know it, Jim. GPs in some areas are already cramming in up to 60 patients a day. There is a huge shortage – of at least 4,000. But highly paid NHS managers are far too busy coming up with equity, diversity and inclusion strategies to do anything as practical as train more GPs to meet the needs of a growing population. If you add nearly 10million immigrants to GP lists, as the UK has over the past 20 years, and you don't train more doctors to meet their needs, then it's quite obvious, to normal people like thee and me, that the NHS won't cope.

We already have a minor ailment scheme in place whereby patients are advised by GP receptionists to go to a pharmacy where appropriate. Most times, the pharmacist bounces the patients back to the GP because, here's the thing, pharmacists AREN'T DOCTORS! They aren't trained to make differential diagnoses; they can't examine patients. Research, including a study by the National Institute for Health and Care Research last year, has shown that employing more non-GPs, such as pharmacists, does not ultimately reduce GPs' workloads.

The "8am scramble", which our technocrat PM has identified as the glitch in the system that he has to fix, is merely a symptom of a terminal disease. Hanging on the telephone, being advised by an automated voice that you are now 17th in the queue, is exasperating, but not the real issue. No, the issue is there aren't enough doctors available to take care of us.

In my local Boots yesterday, there was just one pharmacist doing her harried best to deal with the walking wounded after the bank holiday. While she was consulting, prescriptions could not be dispensed, which added to the already long delay. What is that queue going to be like when pharmacists assume their new



responsibilities? It's also easy to get things wrong. Recently, I was about to go abroad when I developed what I thought was a urinary tract infection. A pharmacist agreed with my self-diagnosis and I obtained a private prescription for antibiotics before the flight. But the pain got worse and worse. Back in the UK, I dashed to a private GP who chided me for not consulting a doctor. I did not have a UTI. I had shingles.

Will pharmacists, also in short supply, really want to run the risk of prescribing antibiotics for a UTI which turns out to be shingles? Or even sepsis? Most likely, they will refer patients to a GP, just in case.

There are a few easy and far more sensible things I can think of which the Government could do to free up GP appointments.

1 Get rid of the vast amount of pointless form filling and data collection," sighs one family doctor. "For every four-hour surgery, I have to do two hours of paperwork or battle with the useless IT system to make referrals online, an extraordinarily complex process." This is a whole new Byzantine layer of bureaucracy that seems designed to prevent patients getting a hospital appointment. Scrap it and allow GPs to contact consultants directly, as they used to.

2 Allow private GPs and consultants to access a patient's NHS records. And why do we need a GP referral to see a consultant? It's a waste of a GP's time. No other country has such a tiresome system.

3 Abolish GP revalidation. This onerous five-year hurdle, which includes five yearly appraisals and 20 "approvals" by colleagues, was a typical bureaucratic overreaction to the Harold Shipman scandal. It drives many good doctors into early retirement, and it precludes retired GPs from acting as locums and helping hard-pressed surgeries.

4 Bring back the waiting room! The best and simplest form of triage; a willingness to sit for hours and wait your turn amid a tsunami of snot is generally proof that a patient is unwell enough to see a doctor.

5 Introduce a charge for missed appointments. People don't value what is free.

6 Sack 70 per cent of NHS managers and use the savings to train thousands more nurse practitioners to assess patients before they proceed to see a GP.

7 Get control of immigration. "I regularly do whole surgeries when I don't see a single British patient – they're all from overseas and usually can't speak English," says one overwhelmed London GP. Net migration is predicted to rise to a record high of 675,000 this year (it was a mere 504,000 the year before), and we have a dire shortage of doctors. As Sunak is always urging us: do the maths.

It would be good to think our Government might at least try some of the above, and stop insulting us with gimmicks.

Feeling the pressure: Rishi Sunak is checked for hypertension at a pharmacy



drank in the smell of freshly picked white lilac, heady in a jug on the table. We agreed that the Royal family had played an absolute blinder.

