

THE



TIMES



Tuesday October 24 2023 | thetimes.co.uk | No 74235

2G

£2.80 £2.00 to subscribers  
(based on a 7 Day Print and Digital Subscription)

# The lies (most) women tell

Shane Watson on sex, ageing and friends

INSIDE  
TIMES2

# Sunak: Chanting 'jihad' is threat to our democracy

Prime minister insists police already have power to arrest those who incite hatred

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor  
**David Woode** Crime Correspondent

Rishi Sunak has declared chants of "jihad" a threat to British democracy as ministers, police and prosecutors draw up urgent plans to ensure that protesters who use extremist language at rallies are arrested.

He insisted that the police already had the power to detain those inciting violence or racial hatred, and suggested that it should be used to take action against pro-Palestinian protesters who called for a "jihad" against Israel. However, Sunak appeared to say that the legislation needed to be clarified.

The prime minister seemed to contradict Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, who had defended his officers' decision not to arrest a protester chanting "jihad" at a pro-Palestinian rally in London on Saturday.

Rowley said his officers could not "enforce taste and decency" and that the law on extremism and hate was not sufficient to allow protesters to be arrested. He insisted that his officers were "absolutely ruthless in tackling anybody who puts their foot over the legal line".

After meeting Suella Braverman, the home secretary, yesterday, Rowley said it was parliament's job to "draw that line," adding: "Maybe events of the moment [illustrate] that some of the lines aren't in the right place."

The Met had pointed out that jihad has "a number of meanings" and said specialist counterterrorism officers had not identified any offences from a video clip from Saturday.

However, Sunak suggested that the chants in the context of the conflict between Israel and Hamas should warrant police action. Although he was prepared to look at "gaps in the law", he said present legislation was sufficient.

Hamas released two more hostages last night, both of them elderly women Israeli citizens, saying the release was for "humanitarian reasons".

Yocheve Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Yitzhak, 79, were driven to the Rafah border crossing between Israel and Egypt and handed to the Red Cross. They were expected to be taken back to Israel immediately. Lifshitz has family in the UK, the Foreign Office said.

Sharon Lifschitz, her daughter, said: "While I cannot put into words the relief that she is now safe, I will remain focused on securing the release of my father and all those, some 200 innocent people, who remain hostages in Gaza."

The release was negotiated by Egyptian and Qatari officials. Nothing



The aftermath of an airstrike on the Ridwan area of Gaza City. There were pro-Palestinian rallies in London at the weekend

was asked in exchange by Hamas, which is seeking to restore international goodwill after its attacks on October 7.

Sunak said the government was working to "clarify the guidance to officers on the ground" so that anyone expressing such "hateful extremism" would "feel the full force of the law". James Cleverly, the foreign

secretary, said the government was prepared to strengthen legislation if necessary. He told LBC: "If we need to go further, of course, we will go further."

The Home Office is working with the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to clarify where the line is drawn between freedom of expression and criminal behaviour.

It is understood that the government

wants the police to use section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986 to arrest protesters who call for jihad against Israel. The act says the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour is a criminal offence if intended to stir up racial hatred or committed in circumstances likely to stir up racial hatred.

Ministers are said to be confident Continued on page 2

## Give parents details of sex education, schools told

**Steven Swinford** Political Editor

Schools must share sex education materials with parents because they have a right to know what their children are taught, the education secretary has said.

Gillian Keegan is writing to schools to tell them that the default position should be to share their material on relationships, sex and health education.

Some agencies had refused permission for copyright reasons, but in her letter Keegan said those contracts were "void and unenforceable" because they were trumped in law by a parent's right to know.

The Department for Education is also providing template letters to fight off claims of copyright infringement.

Keegan said: "No ifs, no buts and no more excuses. This government is acting to guarantee parents' fundamental right to know what their children are being taught in sex and relationship education."

"Today I'm writing to schools and parents to debunk the copyright myth that parents cannot see what their children are being taught. Parents must be empowered to ask and schools should have the confidence to share."

MPs and parents campaigned for action after it emerged that some materials asked children whether they were "planet non-binary" and taught them about breast binders and a "galaxy" of genders.

Schools will be advised that copy-right legislation allows them to "copy resources proportionately" to explain to parents what is being taught.

Keegan will tell them that copyright concerns can be addressed if "sufficient acknowledgement of the provider's ownership" is given. She said that measures could also be put in place to allow parents to view the material online, without downloading it.

Schools are still waiting for updated guidance on relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), which the government has said will go out "for full public consultation later this year". The education department is leading the review, which is also being informed by an independent panel to provide "external expertise".

The review is considering how to make sure that all RSHE teaching is factual and does not present as fact contested views on sensitive topics. The government has indicated that the panel will advise on "clear safeguards to stop pupils from being taught contested and potentially damaging concepts", including age ratings to set out what is appropriate at what age.

Jason Elsom, chief executive of the Continued on page 2

## Tested Best trackers for your health and fitness

## News

## Today's highlights

- 7am** Victoria Atkins, financial secretary to the Treasury  
A year after Rishi Sunak was voted in by MPs, Times experts mark his report card
- 2pm** Al Murray, right, on his TV series *Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?*
- 3.35pm** Jane Garvey chats to Cat Bohannon about *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution*
- 7pm** Pienaar and Friends: Cat Neilan and Rachel Cunliffe chew over the big stories

**TIMES RADIO**  
DAB RADIO • ONLINE • SMART SPEAKER • APP



## TODAY'S EDITION

## New team for elderly cancer

A Manchester hospital is pioneering a cancer service for elderly patients to tackle a "silver tsunami" of cases. More than 200 patients have been treated by the team at the Christie Hospital, which has nearly halved unplanned admissions. Page 4

## More flooding on the way

Weather warnings have been issued for areas in England where residents have started returning to homes destroyed by Storm Babet. The Met Office warned of more floods in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, as well as much of Yorkshire. Page 12

## Magistrate quits over speed limit

A magistrate in Wales has resigned because he believes punishing motorists for breaking the new 20mph limit is "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut". Nick Colbourne said the legislation, enforcing the limit to all Welsh residential roads, made him "uneasy". Page 18

**209**

days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia

#FreeEvan

## France ready to snub rights law

France is ready to break European human rights law to expel "dangerous" foreigners. The interior minister said those deemed a threat would be deported without waiting for the European Court of Human Rights to hear their appeals. Page 28

## Chevron's \$53bn fossil fuels bet

Chevron has agreed to buy Hess in a \$53 billion, all-share deal as the US oil major doubles down on fossil fuels. The deal is the second blockbuster oil and gas takeover this month, after ExxonMobil's \$60 billion acquisition of Pioneer. Page 31

## Rugby chiefs investigate slur

World Rugby has launched an investigation into allegations that Bongi Mbonambi called Tom Curry a "white c\*\*\*" in England's World Cup semi-final defeat by South Africa, who face New Zealand in the final on Saturday. Page 60

COMMENT 23  
THUNDERER 24  
LEADING ARTICLES 27

WORLD 28  
BUSINESS 31  
REGISTER 45

SPORT 50  
CROSSWORD 60  
TV & RADIO TIMES 2

FOLLOW US

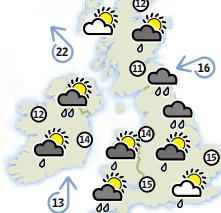
@thetimes timesandsundaytimes @thetimes

## OFFER

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

THETIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE

## THE WEATHER



An unsettled day with a scattering of showers and longer spells of rain.  
Full forecast, page 49

© TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2023. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esky Drive, Carn Industrial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact: Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274, email copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact: Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

## All week at the office now more common than hybrid working

## Lottie Hayton

The majority of employees are now travelling into the office five days a week instead of working from home some of the time for the first time since Covid lockdowns eased, a survey shows.

In a survey of 15,000 professionals and employers, the recruiter Hays found that only 39 per cent of workers are working in a hybrid fashion, versus 43 per cent working in an office full-time.

Last year more professionals were splitting their time between home and a workplace (43 per cent) versus those who were working fully in an office setting (36 per cent), suggesting "the tide is turning on hybrid working", according to Hays. Less than one in five (18 per cent) workers say they are working fully remotely, versus 21 per cent last year.

The shift comes despite more employers offering hybrid options, at 61 per cent versus 47 per cent in 2021. It appears to be less of a lure for job hunters, with over half (57 per cent) of workers saying they would accept a job in the future if it didn't offer hybrid working.

Gaelle Blake, director of permanent appointments at Hays UK and Ireland, said: "It's clear from our research that

there's still no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to how staff want to work and how flexible employers are willing to be. Yet, despite more workers saying they are now working full-time in an office, it's evident that hybrid working can't be erased overnight."

"What employers need to understand is that everyone is different. Some workers may thrive in an office environment, some won't. If employers are asking staff back to the office more, they need to question if they are doing it for the right reasons such as facilitating more team-building opportunities and offering an enticing work environment. Employers who are asking staff to come into the office due to a lack of trust will struggle to retain staff going forward."

Almost a third of employers say their organisation has different policies for staff of varying levels or seniority. Nearly a quarter said they would require increased staff attendance in the next 12 months, but that may lead to competition for desks. Half of organisations say they operate a hot-desking policy, increasing to nearly two thirds (63 per cent) in London.

The research also found that the private sector is more likely to see staff

spending some time away from the office as 42 per cent said they worked in a hybrid manner, versus only 31 per cent of public sector employees.

There is also variation by region, with those in London adopting a hybrid approach most often (54 per cent of employees), closely followed by those in the southeast, at 42 per cent. The northwest has the most full-time office workers (55 per cent of the workforce). The East Midlands closely followed, at 51 per cent. Only 28 per cent of London workers were always in the office.

When considering new roles, 47 per cent of staff said hybrid working was the most important flexible working option they wanted to see and 45 per cent said they would like a four-day working week with no loss of pay. Only 10 per cent of employers offer the latter and 57 per cent of workers said they would forego hybrid working for the right job.

The survey shows 49 per cent of employers have adopted hot-desking after reducing the number of desks, while 66 per cent say they have refitted their workplace to facilitate a smooth hybrid-working approach, including installing large screens, cameras and microphones for meetings.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
Sex education

charity Parentkind welcomed what he called the department's "timely move to strengthen parental rights in the teaching of RSHE".

He said parents wanted transparency and that the update "should help to reassure parents about the content and provision of RSHE".

Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said the clarification about copyright law was helpful.

However, he added that Keegan's letter ran the risk of creating an expectation on schools to publish "every piece of planning and resource used across the RSHE curriculum", something he said would be a huge additional workload for schools that were already significantly overburdened.

He also said there had been no discussion about the letter before it was sent and described it as "slightly odd" for it to be sent out when many schools would be on their half-term break.

"If the government had spoken to the sector in advance of this statement we might have been able to resolve the practical difficulties it raises," Barton added.

Schools are also still awaiting guidance on how to handle children who want to change their gender.

Politics, pages 14-15  
Letters, page 26

## Navy replaces Chinese servants over spying fear

## Ali Mitib

The Royal Navy is ending its century-old tradition of having Chinese servants on warships amid fears that they could be forced to spy for Beijing.

Hundreds of Chinese laundrymen have worked on Britain's warships since the 1930s, with most hired from Hong Kong to wash and press sailor's uniforms and officers' white tablecloths.

Nepalese Gurkhas will replace them due to fears that Beijing could threaten the servants' families in China to make those on board ships pass on Royal Navy secrets, The Sun has reported.

The newspaper said that three Chinese nationals were blocked from serving on HMS Queen Elizabeth, the navy's flagship aircraft carrier, on a voyage to the South China Sea, the control of which is the subject of a long-standing dispute between China and its neighbours. A fourth Chinese laundryman was reported to have been dismissed this month after 39 years of service because his family lives in Hong Kong.

The former first sea lord Admiral Lord Alan West said that the navy had "no choice" but to cut the historic ties with the laundrymen.

"If it is a question of security, the navy has no choice. But it's sad as Chinese laundrymen have fought wars with us, some have died for us."

The newspaper reported that at least four Chinese nationals still worked for the Royal Navy, with a source stating that they had passed vetting because their families had moved to Britain to protect them from threats from Beijing.

Ken McCallum, the head of MI5, has warned that China is attempting to steal nuclear technology secrets from Britain and disrupt the Aukus security pact, a nuclear submarine agreement with the United States and Australia.

Aukus was developed in an effort to check China's growing military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, where its naval force has more than tripled in the past two decades.

McCallum previously warned that tens of thousands of British businesses were vulnerable to Chinese attempts to steal sensitive information, with 20,000 British officials targeted on LinkedIn in an attempt to lure them into handing over military and technological secrets.

A Royal Navy spokesman said: "We ensure all civilian contractors have the appropriate security clearances."

place. That is a matter for the government and parliament to consider."

Sunak addressed the lack of action against chants of "jihad", telling MPs: "We will never tolerate antisemitism in our country. Calls for jihad on our streets are not only a threat to the Jewish community but to our democratic values. Where there are gaps in the law, we're happy to look at those. But we do believe the police do have the powers to arrest those who are inciting violence or racial hatred. There is no place for that type of behaviour and we will work extensively to clarify the guidance to officers on the ground so they are aware fully about the powers and tools that are available to them to make sure these people feel the force of the law."

Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, called on the government to look at "gaps in the law". About 100,000 people attended Saturday's rally. Slogans on banners included "Stop the new Holocaust" and "Zionism is the new Nazism". Footage emerged of the Hizb ut-Tahrir rally outside the Egyptian embassy, in which one man said: "What is the solution to liberate people from the concentration camp called Palestine?" A man in the crowd was filmed chanting: "Jihad!" Activists unfurled a banner that said: "Muslim armies! Rescue the people of Palestine."

Reports, pages 6-11  
Police inaction was a dereliction of duty, leading article, page 27  
Met has means to clamp down on this hatred, Melanie Phillips, page 24

# Mane attractions sweep up empty shops

Sites that cater to male grooming are booming as high streets undergo cosmetic surgery,

**Andrew Ellson** writes

The increasing vanity of British men is coming to the unlikely rescue of the country's beleaguered high streets.

Barber shops are the fastest growing sector of the retail economy with more than 2,300 opening over the past year, according to the Local Data Company.

While 1,500 closed during the same period that still means an overall increase of 815, taking the total number of independent barber shops to 19,404, just one fewer than the number of independent hairdressing salons.

The rise is all the more remarkable set against the travails of high streets generally.

The Local Data Company reported that there was a net loss of 4,000 retail units across the country in the first six months of this year.

But it is not just male vanity that is helping fill vacant premises. An extra 369 nail salons and 636 beauty salons have also opened in the past year.

Millie Kendall, chief executive of the British Beauty Council, said: "As banks and estate agents exit the high street this has created opportunities for beauty to move in, and many people are taking it, turning the high street into a place people want to go to and not just have to go to."

Kendall added: "Men's grooming has been growing for the past 20 years.

"Originally it was about products but it has also been showing itself in the growth of barbers."



Faye Mitchell says today's male hairstyles and beards need constant care. Harry Styles and Idris Elba are among the stars cashing in on the trend

Kendall denied the change was due to vanity. She said: "It's about sanity. Grooming is a fundamental, almost animal, ritual. It's about wellbeing, self-esteem and confidence. Men also need these things."

The latest analysis by Oxford Economics showed that the personal

care industry contributed £24.5 billion to the economy last year, the equivalent of about 1 per cent of GDP. It found that the beauty industry supported more than half a million jobs and contributed £6.8 billion in tax to the Treasury last year.

Faye Mitchell, who has opened two barber shops in east London in the past

two years, believes high-maintenance male hairstyles, along with the trend to work from home, are helping to fuel the growth in barber shops.

Mitchell, 37, said hairstyles that needed constantly looking after, such as skin fades and the resurgence of mullets, as well as the need to leave the house for a "good natter", meant men were going to the barbers more often.

"I had someone last week who said, 'I don't really need a haircut, I just had to get away from my laptop.' Barber shops are truly part of the community. Men are more likely to know my name than the landlord of the local pub."

"You really get to know your clients like friends. It's a social thing and with all the technology around today people are craving real interactions."

Mitchell added that complicated facial hair, such as beards, designer stubble and moustaches, were also increasing demand. "When I started 17 years ago, it was all about being clean shaven. Now no one has a shave, it's all about chiselling their facial hair, and you can't do that well at home."

"Every Saturday evening we get groups of lads coming in to be tidied up before they go out that night. We give them a beer, get them looking good and off they go."

A generation ago most men would have eschewed any kind of beauty regime. However, experts believe that male celebrities have helped normalise men looking after their skin and hair. And many of the celebrities that set this trend have been cashing in on it by starting their own beauty brands.

Harry Styles, Brad Pitt, Pharrell Williams and Idris Elba are among celebrities with their own ranges.

However, there is also a darker side to the boom.

Security sources have said that criminal gangs are using some of the new barber shops to conceal the proceeds of crime, while others are being used as a base for human trafficking. Albanian and Kurdish gangs are thought to be involved.

Last year an investigation by the National Crime Agency found that Gul Wali Jabarkhel, 33, was using his barber shop in Colindale, north London, as a front for recruiting lorry drivers to bring migrants from France and Belgium into the UK.

Last year he was sentenced to ten years in prison.

## Sherlock actress pulls out of Strictly

**Ali Mitib**

Amanda Abbington has quit *Strictly Come Dancing* after missing last week's programme for medical reasons.

The actress, 49, who starred in the BBC drama *Sherlock*, pulled out of the live show on Saturday evening.

On the spin-off programme, *Strictly Come Dancing: It Takes Two*, last night, Fleur East, the co-presenter, confirmed that Abbington had left the programme and read a statement from a *Strictly* representative.

It said: "Amanda Abbington is unable to continue in *Strictly Come Dancing* and has decided to withdraw from the competition. The show wishes her all the best for the future."

In her last appearance on the show, Abbington scored 31 out of a possible 40 for a foxtrot to *Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac*, with the judge Motsi Mabuse saying that she enjoyed that Abbington and her dance partner, Giovanni Pernice, took the time to show the "beauty of the movement".

After it was announced that Abbington

was quitting the show, Pernice uploaded a photo to his Instagram page of the pair wearing Christmas outfits and offered good wishes to his former dance partner.

The post read: "Amanda... I am so sad that we can't continue but I am proud of what we achieved and I am sending you so much love."

In the second week of *Strictly* Abbington had impressed the judges with complex-looking lifts and a handstand when she performed the salsa to *Oye* by Gloria Estefan.

During movie week she scored 30 points for her "magical" Bridget Jones-inspired rumba to *Out of Reach* by Gabrielle.

Abbington has previously faced criticism over social media comments she had made regarding gender. In August, when

Strictly announced that she would take part in this year's series, some fans of the show said that they would refuse to watch it because of her comments.

At the time Abbington said she believed the online backlash was in response to a tweet she had written about a 12-year-old child performing in drag. It expressed her disapproval of a drag show aimed at parents with babies, which she described as "abhorrent".

She apologised shortly afterwards and denied that she was transphobic.

There were also rumours as this year's series began that Abbington and Pernice were not getting on, and that the demands on her in rehearsals were punishing.

Abbington's absence from *Strictly* was announced soon after she posted on Instagram a tribute to the actress Haydn Gwynne, who died on Friday. She wrote: "A huge and devastating loss. Such a sad day."

**Amanda Abbington will not return to the BBC series**



## Fight or flight formula averts air rage in young passengers

**Sam Rucker**

An allegedly foolproof mathematical formula has been produced to unburden parents of mid-flight outbursts this half term, delaying a toddler's tantrum by two hours and nine minutes.

A fellow at Oxford University has analysed a survey of more than 2,000 parents, coming up with a series of solutions to stop sky-high tantrums.

The study, commissioned by Asda, found that 63 per cent of parents feel anxious before taking off for their half-term holiday flight.

One in three parents admitted to choosing a less convenient mode of transport (bus, ferry, train or boat) to avoid the embarrassment of their child's tantrums.

Dr Tom Crawford found that the average child aged between two and six would start a 15-minute tantrum 28 minutes after take-off. Having identified the tantrums' biggest causes,

Crawford said: "It is clear that sleepiness and boredom are the best potential triggers for parents to try to address on flight. But having snacks on hand, and distracting children from the noise of a flight, is also important."

He found that the best way to keep children quiet throughout a flight is to make sure they are well rested. A nap at the start of the journey can delay a tantrum by 37 minutes on average.

To counter boredom, a film works best, further delaying inflight terrors by 31 minutes. Parents who prefer to avoid screens are advised to let their children draw, reported to put off tantrums by an average of 18 minutes.

Giving toddlers food will buy parents another 19 minutes — and blocking out noise with music will give them an additional 14 minutes of peace.

By using all four methods, Crawford said, parents should be able to get through a flight to France or Spain "without any problems".



**Star attraction** Celestial Bodies, a set of paintings by Charlie Barton, goes on show tomorrow at the Women in STEM festival at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

# New cancer service cuts hospital stays for elderly

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

The Christie Hospital in Manchester is pioneering a specialist cancer service for elderly patients under plans to tackle a "silver tsunami" of cases.

More than 200 patients have been treated by the new team, which was set up to meet the more complex care needs of an ageing population. The service has nearly halved the number of unplanned hospital admissions among older cancer patients, improving survival and quality of life.

Half of all cancer cases in the UK are in people over the age of 70. Sufferers often have many other health conditions and may not be offered or complete courses of radiotherapy or chemotherapy, because of concerns they cannot tolerate it.

The senior adult oncology service, which began last summer, provides frail patients with exercises and nutrition advice to build up their strength. Treatment is adapted to take into account other common age-related illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes and dementia, ensuring medications do not interact and cause side effects. As well as helping patients to withstand side effects, the treatment helps them to stay at home and be independent.

A similar scheme exists at the Royal Marsden in London and it could now be expanded across the NHS. The service means older cancer patients can get all their care at a "one-stop shop", reducing time spent in hospital. They no longer require appointments with GPs, geriatricians, oncologists and physiotherapists, because all the specialists are brought together under one roof.

## Case study

**W**hen Jean Riding, 75, had lung cancer diagnosed in September last year, doctors were concerned that she would be too frail to tolerate intense treatment (Eleanor Hayward writes).

But she has completed courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy under the care of the senior adult oncology service at the Christie. This meant



she was able to avoid prolonged hospital admissions.

Riding, a retired machinist from Dukinfield, east of Manchester, said: "The team has been

great. I lost weight during treatment as food tasted horrible because of the chemo, and my calf muscles weren't strong, so they arranged a bone density scan, gave me exercises and dietary advice. I am now 2.5kg heavier, and my muscles are stronger. I'm lactose intolerant, so the pharmacist found me liquid versions of the medications. The team gave me a lot of reassurance and emotional support."

Fabio Gomes, the consultant who leads the service, said: "We want to keep the patients as active as is safely possible. It means elderly patients can spend more time at home instead of in a hospital bed. Treatment can be toxic, but supporting older patients throughout the treatments — with specialist nurses, physios, dieticians and pharmacists — means they hopefully don't deteriorate.

"Having the added input from the specialist team can be the difference between someone being able to continue on treatment, or having it discontinued. It has huge implications for improving survival, reducing complications and improving quality of life."

Gomes said that the specialist service

had huge cost-saving benefits for the NHS, by reducing complications and hospital stays, and similar services could be introduced across the country. He added: "Half our patients are over 70 — the group increasing the fastest. What is called the 'silver tsunami' is here. These older patients have more complex needs and need targeted support. Patients won't be getting any younger, so cancer services need to adapt for it."

Cancer Research UK estimates that 60 per cent of patients will be over 70 by 2040. In June experts at a cancer conference in Chicago urged governments to urgently adapt services to prepare for a "global oncologic tsunami" of millions more older patients.

RUSSELL SACH

## Quintagram® No 1767

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

**1 Surprise attack (4)**

— — —

**2 Legend (5)**

— — — —

**3 Speaking with natural ease (6)**

— — — — —

**4 Allowing crossing by foot (8)**

— — — — — —

**5 Insulted, slighted (9)**

A	A	A	A	B	B	D	D
D	E	E	E	F	F	F	F
F	F	I	L	L	L	N	N
O	O	R	R	R	T	T	U

**Solutions** see T2 MindGames p15

**Cryptic clues** T2 MindGames p14

## TIMES RADIO Breakfast: 6am to 10am

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

Listen seven days a week  
On DAB, app, website and smart speaker



## Charity uncovers child rapes and deaths in care

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

A report into the deaths and serious injury of children in care, which the government tried to keep secret, uncovered evidence of stabbings and sexual exploitation.

The nine-page review examined 89 instances of death or serious harm among vulnerable young people over the two years to June 2020.

It found that a "high number of vulnerable females" were victims of rape, sexual assault or child sexual exploitation, and boys in care were victims or perpetrators of stabbing or assaults.

The report concluded that suitable care placements were often impossible to secure and that many older children were put in unregulated accommodation without residential staff.

For two years the government refused to publish the report, but the children's rights charity Article 39 has won a legal challenge to gain access to it.

Caroline Willow, Article 39's founder director, said: "There are children taking their own lives, being raped and sexually assaulted, stabbed and beaten up and found dead on roads and rail track. These were all children for whom the state was responsible — being in care was meant to protect them and to help them recover from past abuse and trauma. Yet they suffered in the most appalling ways."

The report was commissioned by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the statutory body charged with improving child protection in England.

Twenty of the 89 cases related to deaths, and 69 related to serious harm suffered by the child. There were seven cases of children taking their own lives and three in which babies suffered a non-accidental injury. Thirteen child-

ren were stabbed or assaulted, and 13 cases involved children who had suffered serious harm after abuse by an adult while in care, the report said.

Forty-eight children had died or suffered serious harm as a result of the abuse that led to them entering care, with the system failing to protect them from continuing danger.

The report said: "Many of the children who are 16-plus are placed in 'semi-independent' unregulated provision as this is the only available placement."

Ministers banned the placing of children in unregulated accommodation — where they do not receive consistent adult supervision and care — for those under 16, but not under 18. Children in these placements can be forced to mix with adults and become prey to gangs.

Article 39 sought the report when challenging the government's decision not to ban unregulated placements for those aged 16 and 17.

The Department for Education said the report was "exempt" from freedom of information laws and Article 39 lost its High Court case. However, a tribunal concluded there was a strong public interest in the report being put into the public domain, including a "need for transparency in child safeguarding".

In March the government claimed it had ended the use of unregulated accommodation for those aged 16 and 17 by introducing measures such as Ofsted inspections. However, the regulator will be required to carry out selective inspections only every three years. Inspections will begin next year.

The Department for Education said: "Our reforms to supported accommodation are backed by £142 million, and include introducing mandatory national standards and a robust Ofsted registration and inspection regime that will raise the bar for such provision."

# British climber and guide killed in fall on Mount Kenya

Jane Flanagan Africa Correspondent  
Tom Saunders

A British climber has fallen to her death after she slipped on ice during a descent of Mount Kenya.

A guide who tried to grab her also died when he slid after her over a cliff on their return from a successful hike to Point Lenana, the mountain's third highest summit.

Bad weather forced rescuers to make three attempts to recover the bodies of the pair on Friday, a day after they had plunged several hundred metres from a steep stretch between Lenana and the Austrian Hut on the Naro Moru route, the fastest and most popular hiking route up Africa's second-highest mountain. The dead woman was named by

members of Kenya's climbing community as Shilpa Shah, 60, from London, who had family in Kenya.

Shah was one of an all-women group of eight climbers — they witnessed the falls as they tackled a snow-packed and notorious slope on the side of the mountain's Teleki Valley.

Colleagues of Kelvin Muriuki Mwiti, the guide who died trying to save Shah, have established a fund to help support his wife and young child.

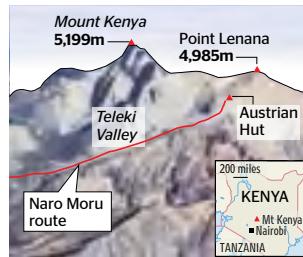
Robert Kamara, who helped organise the fund, said on Facebook: "My friend has rested. Our hearts are broken. May his soul transition to the afterlife peacefully. May his selflessness inspire us to live fully, dedicating our lives to the service of humanity."

"He always wore a smile and was an

incredibly kind and positive human," Andrej Josephs, a colleague said on Twitter/X, after taking part in the operation to recover his body, which was later transferred to the nearest hospital to his family in central Kenya. Shah's body was flown to the capital, Nairobi.