Our oldest attendee was 83, the youngest were sisters, six and four. Who knows? Perhaps the girls will see the coronation of George VII. This is how the national memory is laid down. Royal occasions rise above the daily fretfulness, allowing us to access something splendid. We will all have our particular highlights and (very rare) lowlights. Here are some of mine:

HIT: QUEEN CAMILLA
On Saturday, I vaguely noticed that Charles's "darling wife" held herself awkwardly during the carriage ride to the Abbey and walked extremely tentatively with that crown on her head. Hardly surprising under the circumstances. I was shocked to get a WhatsApp from a friend with royal connections: "The poor thing did her back in last week, she was in a lot of discomfort apparently." Good grief. Imagine negotiating that daunting ceremony while you're in pain, quite possibly Panadolled up to the eyeballs and having to hold it together with a gracious smile on your husband's big day. Well played, Your Majesty! Respect and a hot bath!

If the Monteverdi Choir isn't singing when I get to the gates of Heaven, I want my money back

MISS: OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS
Badly lit and with the King's crown at a rakish angle, the royal portraits manage to look like those face cut-out boards you find on the end of a pier.

MISS: ADJOA ANDOH
The Bridgerton actress insulted the King and his family, as well as the majority of Britain, when she complained of a "terribly white balcony" at Buckingham Palace. That appalling, racist comment came at the end of a joyful, notably colour-blind day which the monarch had done his best to make as diverse as possible.

HIT: THE MUSIC
Forget the Eurovision Song Contest, mere candyfloss compared with the banquet of music served up by some of the UK's most gifted classical performers. From the entrance of the King to the soaring rapture of Parry's *I Was Glad* to the exquisitely vulnerable moment of his anointing in a simple shirt, heralded by the stealthy, explosive joy of Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. Wow. If the Monteverdi Choir isn't singing when I get to the gates of Heaven, I want my money back.

HIT: PENNY MORDAUNT, BEARER OF SWORDS
Anyone seriously think the Tories would have had such a bad local elections if PM had been PM? There were cross-

party cheers and universal admiration for the Lord President of the Council who drew on her magic powers as a former conjurer's assistant to make carrying a sword upright look easy-peasy.

HIT: THE WALESSES
I loved the thrilled expression on Princess Charlotte's face when she suddenly realised that the man on stage at the Windsor concert was her father. The Prince of Wales paid tribute to the King and talking about his late grandmother, he said: "I know she's up there, fondly keeping an eye on us."

You know it's bad when Tories become ballot spoilers

After the local elections, to find out what went wrong, I spoke to Mrs Julia Despairing-Tory and her husband, Mr Roger Despairing-Tory, Conservative party members in the True Blue constituency of Durnoting.

Julia and Roger always vote as a point of principle. So, this time, they went to the polling station and spoiled their ballot papers. "The word 'off' may have featured," reports Roger grimly.

The Conservatives lost 1,060 councillors overall.

"Serves them bloody well right," says Roger.

Hang on, aren't you supposed to be the party faithful?

"After 13 years of Conservative government," fumes Roger, "I'm paying more tax than at any time in my life. And what are we getting for it, eh? Bugger all, that's what. Only time I get to see our GP is in Waitrose. Try to access any public service and it's, 'Go away, nobody works on Fridays any more. Or on Monday, that's our anxiety workshop. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are receiving a high volume of calls blah blah.' Give me strength! How long will they be using that excuse?"

"Potholes, darling," says Julia.

"What? Oh, God, yes. When are they going to fill the one in the High Street? Never, that's when. A tank could get lost in there. It's a metaphor for the state of the nation. Fuel bills sky high and now they want to take away our log burner."

"Oh, they don't do they, darling? Why are they behaving like those ghastly Green people?"

"Because they've forgotten what it is to be Conservative, Julia! High-tax, high-spend party. Hunt makes Gordon Brown look like Nigel Lawson."

"Ooh, Nigel was marvellous."

"Yes, because he was a CONSERVATIVE, Julia. Not like this spineless bunch. No strategy for growth. I want to see the Conservatives destroyed."

"Oh, dear. Can we still go to the Association dinner?"

"None of them are voting Tory either."