Although less popular with climbers than Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, which is higher, Mount Kenya is regarded as a more demanding test offering adventurers rock and ice climbing, despite being only a few miles from the Equator.

October falls in the rainy season which can also bring snow, and makes conditions quite treacherous in some sections, according to adventure bloggers. Although the Naro Moru route requires no technical



climbing experience and the terrain is manageable for fit novices, a steep, marshy stretch known as the "vertical bog" is challenging.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We are supporting the family of a

British woman who has died in Kenya and are in contact with local authorities."

Europeans' fascination with the mountain began in 1849 when a German missionary, Johannes Ludwig Krapf, reported to the British Royal Geographical Society that a mountain full of snow and glaciers sat about 30km from the Equator.

The society dispatched an explorer, Joseph Thomson, in 1893 who confirmed Krapf was correct and in 1899 Sir Halford Mackinder made the first recorded ascent of Batian peak.

The mountain is also sacred for many people who live in the vicinity. For the Kikuyu people, Kenya's largest ethnic group, the apex of Mount Kenya is the home of their God.



Vladimir Scherbakov gave Brigitte Morina a £12 million home in Weybridge, Surrey, before he was found hanged six years ago. He became so fearful of being poisoned that he refused to eat fruit given to him by others

# A poisonous battle over late oligarch's £100m estate

David Brown

The girlfriend of a Russian tycoon is embroiled in a £100 million inheritance dispute with his former wife and her children with him — involving allegations of forgery, extortion and a Kremlin radioactive poisoning plot.

Vladimir Scherbakov, a member of London's elite private clubs, was found hanged six years ago while fighting extradition to Russia, the High Court was told.

Scherbakov's girlfriend, Brigitte Morina, 42, is suing the billionaire's ex-wife, Elena Scherbakova, and her children, Olga Scherbakova, 34, and Alexander Scherbakov, 25.

Morina, a former creative director of the Swiss watchmaker DeLaneau, claims that Vladimir Scherbakov — one of Russia's richest men, with business interests and properties around the world — made a will in England that left almost all his fortune outside Russia to her and their three children.

Hodge Malek KC, representing Morina, said although the tycoon's

former wife and her children claim the English will was destroyed, a forensic document analysis showed it still existed. The document was used in a £30 million extortion attempt against Morina by the godmother of Olga Scherbakova's eldest son, the court was told.

Elena Scherbakova and her children "denigrated" her ex-husband's relationship with Morina as "merely an affair", the court was told.

Scherbakov gave generous gifts to Morina and their children. The eldest was given £4.4 million and a Swiss chalet. Morina re-

ceived £1 million, a £12 million mansion in Weybridge, Surrey, and Scherbakov's half-share of an apartment they jointly owned in Belgravia, central London.

Morina wants the High Court to grant probate on the English will and rule that Scherbakov was a permanent resident in the UK when he died. Evidence that he was living in the UK includes his membership of two London clubs,

the Arts Club and 5 Hertford Street, the court was told.

He proposed to Morina at a London restaurant in 2015 and they visited the Kensington and Chelsea register office, as they planned to marry at Brown's Hotel in Mayfair, central London. The marriage was postponed because of a dispute over the legal status of his previous marriage.

Before his death, Scherbakov instructed a Swiss lawyer to draft a new will to provide for his children by Morina, the court was told. It allegedly expressly excluded his "two children from my divorced wife", stating: "[They] shall not receive any of my estate. They did not stay in touch with me. They both received already enough assets and real estate from me during lifetime as advancement of inheritance."

Scherbakov fled from London to Belgium in 2016. A criminal complaint had been filed against him in Moscow by Andrey Lugovoy, a former Russian security services agent and now a deputy in the State Duma, the court was told. Lugovoy was found by the European

Court of Human Rights to have murdered Alexander Litvinenko, a Russian defector who died in London from radioactive poisoning in 2006.

Scherbakov became so concerned for his life that he refused to eat fruit given to him out of fear that it might have been poisoned, the court was told. He also feared that his conversations were being bugged and instructed Morina to use encrypted communications.

Scherbakov died in June 2017, aged 56. His former wife and their children allegedly held his funeral without telling Morina and forced two of her children to have DNA tests to prove he was their biological father. Elena Scherbakova later failed to have their divorce set aside, the court was told. She was convicted in Russia last year of attempted fraud by relying on a false marriage contract and has been jailed for five years and 11 months.

Scherbakov's ex-wife and her children claim his relationship with Morina ended before his death, leading him to destroy his English will.

The hearing continues.



Siblings Olga Scherbakova and Alexander Scherbakov

## News Israel at war

# Soldiers scarred by last Gaza

As the military gathers on the border, veterans reflect on the brutal nature of urban warfare, **Richard Spencer** writes

One aspect of urban combat in Gaza is not like it is in the films: you do not kick in doors. You blow them up.

"You put rockets in through the sides of houses or the walls or you blow up the door," said Benzi Sanders, a former soldier, speaking from his experience of the last war in the territory.

"You go in, weapons firing," he said. "Everyone is supposed to have left." All that is supposed to wait for you, supposedly, is booby-traps and militants.

For Sanders, 32, there was no time to be afraid, as he blasted his way into the unknown. "You are trying to stay alert," he said. "You are in confident survival mode but you don't have fear because you don't have time to reflect."

Not everyone feels the same. "It was absolutely terrifying, to be very honest with you," said Ben, a sharpshooter in a parachute regiment in the same war, speaking with the benefit of urban hindsight from an office in London.



Hamas fighters, say veterans of Israel's 2014 incursion, "know you're coming"

where he now works. "The most dangerous period is entering. There are traps, Hamas knows you are coming, they can have a very good idea of the routes you are coming in on. You are crossing on open ground, things are booby-trapped."

Israel has with near certainty decided that it will shortly attempt its third full-scale ground invasion of Gaza in 15 years. Yesterday troops were undergoing last-minute training on the battle plans that the Israel defence forces' leadership has prepared. Those plans are secret. But as veterans of previous wars admit, there are not many ways to invade a strip of land 25 miles long and less than seven miles wide.

That means the hundreds of thousands of troops who have been called up can have some idea of what to expect. Some are doing it for a second time.

Aviv Haimson, 33, another paratrooper, spoke by videolink from a field somewhere near the Gaza border. He spent 16 days in 2014 sitting on a roof with a machinegun. His unit's task had been to destroy Hamas's tunnels, the main mission of that incursion. He was protecting the unit's work from above, using all the sophisticated equipment available to the Israeli army.

It is a job that requires good judgment: any movement could be an enemy — but it could also be one of your comrades. Yet a moment's hesitation can lead to disaster, as the buildings provide cover for both sides.

Sam Gosling's comrades died instantly when he was in a similar position to Haimson, looking out over Gaza from a roof. "Hamas shot three anti-tank missiles at our building," Gosling, 31, said. "The first one hit my commanding offi-

cer directly, killing him instantly ... Two rockets hit the floor below us, where there were other soldiers. So I ran down, started first aid and my friends from my unit carried them to the evacuation point. And only at that point did I realise that I'd also been injured myself."

The other great fear Israeli troops have is of being kidnapped. In 2014 this was a particular tactic Hamas deployed from hidden entrances to the tunnels.

Ben said his unit had discovered an entrance to a tunnel under a chicken coop. They had missed the second entrance, out of which Hamas fighters emerged and tried to drag away some of the Israelis. A gunfight ensued.

Not far from where Ben was serving in Khan Yunis a tunnel attack led to one of the most controversial incidents of that war: when a Hamas unit attacked an Israeli squad, killing two of its members and seizing a third, Lieutenant Hadar Goldin.

The Israeli authorities began a ferocious bombardment of the area, allegedly under the "Hannibal doctrine", under which all means may be used to prevent the taking of Israeli hostages. It was claimed at the time that this barrage killed Goldin as well as Palestinian civilians — though it was subsequently said that he was already dead. His body has never been returned.

Now, troops have to live with the knowledge that if they are taken they will be joining more than 200 others, mostly civilians but dozens of them military.

The conflict in Ukraine has reintroduced us to the idea of old-fashioned war: tanks rolling down motorways, full-frontal assaults by companies across open countryside.

Michael Milstein, a former IDF intelligence officer, said the forthcoming assault should rather be compared to the fight for Mosul in the war against Islamic State. That holds out the prospect of a battle many times larger and bloodier than the 2014 incursion. Israeli leaders are talking about it lasting for months.

The devastation in Mosul was total, and that is something which, in the case of Gaza, Israeli leaders will have to take into consideration as they face political opposition from around the world.

Even the more limited war in 2014 changed minds, including of those who took part. Sanders had moved to Israel from New York out of Zionist passion. He is now a peace activist, having joined Breaking the Silence, a group of veterans who campaign for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories.

His moment of truth came during a particularly bloody moment of the 2014 war. His unit had helped to clear an area of Beit Hanoun, in the north of the Gaza Strip, but had been surprised to find a Palestinian family of eight still living there in the middle of the battle.

After a member of the unit was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade from elsewhere, the air force came and bombed the neighbourhood, destroying it and killing the family sheltering there.

War has many outcomes, perhaps most especially for the participants. Haimson survived without a scratch or even a serious near miss, he said. Sanders lost at least part of his faith in the cause he was serving. Gosling was injured and lost his commander but believes it was all worthwhile.

"We had almost nine years where Hamas hasn't been able to cross the borders and attack civilians and a lot of that is due to the fact we went into Gaza and took out the tunnels," he said. "It wasn't for no reason it happened."

**Israelis must decide who will run Gaza, William Hague, page 23**



## Opposing sides collide during night raid

**Richard Spencer Tel Aviv**

Hamas fighters confronted Israeli troops who launched a raid into Gaza as part of preparations for a full-scale invasion, both sides said.

Hamas said its forces had destroyed Israeli equipment after they engaged with the "regime's infiltrating troops".

Israel said its forces had conducted limited raids which, along with airstrikes, had targeted "terrorists".

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the Israel defence forces spokesman, said the troops had also been seeking intelligence on the whereabouts of hostages.

"During the night there were raids by tank and infantry forces," he said. "These raids are raids that kill squads of terrorists who are preparing for the next stage in the war. These raids also locate and search for anything we can get in terms of intelligence on the missing and the hostages."

Hagari said the number of people being held hostage in Gaza had been revised upwards to 222.

The al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, said: "Fighters engaged with the infiltrating force, destroying two bulldozers and a tank and forced the force to withdraw." The raid was accom-

panied by an intensification of Israeli bombing raids, which the IDF said had struck 320 targets, command posts and a tunnel containing Hamas fighters. Rocket launch pads were also hit.

Aid has started to enter Gaza from Egypt following negotiations led by President Biden last week. However, the convoy of 20 lorries brought to only 54 the total number allowed through by the Israelis. The UN believes at least 100 a day are required to address Gaza's humanitarian needs.

António Guterres, the UN secretary-general, reiterated calls for a humanitarian ceasefire to "end the suffering".

# battle know what comes next



An Israeli airstrike on northern Gaza, where thousands have been killed and many more injured, including children. Top, a UN-run school in Khan Yunis. Israel says Hamas rocket launchers are being placed next to schools



## Two Israeli women are released by Hamas 'on health grounds'

### Richard Spencer

Hamas released two more hostages last night, both elderly Israeli women, saying that they were doing so for "humanitarian reasons".

Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, and Nurit Yitzhak, 79, were driven to the Rafah border crossing between Israel and Egypt, and handed to the Red Cross. They were expected to return to Israel.

The release was negotiated by Egyptian and Qatari officials. Nothing was sought in exchange by Hamas, which is trying to restore international goodwill after the attacks of October 7. The

Foreign Office confirmed last night that one of the women released had family in the UK.

Sharon Lifschitz, Yocheved's daughter, said: "I can confirm that my mother Yochi Lifshitz was one of two hostages released to the Red Cross this evening. While I cannot put into words the relief that she is now safe, I will remain focused on securing the release of my father and all those, some 200 innocent people, who remain hostages in Gaza."

A statement released by Abu Obaida, *nom de guerre* of the spokesman of Hamas's military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, said: "Through Egyptian-

## The rocket screams towards us — we've been caught in the open

Militants appear to be increasing fire on the south as war is waged from the sky. **George Grylls** writes from Erez

In the cotton fields north of Gaza the obscene shriek of a rocket is followed by a boom. A burst of smoke directly overhead and a showering of shrapnel on the road signal that Israel's Iron Dome defences have scored another hit.

The air raid siren sounds five seconds later, by then it is too late. The Israeli soldiers are face down in the dusty kerb already, breathing heavily as the sky is filled with the terrible sound of incoming fire. Like us, the Israeli soldiers are caught in the open.

The scream of another rocket comes, this time seeming to arc towards us. The air defences intercept again. Iron Dome, the Israeli short-range air defence system, uses radar to measure whether to shoot down incoming rockets, allowing those on a harmless trajectory to land in unpopulated areas, saving \$50,000 per missile. A second interception meant the fire was accurate. The soldiers press their bodies closer to the dirt while we shelter behind a car in the false hope that a Toyota can provide protection. Eventually the all-clear is sounded and the soldiers continue their patrol.

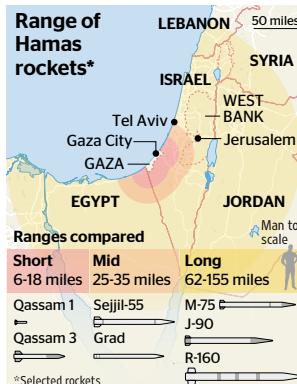
Palestinian militants in Gaza had 11,750 rockets in their arsenal at the end of 2021, according to research by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, which said about 60-70 per cent of them were made in Gaza.

Those who have made their homes on the Israeli side of the Palestinian territory have long lived with the threat of rockets launched indiscriminately. Yet yesterday there were signs that Hamas was increasing its fire on an area two miles from the Erez crossing, the gateway to northern Gaza once used by 18,000 Palestinians every day on their way to work in Israel.

It was overrun by Hamas militants on October 7 and there seems little prospect this vital economic lifeline will reopen. Along the main road leading south into Gaza, the military has built encampments — a likely target of the rocket barrage. Tanks, armoured vehicles and support lorries line both sides of Israel's highway 4, waiting for the order to advance. Binyamin Netanyahu,



George Grylls takes refuge behind a car as Hamas unleashes a salvo of rockets



the prime minister, has decided not to begin a ground invasion, seemingly under American pressure to delay it until efforts have been made to liberate 222 people held captive in Gaza.

The release of two American hostages last week suggests diplomacy may be working, so the waiting game goes on. Instead there have been limited Israel defence forces (IDF) raids into Gaza, the latest on Sunday night, in which an Israeli soldier was killed.

That means the war is being waged from the skies. The response to the rockets on Monday was visible from a high point in Sderot, an Israeli city a mile from the border with Gaza.

During the war in 2014, residents would bring out chairs to watch the bombing of Gaza from the hills in a grisly phenomenon nicknamed the "Sderot Cinema". According to the Palestinian

health authorities, more than 5,000 people have died during the 16-day Israeli bombardment of Gaza, a place where there are no air defences and no Iron Dome interceptions. The UN has described the bombed-out city as a "hellhole".

Across the border, there are plentiful bomb shelters in Sderot, painted with desert scenes or images of friendly dogs for the younger generations. But even its hardy residents have fled because the fighting has been so intense.

Yesterday the military wing of Hamas, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, revealed its latest weapon, when the IDF shot down two kamikaze drones at Nir Oz and Ein HaBesor, a kibbutz and a moshav close to the Gaza border. Given the Sunni militia's ties to Iran — with a history of manufacturing suicide drones — there will be fears this small attack could presage a new phase of the aerial war.

More than 200,000 Israelis have fled their homes, according to the Netanyahu government, and 1.4 million Palestinians have been displaced by the bombing in Gaza, according to the UN.

Eilat, an Israeli town on the Dead Sea, has doubled in population since October 7 and the authorities are considering building a tent city to house 60,000 Israelis from around Gaza.

In Ramat Gan, outside Tel Aviv, construction has begun on another tent city to provide temporary homes for 1,000 people, who will probably be able to hear the air raid sirens before the rockets arrive given that their new homes are situated much further from the border with Gaza. They might even have time to run to the shelter.



Yocheved Lifshitz and Nurit Yitzhak were expected back in Israel last night

We have decided to release them on humanitarian and health grounds."

Over the weekend Israel dismissed as "propaganda" claims that it had refused to accept the hostages. Earlier yesterday, Rear-Admiral Daniel Hagari, spokesman for the Israel defence forces, raised the number of hostages known to be in Hamas's hands to 222. Scores are known to be dual nationals, including Britons and Americans.

Hamas was said to be negotiating the release of up to 50 hostages with foreign passports. Israel is said to be reluctant to engage with Hamas's demands.

"We will not refer to false propaganda by Hamas," Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, said. "We will continue to act to return the kidnapped."

## News Israel at war

# IDF taped terrorist bragging to father about killing Jews

Catherine Philp Tel Aviv

A security camera high in the corner of a living room caught the father and his panicked young sons running from their bedrooms, still in their underwear, towards their backyard safe room. In the yard, another camera catches the grenade tossed into the sanctuary and the father's collapse as the stunned, bloodied boys emerge to find armed Hamas militants in their home.

In the kitchen, the younger boy cries for his father and mother. "Daddy's dead, Shay, I'm not joking, it's not a prank," his brother replies. A Hamas terrorist blunders into the kitchen, takes water from the fridge and glugs. They freeze as he leaves. "Itay, I think we are going to die," the younger boy sobs.

The Hamas terror attack on southern Israel on October 7 has been seen in footage splashed across the internet — from Hamas's own live broadcasts from GoPro cameras they strapped to their helmets before the attack, to images relayed by terrified festivalgoers fleeing the automatic gunfire shattering their Supernova "peace party".

Yesterday the Israeli defence forces invited foreign journalists to a screening too grisly to broadcast. It was a matinee cobbled together with footage from the bodycams of dead Hamas fighters, their dashcams and phones; CCTV from the communities they attacked; video from the phones of Israeli victims and that of emergency responders at each appalling scene.

Such material would, Rear Admiral

Daniel Hagari said, form part of "a collective memory for the future" for the Israeli people. It was being screened for the international media but not the Israeli press "because they do not need to be persuaded", he said.

"We will not let the world forget about who we are fighting," Hagari told his audience. "We are not talking about the Palestinians. We are talking about Hamas."

Operational instructions retrieved by the IDF from the bodies of Hamas men contained a section on "live broadcast" of their footage.

"Direct transfer of the images while verifying the local and other related communication technology is valid," the instructions read. "Do not waste the camera battery and storage but use them as much as possible."

The attackers' cameras captured scene after scene of appalling violence: civilians gunned down; wounded hostages herded into pick-ups and taken to Gaza; a frenzied attack with a shovel on a dying Thai migrant worker in which the terrorists, bickering over what weapon to use, appear to be trying to behead him.

Helmet-mounted cameras capture bullets pumped into bloodied piles of bodies in which it was hard to imagine anyone was still living. A gunman takes aim at a black labrador cantering towards him, pumping out three bullets before the dog lies dead.

Both the most heartbreaking and chilling of the IDF montage, which they had planned to air for the foreign press in a Tel Aviv cinema

before thinking better of it, came from Israeli devices. One was from the cameras that caught the moment the brothers were orphaned and the painful dawning of their circumstances; the other a different interaction, a Hamas fighter calling his father to boast that he was part of the killing spree.



before thinking better of it, came from Israeli devices. One was from the cameras that caught the moment the brothers were orphaned and the painful dawning of their circumstances; the other a different interaction, a Hamas fighter calling his father to boast that he was part of the killing spree.

"Dad, I am in Mefalsim, your son killed Jews," he says in the conversation intercepted by Israeli intelligence, made from the phone of a Jewish woman he boasts he has slaughtered. "I killed ten with my bare hands. Their blood is on my hands! I was the first to enter. Please be proud of me, dad."

It is far from clear whether either his father or mother are anything other than shocked. "Return to Gaza, enough, enough," his father says, while his son rants on, demanding his mother open his WhatsApp to see the killings. "Put it on, Mum! Your son is a hero!" he says. Whether this was murderous bragging

## Why is Netanyahu's son still in Miami, ask reservists

Melanie Swan

Israeli soldiers who have volunteered to join the war against Hamas condemned the prime minister's son for staying in the United States and "abandoning" his country.

Hundreds of Israelis have returned home after the army drafted more than 300,000 reservists to fight in the largest mobilisation in the country's history.

Binyamin Netanyahu's elder son, Yair, has remained in Florida, where he moved earlier this year. At 32 Yair is in the age range for reserve duty, which extends to 40.

"Yair is enjoying his life at Miami Beach while I'm on the front lines," one soldier, who asked to remain anonymous for security reasons, said.

The soldier, a volunteer on Israel's northern front, which has been coming under increasing daily fire from Iran-

backed Hezbollah in south Lebanon, believed Yair's absence was fuelling distrust and anger in the ranks. "It's us who are leaving our work, our families, our kids, to protect our families back home and the country, not the people who are responsible for this situation."

He added: "Our brothers, our fathers, sons, are all going to the front line, but Yair is still not here. It does not help build trust in the leadership of the country."

Though never a combat soldier, Yair undertook compulsory military service working in the public communications unit of the Israel defence forces.

Yair moved to the US following controversy over his social media activity. He caused a public outcry when he called the hundreds of thousands of Israelis demonstrating against the government's judicial reforms "terrorists" and accused the US of funding them.



The absence of Yair Netanyahu is said to be fuelling anger in the ranks

Not all those Israelis returning home to serve are heading for the front line, along with about 360,000 reservists being drafted: many are volunteering either with the IDF or non-government organisations. Yair has now

dedicated his Instagram page to raising awareness about the NGOs supporting the victims of the war and the 120,000 or more displaced Israelis who have had to move from their homes in the north and south since war broke out.

"I've flown back from the States where I have a job, a life, my family," said another soldier, who also asked to remain anonymous and is preparing to be deployed to Israel's southern front.

"There is no way I can stay there and abandon my country, my people, at this critical time. Where is the prime minister's son? Why isn't he in Israel?"

He added: "It is the most uniting moment for us as Israelis in our recent history and every single one of us should be here right now, including the prime minister's son."

Representatives of Yair Netanyahu were approached for comment.

## Stars' agent sorry for 'genocide' comments

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

A leading Hollywood talent agent whose clients include Tom Cruise and Natalie Portman has apologised for using "hurtful language" after accusing Israel of committing genocide.

Maha Dakhlil has stepped down from her leadership role at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) after her social media posts commenting on the war in the Middle East caused an outcry.

Dakhlil, 48, who also represents Madonna and Reese Witherspoon,

3

4



docio or he was simply confused about his location. Mefalsim was one of the few places where no kibbutzim were killed, thanks to the heroic actions of volunteer guards there.

Major General Mickey Edelstein said of the terrorists: "They acted very professionally but in an evil way." Some of

those captured and killed had taken drugs; others stayed brutally focused without them.

It was not every day that the IDF would choose to show Hamas's propaganda videos to journalists, he said. "I will say something personally, we failed to protect our people," Edelstein added.

apologised and said she was "reeling with heartbreak" after watching the conflict in Gaza.

The agent, who has been outspoken in her support for the Me Too movement and Black Lives Matter, was condemned after sharing an Instagram story last week that in part said: "You're currently learning who supports genocide."

Dakhil added: "That's the line for me."

She shared another post that stated: "What's more heartbreaking than witnessing genocide? Witnessing the denial that genocide is happening." The posts were later deleted.

"I made a mistake with a repost in my Instagram story, which used hurtful language," Dakhil said.

**Maha Dakhil apologised for the pain I have caused**



"Like so many of us, I have been reeling with heartbreak. I pride myself on being on the side of humanity and peace. I'm so grateful to Jewish friends and colleagues who pointed out the implications and further educated me. I immediately took the repost down. I'm sorry for the pain I have caused."

Dakhil has resigned from CAA's internal board and "for the time being" is also stepping down from her position as co-head of the motion picture department, the agency said. However, she will still work with her clients.

Dakhil attempted to control the fallout from the controversy and organised a meeting with some of her Jewish colleagues, according to

But "what we showed you, you should know". He said that however distressing, the footage needed to be aired so that the sadism of the killers could be clearly seen. It pained him, he said, that anyone should believe that any of Israel's military action could be compared to those of Hamas.

A source told The Ankler: "Internally people were already upset about the way the company had responded to the attacks in Israel. And then she posts that and everyone just lost it."

CAA is one of the big three Hollywood talent agencies and helps its A-list clients to sign film and television deals. The company issued a statement in support of Israel on October 10, three days after Hamas terrorists launched an assault that left more than 1,400 Israelis dead.

Hollywood has been divided over how to respond to the attack and Israel's response. The Writers Guild of America has been criticised by some of its most prominent members for its failure to issue a statement in support of Israel, with reports suggesting the union fears that activists within its ranks would oppose the move.

# Hamas 'has trained for years with the Egyptian arm of Isis'

The groups co-operate on learning tactics and smuggling weapons, say intelligence experts.

**Anshel Pfeffer** reports

Six years ago, in November 2017, about 40 Islamic State gunmen swept into al-Rawda village near the North Sinai Mediterranean coast, and slaughtered more than 300 civilians.

The victims were the Bedouin Sawarka tribe, which is aligned with the Egyptian army. The gunmen had all pledged allegiance to Isis.

Today this attack has drawn the attention of intelligence agencies in the Middle East who point to clear similarities with Hamas. They say that Hamas and Isis in Sinai have been training and fighting together for years. "While you can't call it a dress rehearsal," one intelligence analyst told The Times, "it's clear that the two movements have worked together close enough over the past few years to copy each other's methods, learn tactics and train on weapons they have procured together."

The two organisations have used the same smuggling routes through the Sinai desert to procure weapons and co-operated in attacks against Israeli and Egyptian targets.

The Sinai branch of Isis was originally a group of militants, members of Bedouin tribes in the north of Sinai, who called themselves Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis. In 2014 they swore allegiance to the caliph of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and officially became its branch in Sinai where they have been carrying out a murderous insurgency against Egyptian civilian and military targets for more than a decade. Some members objected to the truces with Israel that Hamas has abided by.

In recent years, dozens of Hamas members left Gaza to join Isis in Sinai, training and fighting against Egypt.

Some members returned to Gaza and the ranks of Hamas's military wing. Others belong to prominent families in Hamas, including Musab Mutawa, the nephew of the Hamas leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Egyptian security forces when they attacked an Isis stronghold in Rafah, near the Gaza border.

In 2014, in a war between Israel and Gaza, Isis members shot rockets at Israel from Sinai on at least nine occasions.

While Gaza has been closed, enforced jointly by Israel and Egypt since Hamas carried out a bloody coup in 2007, arms and militants have been smuggled through tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border as well as through the Rafah border crossing under the watch of Egypt's border guards.

The ties are a crucial factor influencing Egypt's policy on Gaza. Currently, the Egyptians control the only functioning border crossing into the Gaza Strip at Rafah, through which three deliveries of aid have passed this week.

The Egyptian government, under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, is suspicious of Hamas because of its ideological roots in the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood movement, outlawed in Egypt as a terrorist organisation.

Under Egyptian pressure, Hamas in 2017 foreswore its allegiance to the Brotherhood but suspicion and anti-pathy remain and is one of the reasons the Egyptians are reluctant to allow more aid into Gaza through their territory and opposed to allowing any Palestinian refugees to leave Gaza and find sanctuary in Sinai.

While the Brotherhood, Hamas and Isis are distinct organisations with different ideologies and agenda, there have been in recent years members crossing over, mainly those who felt that Isis were the only ones truly fighting against the enemies of Islam. Many in the Egyptian security establishment believe all three are one and the same.

In Israel, the Shin Bet security agency has set up a special task force with a dedicated operations centre to identify and track down every member of Hamas's Nukhba special operations unit which carried out the attack on October 7. It is estimated that 1,500 Nukhba militants took part (thousands of other Palestinian militants and looters followed later through the breaches in the border fence) and while hundreds were killed or taken captive on Israeli territory, hundreds of others made it back to Gaza with captives.

Shin Bet has been given a directive by the Israeli government to track down each one and with the Israeli army and other security services, carry out targeted assassinations of all of them.

## Migrants must support Israel, German opposition demands

**Oliver Moody Berlin**

Foreigners should be allowed to assume German citizenship only if they formally pledge to recognise Israel's right to exist, the leader of the German opposition has demanded.