"Surely, Marcus must be, darling. He's the MP?"

"Not for long."

The hits just kept coming in a Coronation to remember

Finally, at lunchtime on Sunday, the sun came out on cue. Like millions of families and neighbours up and down the land, we were able to hold our Coronation Big Lunch outside. We toasted the King with glasses of English rosé, prosecco and elderflower, we feasted on Himself's seven-hour "Abdication Chicken", we waved flags, we

'This nerd is a silent killer': why tech CEOs now love martial arts

You need an analytical brain and ruthlessness – no wonder big bosses are hitting the dojo. By Jack Rear

He's worth a reported \$82.9 billion (£65.7 billion), but Mark Zuckerberg never quite shifted the look of a college tech nerd. So news that the 5ft 7in, plain sweater-wearing chief executive of Meta is an accomplished martial arts fighter, winning gold and silver medals at his first tournament this weekend, has taken the world by surprise.

Zuckerberg used Facebook and Instagram – both of which he owns – to reveal that he had not only competed in but won a Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournament in Redwood City, California. High-profile figures such as Russell Brand and Tom Hardy are fans of mixed martial arts (MMA), but Zuckerberg joins a growing number of tech bosses taking up the discipline. PayPal president Dan Schulman, 65, trains in the Israeli martial art Krav Maga, while chief executive of data analytics company Palantir Technologies, Alex Karp, is known to dabble in jiu-jitsu and aikido.

"You'd never expect these guys to be able to take you down," Zuckerberg's trainer Khai Wu, has said. "Next thing you know, they're attacking you with these extremely technical moves. You don't know this nerd is a silent killer."

What's the appeal among tech chief executives? Along with the fitness benefits and mental challenge, experts say martial arts offer a chance for men to display strength and experience the status of winning a fight, without getting punched in the face.

I think for some people there's an element of proving that you can man up'



He's handy: Mark Zuckerberg taking part in a jiu-jitsu bout in California

"We've been seeing this for about a decade and a half now – the wealthy, young people who are chasing the status that comes with having a fight. They find a lot of self-respect in that."

Unlike simple weight training, jiu-jitsu training involves strategy and gamesmanship – it can be just as complicated as a game of chess, says Ryley.

"It's not necessarily about strength – it's technique, application, the correct body alignment, correct spirit, correct breathing, it's an understanding of complex patterns. You need an analytical brain. You're moving yourself and you're moving them and planning your next move at the same time."

Finally, unlike team sports such as football or rugby, martial arts are singular: one man versus his opponent.

"There's some leadership in there, you're the soldier representing the army," says Raja, noting that in his celebratory post about his gold and silver medals, Zuckerberg was careful to mention "the Guerrilla Jiu Jitsu team" he trains with. "You're representing your team alone. In a football team, you can look around and say, 'My teammate didn't make that pass'. In martial arts, it's all about you – only you can drop the ball."

"I often tell people, to walk the path of the warrior is a lifelong commitment to self-discipline, cultivation of the will, and the ability to outstay the enemy in his own environment," Ryley concludes. "Those three things are what martial arts are to me." No doubt such skills also come in handy when running a tech empire.

Arts



‘I’ve had a lot of practice at looking wrecked’

Dougray Scott, star of ITV’s *Crime*, tells *Chris Harvey* about mining his own hedonistic past to play the hit drama’s grizzled hero

Dougray Scott can be rather swearing. The man who began his career poised between a Hollywood prince in the Cinderella adaptation *Ever After* and the nasty villain of *Mission: Impossible 2* is forthright, funny and, in his deep-voiced, laid-back delivery, one of the most quotable actors I’ve ever met. Scott, from Glenrothes in Fife, is 57, but he tells me, “If someone pokes the beast, then I reverse f----- 40 years” – a friend tells him he gets

“really f----- council estate”. He doesn’t accept the appellation, but he knows what they mean, so buckle up. Scott has hit a sweet spot in a long career that had him tipped as the next Bond before Daniel Craig got the job in 2006. There have been highlights along the way, such as his lead role in code-breaking drama *Enigma*, and as the playwright Arthur Miller in *My Week with Marilyn*. He’s in the forthcoming second series of smash-hit *Vigil*, which he

promises will be “shocking, unexpected, brilliantly crafted”; and he received great reviews for *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on stage earlier this year. His performance in *Crime*, meanwhile, a six-part drama adapted from Irvine Welsh’s lurid detective thriller, as the intemperate DI Ray Lennox, won him an International Emmy.