The coalition government under Olaf Scholz, the chancellor, has made it possible for people from other countries to get German nationality in as little as five years if they can demonstrate that they have lived in the country for at least five years and have a reasonable command of the language.

However, Friedrich Merz, leader of the conservative Christian Democratic Union, said there was a risk that the newly naturalised German citizens might be poorly integrated and reject

German values such as a commitment to Israel's security. "Anyone who does not subscribe to this has no place in Germany," Merz said on German television on Sunday.

Politicians from across the German right have previously argued that the country has a problem with "imported" antisemitic and anti-Israeli attitudes among migrants from the Islamic world.

Scholz's government has already pledged to deport foreign nationals who express support for Hamas.

Germany, and West Germany before it, have been strongly committed to Israel since the end of the 1940s. Angela Merkel, the last chancellor, said Israel was part of her country's *Staatsräson*, or list of overriding priorities.

## News Israel at war

# Shouting ‘jihad’? Policing taste

**David Woode** Crime Correspondent  
**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

Britain's most senior police chief has said his officers "can't enforce taste and decency" after the Metropolitan Police were criticised for not arresting a protester chanting "jihad" at a pro-Palestinian rally.

Sir Mark Rowley, the Met commissioner, said officers were tasked with upholding the law and suggested that legislation around extremism and hate crime needs to change.

He said he had held "constructive" talks with Suella Braverman, the home secretary, after being asked to explain why his officers did not arrest a man who was recorded shouting "Jihad" at a Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain protest on Saturday in central London. The force consulted prosecutors and were told no terrorism offences had taken place.

Rishi Sunak has insisted that police already have "extensive powers" to tackle protesters who overstep the mark by stirring up racial hatred or using abusive and threatening language.

However, Rowley told reporters: "We all recognise these are really unprecedented times, with the convergence of a range of issues — Iranian threats, the horrific attack by Hamas, and our terrorism cases here. We are absolutely ruthless in tackling anybody who puts their foot over the legal line. We're accountable for the law. We can't enforce taste or decency but we can enforce the law. The conversation finished around the line of the law. It's parliament's job to draw that line. Maybe events of the moment [illustrate] that some of the lines aren't in the right place."

Asked where the law is lacking around extremism, Rowley said: "The law that we've designed around hate crime and terrorism over recent decades hasn't taken full account of the ability in extremist groups to steer around those laws and propagating the truly toxic messages through social media. Those lines probably need re-drawing."

The literal meaning of jihad is struggle, or effort. It can refer to a believer's internal struggle to live out their Muslim faith and to build a good Muslim society, and can also refer to holy war.

Following the meeting with Rowley, a Home Office spokesman said Braverman "recognised the complexities of the law in policing aspects of these protests and prosecutor decisions" and will ensure the police have "everything they need to maintain law and order".

There are currently more than 200 live police investigations over suspected offences during protests and online abuse that have been linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

However, Lord Macdonald of River Glaven, a former director of public prosecutions, said the home secretary needed to be a "bit careful" about interventions on policing, given that officers are operationally independent.

Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, publicly criticised the police on Sunday for failing to arrest the protesters who chanted "jihad" at the pro-Palestine rally. He claimed they had incited terrorist violence and should have been met with the "full force of the law" and that he had been surprised by the police's decision.

Macdonald, a crossbencher in the House of Lords, told Radio 4's *World at One*: "This present home secretary is certainly making a habit of expressing her views about how policing ought to be conducted."

"The rule is that the police are operationally independent, but of course the home secretary is entitled to express her view about what the correct objectives are and the sorts of things



Chants of "jihad" were heard outside the Egyptian embassy in Mayfair, central London, during a demonstration by Hizb ut-Tahrir, of which Luqman Muqeem, top



## Tube driver suspended

**Mario Ledwith**

A London Underground driver who led pro-Palestinian chants on a packed train has been suspended.

Video footage appeared to show the unnamed driver instigating chants of "free, free Palestine" on Saturday while thousands of people travelled to a demonstration in central London.

After the footage, described by the Israeli embassy as "deeply troubling", went viral online, Transport for London and the British Transport Police began investigating. Glynn Barton, TfL's chief operating officer, said that the driver had been identified and suspended while its investigation continued.

that police should be focusing on. I think she has to be very, very careful not to put herself into the position of police officers on the ground who are having to make very difficult and sensitive decisions, in situations where there are perhaps 100,000 people marching through London, feelings are running quite high."

Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, echoed Rowley's remarks and called on the government to look at the "gaps in the law" so action can be taken.

An estimated 100,000 people attended the pro-Palestine rally on Saturday in central London.

During the day, footage emerged of the Hizb ut-Tahrir demonstration outside the Egyptian embassy in which one man said: "What is the solution to liberate people from the concentration camp called Palestine?" A man was filmed chanting: "Jihad, jihad." In the background, activists unfurled a banner with "Muslim Armies! Rescue the People of Palestine" across the front. **Tackling a monster we allowed to grow**, Melanie Phillips, page 24  
**Police turned a blind eye to hatred**, leading article, page 27

## ITV interview with 'Iranian propagandist' sparks anger

**Tom Witherow**

ITV has opened an investigation after claims it interviewed an "Iranian propagandist" who called Hamas's massacre of Israelis a "homecoming".

The Board of Deputies of British Jews accused the channel of a "staggering failure" when it interviewed Latifa Abouchakra in a segment about the spike in Islamophobic abuse in London.

The Palestinian activist and reporter for PressTV, an Iranian state-owned news network, described the massacre of more than 1,400 Israelis as a "homecoming" in a programme broadcast online last week. She added: "At least 1,000 Palestinian fighters from the resistance factions entered the fragile Zionist entity... over 100 settlers were taken as prisoners of war by the resistance."

The Board of Deputies wrote in a letter to Carolyn McCall, ITV's chief exec-

utive: "ITV News gave airtime to a literal propagandist for the Iranian regime, a woman who described the mass murder of Jews as a 'homecoming'. This was a catastrophic breach of your channel's journalistic standards. I sincerely hope that your channel will be issuing a public apology."

The news package, which came after the Met Police reported a 140 per cent rise in Islamophobic hate crimes in the capital, was broadcast on ITV London. Abouchakra had been introduced as "a British Palestinian woman living in London" before making her comments.

Last night ITV News confirmed it is investigating the programme.

PressTV had its Ofcom licence revoked in 2012 but uses social media to reach an international audience despite the ban. Its accounts on YouTube were shut down in 2021 over guideline violations, but it streams videos on Twitter/X.

# is not our job, insists Met chief



right, is a member and Abdul Wahid, above right, is leader. Suella Braverman, left, asked why the culprit was not arrested



## Sunak pledges £20m to Palestinians

**Geraldine Scott**  
Senior Political Correspondent

A missile fired towards Israel was the cause of the blast at al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza, British intelligence has found, as the government pledged an extra £20 million in aid for Palestinians.

Rishi Sunak said yesterday that based on the "deep knowledge and analysis of our intelligence and weapons experts, the British government judges that the explosion was likely caused by a missile or part of one that was launched from within Gaza towards Israel".

In a statement to the Commons the prime minister called for "quiet and dogged diplomacy" and said the government had "taken care to look at all the evidence available" to conclude who was responsible for the destruction. Hundreds of people were reported to have been killed.

Who was responsible for the bombing had become acrimonious amid what Sunak called "misreporting". Hamas

blamed an Israeli airstrike for the blast. Husam Zomlot, the Palestinian ambassador, also blamed Israel. But Israel had denied it was responsible and the Israeli defence forces had produced audio that it said proved it was the fault of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group, the second-largest armed group in Gaza. Although a rival to Hamas, it has collaborated with the terrorist organisation, is inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood and receives funding from Iran.

Sunak said: "The mis-reporting of this incident had a negative effect in the region—including on a vital US diplomatic effort—and on tensions at home. We need to learn the lessons and ensure that in future

Rishi Sunak said quiet diplomacy was needed

there is no rush to judgment. When things are so delicate we all have a responsibility to take additional care in the language that we use and to operate on the basis of facts alone. The reaction to the horrific explosion was a case in point."

Jeremy Corbyn, the former Labour leader, was quick to blame "Israeli airstrikes" in a tweet and clashed with

Sunak in the Commons for having previously described Hamas as "friends"—which the MP for Islington North has since said he regretted.

Sunak said he recognised that the "Palestinian people are suffering terribly".

The Foreign Office said there would be "rigorous oversight and multiple safe guards" to prevent UK funding going to Hamas.



## Caliphate is ambition of London extremists

**Charlie Parker**

The leaders of an Islamist group that organised a pro-Palestinian rally in London have described Hamas as "heroes", delivered homophobic speeches and called for "radical" action to "bring an end to western world order".

The government is under pressure to prosecute Hizb ut-Tahrir, a movement that is banned in parts of Europe and much of the Middle East, after hundreds of its supporters marched through the capital on Saturday and were encouraged to chant: "Jihad!"

Its figureheads and followers gathered outside the embassies of Egypt and Turkey to call up the "Muslim armies" that surround Israel to move on its borders and "rescue" Palestinians. Footage of the protest prompted an outcry from politicians and British Jews, who have called for the authorities to crack down on antisemitism and extremism.

Further footage has since emerged of prominent members of the group speaking at conferences where they say Islam will "knock down" secularism and civil rights to stop the UK spreading "its LGBT filth, its feminist filth, in to the heart of the Muslim world".

Founded in 1953 in Jerusalem, Hizb ut-Tahrir says its core aim is the establishment of an Islamic caliphate and the introduction of sharia throughout the Islamic world. After being banned in Germany and a host of other countries, the group's British branch is said to be the "nerve centre" for its global activities, where it is understood to have amassed thousands of followers.

The group has spent years organising talks at universities and co-ordinates religious campaigns and demonstrations. It has survived separate attempts by Labour and Conservative governments to ban it.

The group insists it does not support Hamas and does not advocate the use of violence to achieve an Islamic state. However, it has celebrated the October 7 attacks on Israel and its leaders have repeatedly called for neighbouring militaries to intervene.

Hours after more than a thousand Hamas terrorists crossed the border from Gaza and went door to door killing and kidnapping Israelis, Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain tweeted: "If this can be done by a resistance group, imagine what a unified response from the Muslim world could achieve."

Mazhar Khan, a member of the group's executive committee, and Taji Mustafa, an IT professional who regularly speaks at its events, were recorded leading some of the most inflammatory speeches.

Mustafa, who previously led protests in London against the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, asks: "What is the solution to liberate people from the concentration camp called Palestine?" Khan, standing behind him, prompts the crowd to respond: "Jihad! Jihad! Jihad!"

The literal meaning of jihad is struggle or effort. It can refer to a believer's internal struggle to live out their Muslim faith and to build a good Muslim society but can also refer to holy war.

In another clip, Mustafa, a Hizb ut-Tahrir member for more than 20 years, says: "The only solution is jihad by the armies of the Muslim countries. Not by you and me. What training do I have? There are people with arms in Egypt, in

Pakistan, in Saudi Arabia, in Jordan—across the Muslim world. And right now they are boiling like we are boiling."

A third speaker at the event was Luqman Muqeem, who hailed Hamas militants as "heroes" in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks. In an Instagram video Muqeem, who features prominently on Hizb ut-Tahrir's web output, said: "This morning the heroes of Raza [Gaza] broke through the enemy lines of the yahud [Jews]. He added that news of the attacks "made us all very, very happy".

At a conference hosting Hizb ut-Tahrir in July, Khan and Muqeem criticised western democracies and made homophobic remarks as audience members chanted: "Allahu akbar!"

Muqeem told a crowd that "radical change [will] come when Islam knocks down ... secularism", claiming this would "bring an end to the western world order". He added that "the UK will no longer be able to pump its liberal filth, its LGBT filth, its feminist filth, in to the heart of the Muslim world".

At another point at the conference, Khan gave a speech outlining the group's "mission to make Islam dominant". He said: "Our mission isn't to achieve civil rights and equality with everyone else under the liberal, secular values ... when you fight for equal rights and the liberal, secular laws you have to accept everybody's equal rights. Your rights are equal to the rights of a drag queen, your rights are equal to the rights of a lesbian, your rights are equal to the rights of a homosexual."

The Terrorism Act stops the "incitement or encouragement of terrorism". However, its wording makes clear that those guilty of the offence must be encouraging people to "commit, prepare or instigate acts of terrorism or conven-



**Mazhar Khan**  
prompted the  
London crowd to  
chant "jihad"

tion offences". Following the 7/7 attacks in London in 2005, Tony Blair vowed to outlaw the group but backed down after warnings from police and intelligence chiefs that a ban could drive the group underground. David Cameron also called for the group to be banned, in 2011, but the government's independent reviewer of terrorist legislation recommended against it.

Hizb ut-Tahrir did not immediately respond to a request for comment but has issued several statements on its website in recent days.

"We do not support the Hamas group but support the people of Palestine," the group said. "We do not encourage people to do similar actions but instead want a political change so that the resources of Muslim countries are used to liberate and rescue the beleaguered people of Palestine."

"Hizb ut-Tahrir is a political party whose role is to remind the surrounding Arab and Muslim countries to use their military to prevent the daily atrocities of state military terrorism against the Palestinian people. To say that Palestinians should be free of this brutal occupation is not a divisive statement and should not be portrayed as such."

# Heavy rain threatens to pour more misery on flood-hit areas

Shayma Bakht

Weather warnings for rain have been issued to flood-hit areas in England as residents began returning to homes destroyed by Storm Babet.

The Met Office gave a fresh warning for "heavy rain" which it said could lead to further flooding in the East Midlands, including Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, as well as much of Yorkshire, including Sheffield, Leeds and York, and Humberside.

Seven people died during Storm Babet, with hundreds of people left homeless and 1,250 properties in England flooded, according to the Environment Agency (EA).

Police confirmed yesterday that the body of a man had been recovered in Marykirk, Aberdeenshire, after they received reports that a vehicle was seen getting into difficulty in floodwater on Friday.

Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, visited affected residents in Retford, Nottinghamshire, who said they had been forced to rescue their children from flooded homes after the police and fire brigade had said they could not help. One resident, Lucy Rose, told her that her house "is not a home any more, it's just a shell of water".

She said: "I sat for an hour and a half in the pub car park, in the dark, because we didn't know where to go because ... nobody replied. I phoned the police, they couldn't do anything, I phoned the fire brigade, they couldn't do anything." She said that she had to rescue her 17-year-old daughter from their flooded house "in her bare feet" because of the lack of help.

The cabinet minister described the accounts as "very upsetting", adding that she had "personal experience" of this kind of disaster.

A total of 13 areas broke their daily rainfall records for October last week, the Met Office said. An estimated 30,000 properties had needed protection against rising water levels, the EA said. The Met Office's yellow weather warning, which is in place until 4pm today, stated that there is "a small chance that homes and businesses could be flooded, causing damage to some buildings". It



The storm brought huge waves to Seaham in Co Durham and flooding to areas including Retford, Nottinghamshire, below



warned of risks of "fast-flowing or deep floodwater causing danger to life" and that "some communities could become cut off by flooded roads".

The EA said the effects of significant river flooding would continue for parts of the Midlands all week, with minor impacts continuing in parts of the northeast of England until tomorrow.

The latest warnings come after Maureen Gilbert, 83, was found dead in her flooded home in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, on Saturday morning. Her neighbours said that 5ft of water had engulfed the inside of their properties "within minutes" of the River Rother bursting its banks.

A spokeswoman for the EA said that it had been "working around the clock with its partners to help reduce this

risk" and had been putting "barriers up to help protect communities as well as employing pumps in key locations".

Humza Yousaf, the first minister of Scotland, visited Brechin, Angus, where the storm hit hardest, with the River South Esk bursting its banks and flooding dozens of homes. He said there would be a "long road to recovery" and that the local council would receive the funding it needs.

Unsettled weather will continue this week but it will be "nowhere near as impactful as last week", the Met Office said. Today would be mainly dry but outbreaks of rain would push northwards through the day, although the northwest would probably stay dry, the forecaster added.

Weather, page 49

## NatWest staff crowded about 'debanking' of Farage

Ali Mitib

Workers at NatWest gloated about the closure of Nigel Farage's bank accounts and said they had "single-handedly driven him out of the country", according to internal messages.

In the messages handed to the former Ukip leader through a subject access request, one staff member reacted to news that he had been "debanked" by Coutts, a NatWest subsidiary, by saying: "Hope that knocked him down a peg or two."

Staff also suggested that he had "dodgy Russian connections" and described him as a "crackpot" and an "awful human being", according to the messages, seen by The Daily Telegraph.

Farage said that the messages were "vile" and "prejudicial" and called on the bank to reconsider the £11.3 million payout its board is expected to approve on Thursday for Dame Alison Rose, who resigned as its chief executive following the scandal.

Coutts closed the politician's personal and business accounts earlier this year. Rose told a BBC reporter that this was done because he had not met the wealth threshold for the bank, a claim later proven to be false by a 40-page dossier which revealed that Coutts debanked him because his political views did not align with its values.

On June 26, after Farage tweeted about the closure, an internal NatWest email said: "Have you all seen Nigel Farage's Twitter? No one will bank him now. Have we single-handedly driven NF out of the country?"

Farage told the newspaper: "I find it wholly unacceptable that Alison Rose should be able to walk away from this fiasco with £11 million given that the British taxpayer owns nearly 40 per cent of the NatWest group. I hope the board acts accordingly on Thursday."

NatWest Group said it had commissioned a review of the matter, adding: "We have written to Mr Farage to apologise sincerely for the deeply inappropriate comments made about him and the poor behaviours displayed. Neither are consistent with the standards of service that our clients should expect."

Upgrade to Sky Cinema today and enjoy all this for £12 extra a month\*



More of the latest blockbusters



Paramount+  
Included at no extra cost

Q Sky Cinema

Head to the My Sky app to claim your codes

18-month minimum terms required on Sky TV & Sky Cinema (Cinema standard price after, currently £19pm). Sky Q TV subscription required (from £31 a month). Prices may change. Based on rolling top 50 box office movies: www.sky.com/bestmovies. Requires compatible Sky box connected to broadband (minimum recommended speed: 3Mbps (SD); 8Mbps (HD)). Content depends on Sky TV subscription. Paramount+ set-up required, selected content available via app only, app not on Sky+. Paramount+ RRP £6.99 a month at time of writing. 2 standard tickets per customer a month valid Sunday to Thursday. Restrictions & daily limits apply. First come, first served. Redeem in My Sky app. Tickets redeemable in Vue UK & ROI cinemas only. Further terms apply.

SIMON CZAPP/SOLENT NEWS &amp; PHOTO AGENCY

## Slow down for mirror, cygnets, manoeuvre

**E**very morning across the country, volunteers give up free time to shepherd children on their way to school across busy roads. But in one town in Hampshire, they are chaperoning youngsters of a different kind. (Poppy Koronka writes).

Residents in Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, have taken some cygnets under their wing after two were killed and a third was injured by passing cars.

Bishop's Waltham has two ponds separated by a busy road. Now 12 members of the swan patrol work two-hour shifts between 7am and 7pm so that the birds, which have "no road sense", can cross safely.

Sue Eyles, 69, a retired NHS office manager, set up the group five weeks ago after she heard of the cygnet deaths.

She said: "I thought, I will bring a high-viz [vest] and I will see them



across the road."

Christine Trigg, 59, one of the volunteers, said: "The main reason we are doing this is because of the swans that died."

One died and the other was so badly injured the RSPCA had to euthanise it." Another is recovering at a swan rescue centre in

Windsor, Berkshire. The volunteers use WhatsApp to allocate shifts, ensuring that the family of two adult swans and five cygnets

are monitored as often as possible. The group said that most people had been supportive, but the "occasional idiot" shouts abuse. Eyles said:

"Somebody threw something out their car window at me. I'm not too sure what it was. But you do also get people who say 'brilliant job'

Jean Bown is one of a dozen volunteers who help the cygnets to cross a busy road after two were killed. The group cover shifts from 7am to 7pm

and are positive." Deane Bevan, a 66-year-old retired carer, has the "early shift" from 7am to 9am. "The swans have got no road sense and they eat the grass on the verges. So it's just an attempt to slow traffic down just in case," he said.

"Mostly the motorists are very good. You get the occasional idiot. The best ones are truck drivers because it's a big vehicle, and they are pretty responsible if you ask them to slow down. Truckers do react very well."

Colin and Jean Bown, 76 and 70, belong to the patrol and have vowed to watch over the swans come "rain or shine".

Mr Bown said the cygnets were born in the spring and were now five months old. The birds are between five and ten months old when they fledge – and when they do, the patrol will step down.

However, Eyles said she hoped to return with the group next spring to watch over the next generation.

# Doing hot yoga can banish depression

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

Hot yoga can significantly reduce symptoms of severe depression, a clinical trial has found.

Scientists said that regular Bikram yoga classes, in which poses are practised in humid rooms heated to 40C, are an effective treatment option that can put depressed patients into remission.

The trial, led by Massachusetts General Hospital, recruited 80 adults with moderate to severe depression who were randomly divided into two groups.

Half went to 90-minute hot yoga sessions twice a week. The others were told that they were on a waiting list and did not receive any treatment.

After eight weeks, 44 per cent of those who did the yoga classes had seen such a big improvement in symptoms that they were no longer classed as depressed, compared with only 6 per cent of the control group.

The severity of their depression was assessed using a standard clinical tool called the Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology scale. This uses questions to rate factors including feeling suicidal, appetite changes, tiredness, sleep problems and interest in other people and activities.

In the majority of those taking the yoga classes the severity of symptoms fell by at least 50 per cent after eight weeks, compared with 6 per cent of the control

Connect mind and body through breath, movement and sweat

### Abby McLachlan



Abby McLachlan is founder of East of Eden, a yoga, Pilates and meditation studio in east London

"The trend for hot yoga started with Bikram Choudhury increasing the heat of yoga studios in the 1970s in Japan to replicate the Indian heat. I've owned a studio in London for the past eight years offering yoga, mat and reformer Pilates. Since the pandemic I've seen a rise in popularity for classes and workouts that people can't easily

replicate at home. Hot yoga very much falls into this category. We heat to 37C, add high humidity through the use of humidifiers, and use aromatherapy scents and coloured lighting to enhance the experience.

"There are many benefits to practising yoga in a hot room. The heat increases the flexibility of your muscles, which can increase your range of motion and reduce the risk of injury. Your muscles also work harder, making standing postures and balances more challenging, but ultimately more beneficial. You might also detoxify in hot yoga through sweating more, and improve your circulation through better blood flow. You also find that your heart works harder in the heat giving you an

enhanced cardiovascular workout.

"Hot yoga really helps with the mind-body connection, staying in the moment through the breath, the movement and the sweat, combined with the scent and lighting. This makes hot yoga a really effective class to destress. The heat can also help ease joint and muscle pain and provide relief from conditions like arthritis."

### Amanda Place



Amanda Place, from London, runs Sculptriton, which offers online classes in yoga, Pilates and interval training

"Hot yoga, a dynamic

practice performed in a heated room, offers a myriad physical, mental, and emotional benefits that make it a popular choice for fitness enthusiasts. The focus on deep, controlled breathing combined with the challenging poses can help reduce stress and anxiety. This meditative aspect of hot yoga encourages relaxation and mental clarity.

"The elevated temperature in hot yoga studios helps warm up the muscles, making them more pliable. This increased flexibility can improve your range of motion and reduce the risk of injury, both in yoga and in your daily activities."

"Sweating during hot yoga is an excellent way to eliminate toxins from the body. It cleanses the skin and purifies the internal

organs, leaving you feeling rejuvenated.

"The combination of elevated temperature and dynamic postures can provide a cardiovascular workout, improving heart health and increasing overall fitness.

"Hot yoga can be an effective calorie burner, aiding weight management and fat loss when combined with a healthy diet."

"The heat in hot yoga stimulates the production of white blood cells, strengthening the immune system. Hot yoga can provide relief from chronic conditions like arthritis as the heat and stretching reduce joint pain and inflammation."

"The heat and intense poses improve circulation, helping deliver oxygen and nutrients more efficiently throughout the body."



group. Depressive symptoms were reduced even in those who attended hot yoga only once a week, according to the research, published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.

Maren Nyer, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and lead author of the study, said: "Yoga and heat-based interventions could potentially change the course for

treatment for patients with depression by providing a non-medication based approach ... we are currently developing new studies with the goal of determining the specific contributions of each element, heat and yoga."

Previous research has shown that yoga can help depression and anxiety by reducing inflammation and stress, as well as providing benefits of exercise.

Scientists believe heated yoga may provide additional benefits as heating the body can stimulate the release of "happy" chemicals such as dopamine.

Although hot yoga is unlikely to be widely prescribed on the NHS, it could be offered to complement treatments such as antidepressants. More than eight million adults in England take the drugs, but about 30 per cent of patients

do not respond to them. Hot yoga is broadly the same as normal yoga, but conducted in hot and heated conditions, making it extremely sweaty. Celebrity fans include Jennifer Aniston and Gwyneth Paltrow.

The practice was founded in the US by Bikram Choudhury, who has since been disgraced in a series of sex scandals.

## News Politics

# If it's cheap it could be stolen, public warned

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The public have been urged to tell the police if they spot bargains that are "too good to be true" because they are probably the result of shoplifting.

As ministers, police chiefs and retailers introduced a nationwide plan to

tackle rising rates of shoplifting, one of Britain's most senior officers told consumers to "think really carefully" about cheap products they find on the second-hand market.

Organised crime gangs have been blamed for the 25 per cent surge in shoplifting over the past year, with

1,000 offences being reported to police every day.

Individuals are deployed by gangs to steal higher value items from supermarkets such as steaks, bottles of alcohol, cosmetics and toiletries en masse that are then sold on to pubs, corner shops, car boot sales and at marketpla-

ces both offline and online, including Facebook Marketplace.

Amanda Blakeman, chief constable of North Wales police who also leads on retail crime for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), called on the public to be vigilant. She said people should contact Crimestoppers or their local police force if they spotted items being sold "incredibly cheaply".

Blakeman said: "My plea to the community would be if you are buying something that seems too good to be true, it is, and it's probably come at the loss of the retail community and the benefit of somebody else. So think really carefully about where you're buying things from and if it's a very cheap product that obviously wouldn't be for resale at that price ... let us know."

She added that the police working with second-hand retailers such as auction houses and market traders and with online communities but also needed intelligence from the public. She said: "If anyone gets offered something very very cheaply, we would like to hear from them. There's all sorts of anonymous lines to contact us. Crimestoppers [being] one of those."

A new retail crime action plan was agreed between the police, 13 of the UK's biggest retailers and Chris Philp, the crime and policing minister who has demanded a "new zero-tolerance approach to tackling shoplifting".

Police have committed to attending the scene of all shoplifting instances that involve violence against a shop worker, where security guards have detained an offender or where they need to secure evidence. Attendance will be assessed based on risk, but prolific or juvenile offenders will be treated as a priority. Police chiefs resisted demands to respond to every case of shoplifting, saying it was "not realistic". A record 365,164 offences were reported to the police in the 12 months to June, a rate of 1,000 a day.

There will be a national unit dedicated to investigating shoplifting from an organised crime perspective — the first such unit for the offence. Six new intelligence analysts will be employed within Operation Opal, the NPCC's unit for tackling serious organised acquisitive crime.

The unit has been given £600,000 of funded by the retailers, including John Lewis, Co-op, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Next, through an agreement called Project Pegasus.

The Opal unit will analyse footage from CCTV, dashcams and automatic number plate recognition as well as information collected from crime reports across different police forces. It aims to identify organised crime groups behind mass shoplifting. Police forces will also run each CCTV image of shoplifting offences provided by retailers through the Police National Database, which includes facial recognition technology.

Philp said: "The plan makes it astronomically, exponentially more likely that shoplifters will get caught. Capturing all of the CCTV images — not some of them, all of them — and then running them through the facial recognition database makes it dramatically more likely that people are going to get picked up and prosecuted."

"Police will be attending a lot more incidents. All of those things collectively will create a hostile environment for shoplifters. It's going to be a steep change in the kind of response that retailers and the public see."



Nicola Sturgeon began driving lessons

## £150m from HS2 goes to buses in north and Midlands

Geraldine Scott  
Senior Political Correspondent

Bus services in the north and the Midlands are to be handed £150 million of investment that would have been spent on HS2, the transport secretary said.

Mark Harper said buses were the most popular form of public transport and "people will be able to see the benefits of that much more quickly" after the prime minister scrapped the northern leg of the high-speed rail project this month.