For a brief moment, it appeared that his resurgence could be derailed after the gender-fluid

actor Ruby Rose, who left the title role of the TV show *Batwoman* in 2020, accused him of misconduct on set while playing her character’s father. (Rose uses either she or they pronouns.) She claimed Scott “hurt a female stunt double” and “yelled like a little b---- at women and was a nightmare”. “It was shocking because it didn’t happen,” Scott tells me. Warner Bros leapt to his defence, insisting that Scott was a “consummate professional” on set

while Rose was fired after “multiple complaints” about her workplace behaviour. “The studio were very, very vocal, because they knew what had happened,” Scott says. “She was dismissed because of her on-set behaviour, nothing to do with me. But it wasn’t very pleasant at all – as someone who prides himself on on-set behaviour and is very cognitive of and conscious about men on set.”

On *Crime*, which he



Man of action: Scott, main; in *Crime*, above; with his wife, actress Claire Forlani, below

co-produced, "I made a point of creating an atmosphere that was a very clean and safe environment for women. There's no sexualised atmosphere on set, women shouldn't have to put up with that --- in any environment, whether it's on a film set or anywhere else."

Crime proved such a hit on Britbox that the first series is now moving to ITVX, with a second planned for later this year. Scott's ragged Lennox is in recovery from alcohol and cocaine addiction but becomes ever more personally embroiled in the case of a missing child. Scott takes the role right to the edge: stress written into every line of his face. How did Scott manage to look so wrecked? "A lot of practice," he laughs. "You know when you talk about an acting sense memory? I live a pretty serene life now, but you utilise your past. And I've certainly been there."

He's been "there", with Welsh, in fact. He and the former heroin addict go back a long way, and the writer likes to remind Scott of long-ago nights they shared in Los Angeles that were so hedonistic that the actor has lost all memory of what happened. Scott had been trying to get an adaptation of his friend's book made for the best part of a decade, and he's proud that he got it to the screen with Welsh's distinctive qualities intact. "I don't think we've diluted the vernacular of his language. When you tinker with the main ingredients of anything that is special, you dilute it, and you make it less attractive, you make it less powerful. I said, if you try and f--- around with the language of Irvine Welsh to an extent that you lose the origin of the brilliance of him, then you're f----."

Clearly, he's no fan of bowdlerisation, and that applies to another famous author, as well. "Leave Roald Dahl alone. He's a f---- genius. I read him to all my kids. You can't say 'fat'? What else can you use? It's an adjective. It's not offensive. It just is what it is."

Scott is the father of a twin son, Gabriel, and daughter, Eden, 25, from his first marriage, and has another son, Milo, who's eight,

with his second wife, fellow Hollywood actor Claire Forlani. Gabriel is making his way as an actor, too, appearing in *His Dark Materials* and *House of the Dragon*; he plays Lennox's nephew in the second series of *Crime*. I wonder if Scott is sensitive to accusations of Gabriel being a "nepo baby" – a label currently dogging Hollywood. "I've completely ignored that," he says. "I don't know what it means. My son is really talented. So you deny them

'Leave Roald Dahl alone. He's a f---- genius. You can't say "fat"? What else can you use?'

an opportunity because you're worried about people saying there's nepotism involved? Well, it works emotionally for the piece, because he's playing my nephew, and he's my son, so there's a connection there that you can't act. I don't think anyone's gonna get a job if they're really not



capable of doing the job ... I think he won that role." The idea of inherited privilege comes up again when we discuss the Coronation. "I like King Charles, as a person. I had dinner with him, because as part of his Prince's Trust in Scotland he had all these boys from Castlemilk [in Glasgow], ex-addicts, and I thought he was brilliant. Regardless of what you think about the Royal family ... he's a nice guy. It's not their fault they were born into that position of privilege and of power."

He adds that he doesn't agree with his compatriot, the actor Brian Cox, that the monarchy should be abolished to rid us of its "feudal hold on our culture". "I'm not really anti-royalist at all," he says. "Democratically, is it the right thing? Probably not. But they exist, and what would you do? Take away their power, and make them go and find a job? That's not practical."

He has strong views, though, on another constitutional issue: Scotland's place in the Union. "I believe in independence," he says. "It's the right thing to do. I think it's very odd that we've been voting for years for a government that doesn't represent us. It's also a question about devolution, on a wider scale, for the whole of Britain," he adds. "I don't think centralised government, as it stands right now, works. It's just a recipe for disaster."

He is fond of Nicola Sturgeon, whom he met at an event in Edinburgh Castle. "I was like, man, you're tough as f---, it's great. I loved her. I think a lot of the criticism that she got was just really misogynistic."

He's suspicious, too, of where the information about financial irregularities in the SNP has come from. "It seems quite convenient for it to have come out. And I think there's a lot of nefarious behaviour going on. I think that she was ferocious in her determination to get independence for Scotland. And I think that this has really set independence back."

Scott hopes to go back to live in Scotland one day, but in the meantime, he and producing partner Tony Wood are planning to bring more Scottish stories to a wider audience, and have several projects in the works, including Welsh's *The Blade Artist* and a series of novels by Jenni Fagan, who grew up in Scotland's care system. Scotland has a special place in his heart, from the "very beautiful" East Neuk of Fife to Glasgow – "part of my DNA" – to Brian Cox. "I love him. I saw him at the [Scottish] Baftas, and I'd won, and he said, 'Now, maybe you'll f---- smile. I used to call you the miserable f---- Fifer.' And I said, 'You're one to f---- talk! You're the most miserable c--- I ever met in my life.' Anyway, when I won the Emmy, I sent him a picture, and said, 'I'm not so f---- miserable now, am I?'"

The first season of 'Crime' airs tomorrow on ITVX

The Rabbit Hole Detectives

Dr Cat Jarman on... smallpox

Each week, one of the popular history podcast's star presenters divulges their favourite nuggets

In 1147BC, the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses V died at a young age along with several members of his family. His body was mummified quickly and carelessly, and when his tomb was opened three millennia later, it was discovered why: his face was covered in pustules, showing that he died of an acute smallpox infection. This is the earliest known evidence of a devastating disease that killed between 300 and 500 million people in the 20th century alone.

We know quite a lot about the spread of smallpox in modern times. The disease was unknown in the Americas, but when it was introduced by the Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors, it decimated the local populations; eventually, smallpox became instrumental in the fall of the Aztec and Inca empires.

The variola virus, which causes smallpox, reached Europe sometime in the first millennium, but how and why it spread was a mystery until a few years ago, when an ancient DNA study gave us the answer.

When I presented this research to my fellow Rabbit Hole Detectives Richard Coles and Charles Spencer in this week's episode of our podcast, they quickly guessed that the culprits were (as usual) the Vikings. In fact, out of nearly 2,000 skeletons from across the world, going back 30,000 years, the earliest found with an active variola virus infection were all from Viking Age graves. These included a Scandinavian victim of the so-called St Brice's day massacre of 1002 discovered under St John's College, Oxford.

It seems the spread of the disease was linked to the Viking trade routes through eastern Europe that put the north in direct contact with the Silk Road. Incidentally, this is not the first time the Vikings have been blamed for decimation by

disease: the spread of leprosy to Britain has been linked to their trade in squirrel furs.

The smallpox story, however, has a happy ending, because in May 1796, a mother in the small town of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, made a remarkably brave decision: She allowed a local doctor to inject cowpox, a non-deadly related disease, into the arm of her eight-year-old son. That doctor was a man called Edward Jenner, who had invented the vaccination that eventually led to the total worldwide eradication of smallpox in 1980.