Harper told Times Radio that the cost of HS2 was going to be "higher than expected; that's one of the reasons we made the decision to cancel the second phase of the project and divert £36 billion into other transport projects".

The funds for the north and the Midlands were the "first down payment on £1 billion for buses" planned for the regions, Harper told Sky News.

Across the country the government is extending a £2 bus fare cap, which had been due to rise to £2.50 next week. He said it would be a "real boost to people's cost of living".

It comes after The Sunday Times reported that the company in charge of

## Is your biggest challenge at work the coffee machine?

# You should

**talk to us about a career path that offers more stretch**

[specsaverscareers.com](http://specsaverscareers.com)

Now hiring  
retail and clinical roles

Specsavers



In March after resigning as first minister. She hailed her instructor Andy MacFarlane, inset, saying he was not just "an excellent teacher but someone I could trust"

building HS2 had been accused of deliberately covering up its escalating costs to ensure politicians would continue to spend billions of pounds of public money on the project.

Harper told Times Radio that the allegations "date back a considerable period of time" and some had already been investigated. However, he said others were under active investigation and there were continuing "live tribunals". He said he was therefore unable to comment further.

Dame Meg Hillier, chairwoman of the Commons public accounts committee, told Today on BBC Radio 4 she had raised concerns in 2019 when ministers told the Commons the budget for the scheme remained £55 billion.

She said: "Optimism bias creeps in, no one wants to give the bad news but you've also got issues on governance. We had a lot of changes of political leadership in this period and each time we've revisited it we've had quite a lot of interference in a big project — and if you change projects along the way you're going to have more costs."

With regards to HS2, Harper said he had pressed "the focus on delivering to hit the cost targets".

Rishi Sunak said the announcement about buses was the start of his Network North plan to replace HS2.

Of the initial £150 million of funding, the largest allocation is about £16.6 million for the West Midlands Combined Authority. A total of £16.3 million will go to Greater Manchester and almost £13.4 million to West Yorkshire.

Local authorities and bus operators will decide how to use the money but the government said it was enough to support up to 25 million miles of new bus services.

**Steven Swinford** Political Editor

Michael Gove was heckled by Tory MPs last night despite announcing that he will delay implementing a ban on no-fault evictions in the face of a backbench rebellion.

The Conservatives promised in 2019 to ban section 21 notices, known as no-fault evictions, to protect renters.

The pledge has been backed by a succession of Tory prime ministers but is strongly opposed by a significant number of the party's MPs, who see it as anti-landlord and believe it will exacerbate the shortage of private rented accommodation. Research published this year showed that 87 MPs earn an income from residential property, including 68 Conservatives.

Gove, the levelling up, communities and housing secretary, gave assurances

during a debate in the Commons on the Renters Reform Bill that the government would not implement the ban until court services had been improved with changes such as digitising more court processes, improving bailiff re-

ruitment and retention and providing early legal advice to tenants. Labour said the court reforms could take years.

Marcus Fysh, the Tory MP for Yeovil, said the bill would "drive private landlords out of the market", adding: "Is this not entirely contrary to the govern-

ment's main aim right now of bringing inflation down? Private rents are the key cause of core inflation. And this is disastrous for every renter in the country who wants to see a well-supplied housing market."

Gove responded: "That's not true. We've actually seen an increase in the number of homes in the private sector. There is no evidence at all that the abolition of section 21 will lead to any reduction in the number of homes in the private sector. What we need is more homes overall. It is that that's at the route of our challenge."

"It is in nobody's interest to allow unscrupulous landlords to behave in this way, to allow vulnerable people to be rendered voiceless and force the taxpayer to pick up the bill. The idea that abolishing section 21 is somehow unconservative is to me absolutely non-

## New driver Sturgeon finally gains independence

**Kieran Andrews**  
Scottish Political Editor

Nicola Sturgeon has quit frontbench politics, but her future is destined to contain more U-turns after she passed her driving test "at the tender age of 53".

The MSP and former first minister, who succeeded on her first attempt, wrote on Instagram that her achievement "hopefully proves that it's never too late in life to do something new".

She said of her instructor Andy MacFarlane: "It was really important to me ... not just to have an excellent teacher but someone I could trust and feel comfortable with — Andy was all of that and more."

Sturgeon learnt to drive in an electric car. Friends said that she took the decision because unleaded and diesel cars were being phased out so there was "no point" in learning how to operate a traditional gear system.

She began taking lessons in March after her resignation as first minister and previously described it as being "part and parcel of the next stage of life". She passed her theory test in June, a day before she was arrested and questioned for seven hours as a suspect by detectives investigating the SNP's finances. She was released without charge and inquiries are continuing.

Operation Branchform was launched by Police Scotland after it received multiple complaints over the use of about £600,000 in donations to the SNP to fight a second independence referendum. Sir Iain Livingstone, the former chief constable, has since said that the investigation has widened to include "fraud or potential embezzlement ... [and] misuse of funds".

**Ban on no-fault evictions delayed**

sensical." At this point Gove was heckled by his own backbenchers. One, Sir Edward Leigh, could be heard shouting: "It is unconservative."

Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader and the shadow levelling up secretary, said: "The government has betrayed renters with this grubby deal with the Tory backbenches."

"The ban on no-fault evictions has majority and cross-party support ... but this flip-flop kicks it into the long grass."

"The government plans to act as judge and jury in deciding when the courts have been sufficiently improved, meaning their manifesto pledge will likely not be met before the next election ... tens of thousands more families who the government promised to protect now face the prospect of being threatened with homelessness or kicked out of their homes by bailiffs."

## Decisions on benefits and migrants 'being made by AI'

**Geraldine Scott**

Civil servants in at least eight government departments and the police are using artificial intelligence to make decisions on welfare, immigration and criminal justice, it has been claimed.

The Guardian reported that the systems were being used in the Department for Work and Pensions for decisions on benefits, that facial recognition software was used by the Metropolitan Police, and an algorithm

was used by the Home Office to spot sham marriages.

Rishi Sunak has previously said he believes AI could improve public services if used safely and securely. Michelle Donelan, the science secretary, will give a speech today on AI strategy and how to ensure security.

Next week the government will hold an AI safety summit at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes. No 10 has declined to publish a list of world leaders attending but the prime minister's spokesman

said: "We remain confident that we will get the right people there, both in terms of world leaders but also leading tech firms, leading businesses and experts in the AI space."

He added "no one was looking at this" anywhere else in the world, and said: "So it's worth acknowledging that this will be the first time that there has been any gathering to consider the issue of AI safety, and that in itself is hugely worthwhile. We remain confident that we will have the right group of individu-

als to look carefully at this issue in terms of how we set the right guardrails so we can maximise the opportunities."

Sunak previously said: "Obviously there are benefits from artificial intelligence for growing our economy, for transforming our society, improving public services. But ... that has to be done safely and securely and with guard rails in place, and that has been our regulatory approach ... so that we can exploit AI for its benefits."

**Bletchley's AI gathering, pages 32-33**

Only the  
*finest* expert pasta makers with  
over 100 years' experience create  
*Tesco Finest Gigli Pasta.*

...All that, so you can  
say 'al dente' in an  
Italian accent.

TESCO  
*finest* \*

Serving suggestion. Available in the majority of larger stores.  
Excludes Express and Whoosh.

# TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

## Look back in laughter

The comedian Steve Nallon has co-written a book called *Destination Time Travel* to coincide with a British Film Institute series on films of that genre. The time he is most often asked to go back to is the 1980s, when he played Margaret Thatcher for *Spitting Image*.

Although he nailed the voice, some, surprisingly, were taken in by him in a wig and frock. He was promoting his book *I, Margaret* in 1989 when a woman at a signing asked if he could bring back hanging. "What a good idea," said Nallon, right. "I'll do that especially for you." He also did a signing at the Labour conference, which attracted the suspicion of the police. A copper told him: "If you don't want to wear your badge, prime minister, at least keep it in your handbag."

**Nallon can do other female politicians.** He recently told Ann Widdecombe that she has a "two-note" vocal quirk reminiscent of Homer. Widders was bewildered, especially when he added that he meant it as in Simpson, not The Iliad. "She had the sort of blank face you see in dogs when you show them a card trick," he said.



After winning the World Cup in 1966 Bobby Charlton, who died on Saturday, had his salary at Manchester United increased to £15,000 a year, £1,000 more than Harold Wilson got. American sport was well ahead on recognising relative worth. In 1930 the baseball player Babe Ruth was given a contract with the New York Yankees worth an unprecedented \$80,000, more than President Hoover was paid. Asked why he thought he was worth more than the president, Ruth replied: "I had a better year than he did."

**AT SEVENS AND ELEVENS** British politicians should avoid Americanisms. In yesterday's debate on Gaza, Vicky Ford, MP for Chelmsford, said that everyone was shocked "by the events of 7/11". Presumably she was trying to compare the Hamas attacks with 9/11 but October 7 should be 10/7 in

American date order. 7-Eleven is an American convenience store.

**Kate Mosse has little time for the oft-repeated advice to "write what you know".** The author tells the podcast *Women with Balls* that if "I had followed that I'd have only written my pregnancy book. And if other writers followed that advice, there'd be no crime fiction. Just endless Jeffrey Archer."

### EYE OF THE BEFUDDLER

Jess Conrad could have been James Bond if his eyes hadn't let him down. The actor told an event in Kent that having got an audition to take over from Sean Connery in 1969 he invested £100 in a pair of blue contact lenses, reasoning that it worked for Paul Newman. Sadly, he dropped one just as the producers called him in and when quickly putting it back in his eye, rammed in some carpet fluff as well. "I couldn't see a thing but walked in and announced 'The name's Conrad, Jess Conrad,'" he said. He heard a sigh and Cubby Broccoli said: "I'm over here." Any lingering chance vanished as in leaving the room he walked into a cupboard. George Lazenby got *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, Conrad got the sex comedy *Cool It, Carol*.

**PATRICK KIDD**

# Dust discovery adds 40m years to moon

**Rhys Blakeley** Science Correspondent

The moon is 40 million years older than we had believed, according to a new analysis of lunar samples collected by Apollo astronauts half a century ago.

The Earth's only natural satellite is thought to have formed from debris after a Mars-sized object, known as Theia, hit our planet — but the exact timing of the impact was a mystery.

The new research looked at moon-dust brought back by the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. The results, published in the journal *Geochemical Perspectives Letters*, suggest it is at least 4.46 billion years old. An analysis in 2019 suggested a maximum age of 4.42 billion years.

"These crystals are the oldest known solids that formed after the giant impact," said Professor Philipp Heck of the Field Museum in Chicago, senior author of the study. "Because we know how old these crystals are, they serve as an anchor for the lunar chronology."

The energy of the impact with Theia melted the rock that eventually became the moon's surface. "When the surface was molten like that, zircon crystals couldn't form and survive. So any crystals on the moon's surface must have formed after this lunar magma ocean cooled," Heck said.

The study was the first use of a technique called atom probe tomography to define the crystals' age. Dr Jennika Greer, the lead author, said: "We start by sharpening a piece of the lunar

sample into a very sharp tip, using a focused ion beam microscope.

"Then we use UV lasers to evaporate atoms from the surface of that tip. The atoms travel through a mass spectrometer. How fast they move tells us how heavy they are, which in turn tells us what they're made of."

Atom probe tomography is usually used to improve industrial processes, such as steelmaking. The researchers said it had not usually been used in geology, and had never before been used to study the moon.

The research showed how many of the atoms inside the crystals had undergone radioactive decay, which happens when an atom has an unstable configuration of protons and neutrons in its nucleus. It sheds some of these and turns into a different element. Uranium decays into lead, for instance.

By looking at the proportion of different uranium and lead atoms — called isotopes — in a sample, scientists can tell how old it is.

"Radiometric dating works a little bit like an hourglass," said Heck. "[It counts] the number of parent atoms and the number of daughter atoms they have transformed to. The passage of time can then be calculated because the transformation rate is known."

It was good to know when the moon formed, Heck said, "[because] the moon stabilises the Earth's rotational axis, it's the reason there are 24 hours in a day, it's the reason we have tides".

## Britain needs 1 million more genuinely affordable homes

That's why, since 2018, we've lent £16bn to the social housing sector and are working with Crisis and industry experts to ensure everyone has access to a safe place to call home.

**Helping Britain Prosper**



Working together to end homelessness



## News



**Flat pack** Cardinal Wolsey planned a grand college gate for his native Ipswich before falling from grace. Almost 500 years later the artist Olivier Grossetete brought his vision to life using cardboard and tape, and invited the public to deconstruct it

## Drunk driver who hit mother jailed

Ali Mitib

A drunk driver who crashed into a mother pushing a pram containing her 11-month-old daughter and left the woman with life-changing injuries has been jailed for more than three years.

Dale Clark, 38, was on a vodka binge and was looking at his phone when he hit Rebecca Sharp, 36, in Bournemouth on April 11.

Bournemouth crown court was told Sharp pushed the baby to safety but was left unconscious in the road with near-fatal head injuries while Clark sped off.

He was arrested several hours later,

was breathalysed and had a reading of 46mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath – above the legal limit of 35mg. Dorset police estimated that Clark was driving at more than 40mph on the 30mph road.

On the first day of his trial, Clark pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

He was jailed for three years and eight months and banned from driving for six years, with the disqualification period due to start on his release from prison.

Sharp is still being treated in hospital

for the head injuries she sustained in the crash.

Andrew Coley, senior crown prosecutor for Wessex, said: "This incident has shattered the lives of Mrs Sharp and her family. It is especially shocking that when Clark saw Mrs Sharp on the ground with her young child nearby, he chose not to stop and left her for dead."

Detective Constable Michelle Underwood, of Dorset police, said: "Drivers need to understand that when they are behind the wheel, they are in control of a potentially lethal machine and reckless actions such as this can have truly horrific consequences."

# Magistrate quits over 'hammer to crack a nut' 20mph limit

Ali Mitib

A magistrate in Wales has resigned because he believes that punishing motorists for breaking the new 20mph limit is like "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut".

Nick Colbourne, 66, from Wrexham, said the legislation, which introduced the limit to all residential roads in the country, made him feel "uneasy".

The Welsh government argues that the lower speed limit will save lives and protect motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Under the limit, which took effect last month, those convicted of speeding face a £100 fine and three points on their licence.