In Jenner's 18th-century England, the "speckled monster", as the disease was called, affected all levels of society, and not just the poor. Earlier alleged cures were dubious in their effect; one included allowing no fires in the

The Vikings spread not only smallpox, but also – via their trade in squirrel furs – leprosy

patient's room and drinking 12 bottles of small beer every 24 hours. Jenner built a small hut in the garden of his house in Berkeley – the Temple of Vaccinia – where he vaccinated the poor for free.

The hero of our story once had a statue made for him in Trafalgar Square which was unveiled by Prince Albert, but opposition by anti-vaccination campaigners and those who felt a common doctor had no place among the nation's war heroes meant it was moved to Kensington Gardens. The empty space left behind is now occupied by a bollard.

The Rabbit Hole Detectives' is out every Wednesday, wherever you get your podcasts



The 'speckled monster': a ward in the Hampstead Smallpox Hospital (1871)

These Coronation portraits are regal – but not quite natural

The images of the King and Queen act as a reminder of how much society has changed. By Alastair Sooke

The official Coronation portraits have been unveiled, and they are an exercise in proficiency: polished, and suggestive of the best wedding photography. This is no surprise: I notice that Hugo Burnand, the British photographer responsible for them, also documented the nuptials of the then Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles at Windsor Castle in 2005. Yet the fact that they are not, artistically, more captivating is something of a shame, given that the King, unlike his late mother, is known for taking an interest in the visual arts.

That said, it's hard to imagine how anyone could have approached this task with greater success, because the very concept of a coronation portrait, in the 21st century, presents a peculiarly knotty challenge. Society has come a long way since the Restoration, when the last of the King's namesakes occupied the throne. Although it may not have been a royal commission, John Michael Wright's formal portrait of Charles II (c.1671-76) – now part of the Royal Collection, and on display today in the throne room of the Palace of Holyroodhouse – provides, in the collective imagination, a template for a convincing coronation portrait. Dressed in red Parliament robes, and holding the new orb and sceptre created for his ceremony, the monarch appears effortlessly authoritative beneath a canopy of state.

In comparison, something about the expressions of both Charles III and Queen Camilla endearingly implies an awareness of how unnatural it is, in the modern era, to be wearing so much gleaming clobber. When I first saw the new photographs – and here, your Majesties, I must apologise – the

first phrase that popped into my head was "fancy dress".

Inevitably, the portraits strain for a different effect from that of the King's new postage stamps, on which he appears bare-headed – although, to modernise the subject, could Burnand have experimented within the series by photographing him seated in the throne room not in full regalia, but with his crown, orb and sceptre, still prominently visible, at his elbow? Monarchy, today, isn't meant to be formidable.

Of course, the obvious parallel is with the photographic coronation portraits, likewise taken in Buckingham Palace shortly after the ceremony, of Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton. Compared with her son's, they still zing. The late Queen, though, had the glamour of youth on her side – of course, a beautiful young princess, upon her accession to the throne, can carry off wearing (and holding) the Crown Jewels more easily than a 74-year-old man. Other than rappers, we rarely see blokes decked out in so much bling.

Note how Beaton manipulated the impressive fabric swag in the background, to enhance the composition's dynamism; whereas, in Burnand's image, His Majesty sits before an expanse of crimson drapery, with monotonously vertical pleats, so dark it's almost ominous. For me, the portrait of the Queen in the Green Drawing Room, with its more delicate, less saturated, palette, is better. She's integrated into the whole.

Still, while these portraits may elicit only mild enthusiasm, I am confident, given the King's tastes, that, in time, more svelte and natural, yet simultaneously regal, portraits will follow.

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Is our greatest architect now aiming for the Moon?

Alastair Sooke
CHIEF ART CRITIC

Exhibition

Norman Foster
Centre Pompidou, Paris



Is there a building on this planet that Norman Foster hasn't designed? Around 130 projects by the British architect feature in his new retrospective in Paris. Yet, such is their variety – over six decades, he has dreamed up everything from private homes and pavilions to skyscrapers, airports, and even an elephant house for Copenhagen Zoo – that the show's impact is overwhelming. By the end, humbled by his hi-tech achievement, I felt like one of those

faceless figurines, barely a few millimetres high, populating his architectural models. This is, it's fair to say, an awe-inspiring exhibition.

Consider the contribution to Britain's built environment of this 87-year-old demigurge, who grew up near Manchester in modest circumstances, and left school at 16. London's City Hall, the bulging tower at 30 St Mary Axe commonly known as "the Gherkin", a reinvented Wembley Stadium: Foster is behind them all.

Norwich's hangar-like Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, which he created during the 1970s (while his former partner, Richard Rogers, was hard at it on the Pompidou), revolutionised the layout of museums; the open-plan, glass-walled edifice of Stansted, with – in a characteristic Foster move – its services hidden beneath the hall, transformed airport design. (Although, I suspect, few

passengers jostling amid the scrum at Ryanair's check-in desks at 4am would savour this.)

And it isn't only Britain. The Pompidou's show opens with a spectacular photograph of the Millau Viaduct, topped by slender pylons, curving above the clouds across a valley in southern France. If the exhibition were happening in Berlin, its introductory image would be Foster's glass-and-steel cupola for the Reichstag; in Hong Kong, his first (and, again, revolutionary) skyscraper, HSBC's coreless 47-storey headquarters,



A polished proficiency: the King in one of Hugo Burnand's official photographs

An old copy of Eagle comic reveals an influence on him as a gadget-obsessed boy



Clockwise from top left: London's Millennium Bridge; Apple Park in California; the Millau Viaduct, France; Lunar Habitation, designed in 2012

held up by a Meccano-like exoskeleton.

Other architecture, perhaps, has greater sprezzatura and finesse (see: the buildings of Renzo Piano), but the visionary output of Foster + Partners, which today employs 1,800 people, is universal.

Besides, the exhibition – unusually for an architecture show, which can be tricky to pull off – is absorbing. Yes, there's a glut of blank wooden models of city blocks, and I doubt many visitors will engage with the minutiae of Foster's various transport hubs or offices in Ipswich. Not everything he's built has the glamour of Apple Park in Cupertino, a sleek, circular structure that dominates the Californian landscape like a Polo mint dropped by God, and appears to be the omphalos, or navel, of the world.

Yet, the exhibition begins without a model in sight, with a large gallery showcasing 350 of Foster's drawings; nearby, an old copy of an *Eagle* comic featuring an exploded view of a four-jet airliner reveals an important early influence on him as a gadget-obsessed boy.

In the main space, a display of aerodynamic vehicles and streamlined modern artworks proves dramatic, while diagonally arranged partitions reveal a panorama across Paris – the perfect backdrop for detailed models of Foster's most famous towers.

A compelling final room presents several ideas straight out of *Tomorrow's World*. Nuclear micro-reactors! Hyperloop cargo trains! Lunar habitats 3D-printed from moon dust! For good reason, Foster calls this a "futurspective".

The one disappointment? That the exhibition – the first to honour an architect inside (as the curator puts it) the Pompidou's "noble" Gallery 1 – is happening in France. Not even Foster, it seems, is a prophet in his own land.

From today until Aug 7; centrepompidou.fr



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Bold take on Coward's scandalous drama

Theatre

The Vortex

Chichester Festival Theatre



By Nick Ferris

Actory nepotism is a subject currently under the cultural spotlight, after *New York* magazine pronounced last year "the year of the nepo baby" owing to so many famous relations making it big in Hollywood. There is automatically something a little galling, then, when a mother and son are seen to be not only in the same industry, but are also cast in the very same play.

Yet what Lia Williams and her hugely talented son Joshua James achieve together in this production of *The Vortex* is nothing short of sensational: an entrancing chemistry that catalyses Noël Coward's script to capture something wonderfully profound about the co-existence of conflict and love in a dysfunctional family.

The Vortex opened to a storm of controversy in 1924, propelling Coward to fame with its tale of Nicky Lancaster (drug-addicted, implicitly homosexual) returning home from Paris to find his ageing socialite mother Florence cavorting with a man the same age



Family matters: Nicky (Joshua James) and Florence (Lia Williams) are at odds

as himself. For its audience 99 years later, the play has aesthetics perhaps most recognisable from *Downton Abbey*, but instead of the ITV drama's one-dimensional soap opera, we have a rich dramatic tapestry that veers wonderfully between camp cattiness and intense, heartfelt melodrama.

Florence has all the best Cowardian lines ("With a temperament like mine it's impossible to be another humdrum woman"; "He's grown old, I've kept young"), and they are delivered with verve by Williams. James's Nicky is her double, but with a darkness spun into his posh affectedness that soon unravels the illusionary worlds they have both built to support their wayward sensibilities. There is something irresistible about how these true-life relatives catch eyes as this dynamic plays out, and there is a delicacy to Daniel Raggett's direction as he subtly steers the duo through emotions ranging from empathy to violence. Joanna Scotcher's set is a rich

blend of wood panels, leather-bound armchairs, art nouveau trinkets, and a grand piano expertly tinkered on-stage by James. A strong supporting cast of 1920s party people help complete the image, and a spinning stage dramatically enacts the titular vortex of crazed social dynamics.

Towards the end, the production can feel a little heavy-handed, with comedic moments required to balance the action instead repressed to leave us with a climax that is perhaps a touch too melodramatic. But half a century after the death of its author, this production firmly reminds us that Coward is not simply a writer of light comedy, but a masterful social observer.

His comments here on ageism and familial dysfunction remain pertinent even as we reach a century since they were first written.

Until May 20. Tickets: 01243 781312; cft.org.uk

Heartfelt but modest farewell to the Bard

Theatre

Cymbeline

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon



By Dominic Cavendish

There's almost as much symbolism bound up with this *Cymbeline* as there is with the Coronation. It's the final production to be staged by Gregory Doran as the RSC's artistic director emeritus. It is his 50th production for the company. And it completes his journey through the First Folio, which is now 400 years old, and ends with Shakespeare's late tragedy.

Although the action, set in ancient Britain at the time of the Romans, arrives at a place of restoration, and prospective succession, it has a valedictory quality, no more so than in the famous funeral dirge "Fear no more the heat o' th' sun". Still, the irony of that scene is that the two brothers performing their obsequies – Guiderius and Arviragus – are mourning

someone in a dead faint, and their never-known royal sister (Imogen) to boot, disguised as a man. Not only do they not know their own identities, but after a grisly twist in which they place the decapitated body of the Queen's detested son Cloten beside her, Imogen rouses and, confused by the clothing, assumes the corpse is that of her estranged husband Posthumus.

If that feels like a weird replay of the tomb scene in *Romeo and Juliet*, there's a peculiar sense of Shakespeare drawing together past tropes to make something fresh. It's a tricky, sprawling fable even so, and while Doran isn't defeated by it, his parting shot alternately hits the target and seems curiously aimless, by turns lusty, fleet and overstated.

That perhaps accords with the text, which offers instances of the Bard at his finest and most stilted. Being an insightful actors' director, Doran achieves a broad lucidity but he is also at the mercy of individual talent, placing his cast on a stark, beautifully lit stage dominated by a large glowing disc that's suggestive of sun, moon and the great circle of life. Ellen Terry was once hailed for an Imogen



A tricky fable: the cast of *Cymbeline*, Gregory Doran's RSC swansong

whose voice filled the theatre with "dancing sunbeams". While impressively self-possessed, Amber James often brings a flatly conversational quality to the lines and some ardour is missing, too, from an otherwise promising Ed Sayer as Posthumus, though their long-awaited reunion moves as it should. I was taken by Conor Glean, muscular and madcap in the tough role of Cloten, and stirred and lulled by Paul Englishby's live-performed score. Doran has achieved a good deal and he will be fondly remembered. But he has done better.

Until May 27. Tickets: 01789 331111; rsc.org.uk

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