Colbourne, a former police officer who has served as a magistrate in Mold and Wrexham law courts for 18 years, expressed concern that people caught violating the limit a number of times could face a six-month ban under the "totting up scheme".

Motorists can be banned from driving for six months if they have received 12 or more penalty points within three years.

The former magistrate told the Wrexham Leader: "If an idiot is going to drive through somewhere at say 60mph, they're going to do it whether the limit is 20mph or 30mph."

"I'm not going to do it. That's not what court's about, it feels like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut ... We all accept 20mph outside schools but I don't think blanket coverage across Wales was the answer."

The limit has been criticised because of concerns it will affect public transport, ordinary drivers and emergency response times.

A study by Transport for Wales, the Welsh transport operator, conducted in eight towns and cities last year, found

that drivers reduced their speeds by 3mph in the areas where the limit was tested before the restrictions were introduced across the country.

Police have previously said that their response to the limit will be proportionate and reasonable while drivers get accustomed to the rules. Officers said they would try to educate the public during the first year of the new limit.

Chief Constable Mark Travis, of South Wales police, told the BBC: "Our priority is to help people understand why they should slow down and the benefits to their community."

"Where we find people driving above 20mph, we will stop drivers and speak to them about the dangers and risks



**Nick Colbourne**  
said the new limit's  
blanket coverage  
was unnecessary

about driving above the speed limit.

"We won't be taking enforcement action against those people who are actually engaging with us and trying to bring their speed down — so they won't receive a fine."

"The people who will be fined will be those driving at the highest levels. Ultimately, if necessary, we will enforce — but that is always a last resort for us."

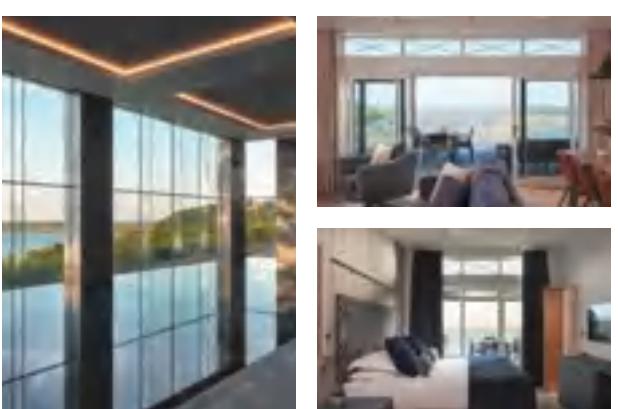
A spokesman for the Welsh government said that it recognised the 20mph limit was a significant change but added that the measure was "saving lives and making our community safer for everyone".

"We continue to work closely with emergency services and other agencies to engage with drivers about the benefits of slower speeds," the spokesman said.

LUXURY LODGES  
ESCAPE THE ORDINARY

# Living the dream

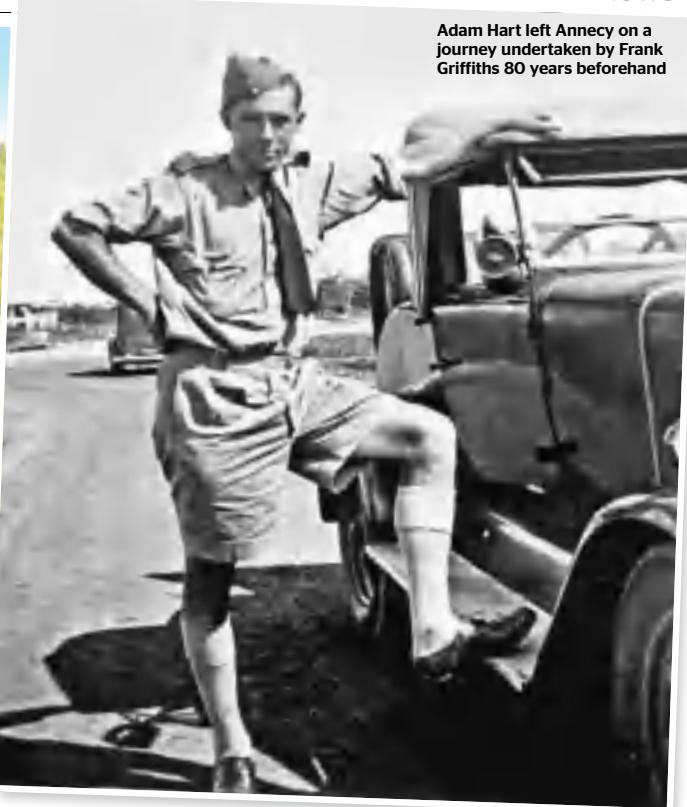
2 years service charge included • Guaranteed subletting returns for 2 years



An exclusive collection of coastal lodges in West Wales and Cornwall that combine the luxuries of hotel living with the freedom of being yours. Subletting options available. Up to 8% yield. 2 years service charge included and guaranteed subletting returns for 2 years of up to £56,090.

Prices From £295,000

0808 258 9243



Adam Hart left Annecy on a journey undertaken by Frank Griffiths 80 years beforehand

# Following in the footsteps of a hero

**Student retraces his great-grandfather's epic escape from the Nazis across the Pyrenees, writes Jack Blackburn**

As the injured RAF pilot Frank Griffiths crossed the Pyrenees in October 1943, looking over his shoulder for Nazis, all he could think about was survival.

Eighty years on, his descendants have gained an insight into the physical and mental challenges of Griffiths's extraordinary feat by retracing his steps, albeit in much safer circumstances.

For Adam Hart, 22, emulating his great-grandfather's journey seemed like the perfect way to honour his legacy. Having just completed Ironman Wales, a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a marathon, he had not imagined the trek would so thoroughly test his endurance.

"It was really, really tough," Hart said. "I thought I would be absolutely fine, but it was brutal. We did about 50,000 steps on the first day and we were absolutely knackered at the end of the day."

with massive blisters." Squadron Leader Griffiths had crashed while on a mission to drop supplies at Annecy for the Resistance.

Hart recreated Griffiths's journey with his uncle, Alex Holland, 55. On the way, the pair formed a bond with the descendants of those who risked their lives to house Griffiths and help him to safety. "You meet up with the people whose parents or grandparents were literally risking their necks and their whole family to save this random British pilot who just happened to crash near to where they lived," Hart said.

Griffiths was 30 when his modified Halifax aircraft crashed on August 15, 1943, near Annecy. Six crew and five civilians were killed but he survived. As he was flung from the wreckage, his sustained injuries to his mouth, his wrist and arm were broken and he lost

"And 80 years later they're still so moved by it and attached to it."

It was as he was finishing his masters in journalism at Cardiff University that Hart had the idea. The story of Griffiths's exploits were frequently told in the family and the pilot himself had written a book about it in 1980.

Griffiths was 30 when his modified Halifax aircraft crashed near Annecy. Six crew and five civilians were killed but he survived. As he was flung from the wreckage, his sustained injuries to his mouth, his wrist and arm were broken and he lost

a lot of blood. He was rescued and a doctor set his arm the next day. He was smuggled into Switzerland and tried to get home because he saw it as his duty to rejoin the fight and was desperate to see his wife and child. However, a plan to get him out via France fell apart, leaving him perilously close to the Nazi authorities. With more local help, he was able to get across the south of the country to Perpignan. From there he walked 80 miles to safety, travelling only at night, gaining more injuries on the way and trusting in the kindness of strangers.

Eventually Griffiths made it to Figueras in Spain and, after yet more adventures and a brief imprisonment, he was transported to Gibraltar and then took a flight home. Even that was perilous, as the aircraft was struck by lightning and its nose fell off on landing.

Hart was particularly interested in those who had helped his ancestor and set out to find the Saques family, who owned a farmhouse in Céret in the Pyrénées-Orientales. In October 1943 they had harboured Griffiths and in return he had given the children English lessons and left them a dictionary.

It had his name in it and in 1973 the family sought him out for a reunion. Hart was able to renew this and the connection remains as a special bond between the two families.

"We thought we'd have a quick look around, but they had laid out a massive reception lunch for us," he said.

"The daughter of Antoine, my great-grandfather's former English pupil, made a toast to Frank. My uncle, a 55-year-old Welsh cattle farmer, had tears streaming down his face."

Hart was also able to see the dictionary, which had been used by Antoine when he was 14. "While we were flicking through it I couldn't understand why they all started laughing at certain pages," Hart said. "Not speaking French, I didn't realise the 14-year-old lad had underlined the rude words."

The day at the farmhouse came as a relief for Hart after days of slogging up and down the slopes. "I can't imagine how hard it must have been to do in the night-time with the constant fear of being captured," he said.

Hart tracked his journey on an Instagram account called @franks.escape\_ and he is writing a book about it.



Six crew and five civilians were killed when Griffiths's modified Halifax aircraft crashed near Annecy. Having made it to the mountains, the pilot took refuge in a farmhouse, where he gave English lessons to the children and left them a French-English dictionary



# Search is on for silver models of 1920 Times-sponsored flight

**Jack Blackburn History Correspondent**

The hunt is on for the descendants of four brave airmen and their inheritance after Antiques Roadshow shone a light on one of the most daring parts of The Times's history.

A woman was given a valuation of £3,000 for a silver model of a biplane given to her grandfather after he took part in 1920 in a Times-sponsored attempt to fly from Cairo to Cape Town for the first time.

The woman, who has not been named, is the granddaughter of Sergeant Major James Wyatt, who was the

mechanic for the flight. The model's plinth carries a plaque bearing his name, so it is presumed that each of his colleagues was also presented with a silver model.

The woman who took the antique to be appraised told the BBC1 programme, broadcast on Sunday, that it would be lovely if other owners could come forward and maybe arrange for all five models to be reunited.

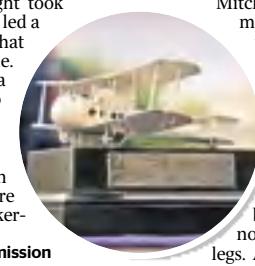
However, she indicated that she had no intention of cashing in on hers. "I thought it might be nice to donate it to the Brooklands Museum, where my grandfather later worked," she said.

The museum in Weybridge, Surrey, is devoted to motoring and aviation.

The pioneering flight took place after The Times led a campaign to prove that such a trip was possible. "It seemed the duty of a great newspaper to make the attempt," said a piece in the paper.

The four other men who took the flight were Captain Stanley Cockerell

**The memento of the mission**



ell, Captain Frank C Broome DFC, Claude Corby and Dr Peter Chalmers Mitchell. Cockerell and Broome were the pilots, Corby was employed as a rigger and Mitchell was the scientific observer who also wrote dispatches for The Times.

Their Vickers Vimy biplane was able to go 1,000 miles nonstop, but the 7,000 miles between the two cities did not break down into seven legs. A map of their route has

more than 20 stops marked on it. In the event disaster struck about halfway through when the plane crashed at Tabora, east of Lake Tanganyika.

The Times's report said that Cockerell and Corby received slight injuries but the Vickers Vimy itself was so seriously damaged that its flying days are over".

It was also noted that George V had taken a keen interest in the flight and had inquired as to the crew's wellbeing.

The model biplane was made of solid silver by Goldsmith and Silversmith Co of London. It was hallmarked 1929, so could have been a gift marking the tenth anniversary of the attempt.



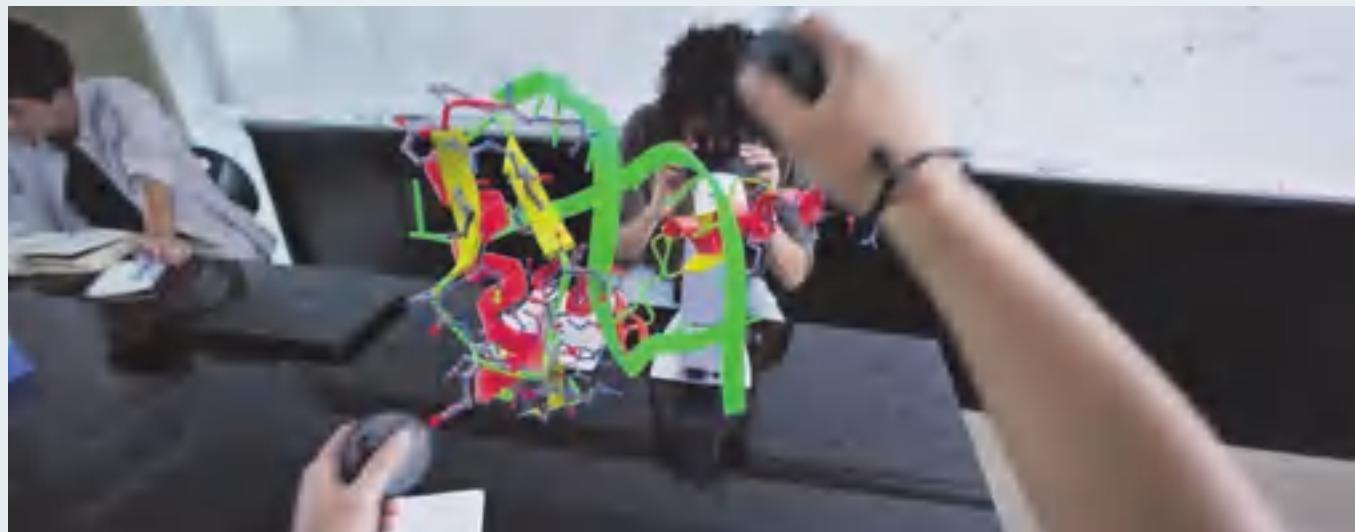
 Meta

## Today, students are using AR/VR tools like Nanome to advance their learning.

Suffolk University students are using metaverse tools like Nanome, which uses virtual reality to visualise molecules in new ways. Helping them to deepen their understanding of biochemistry and advance their research.

The metaverse is having impact today.

LEARN MORE AT  
[META.COM/METAVERSEIMPACT/EN](https://meta.com/metaverseimpact/en)



## UK failing to help stop global loss of forests

The UK is failing to show leadership to tackle deforestation and cut it out of supply chains, according to an international group of experts that said the rate of global forest loss accelerated last year (Will Humphries writes).

The 2023 Forest Declaration Assessment found that deforestation accelerated while businesses and governments failed to turn commitments into meaningful action.

The report said global forest loss last year was 6.6 million hectares, while tropical forest loss was 4.1 million hectares. The authors said the



ANDRE DIB/WWF

Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. Some 4.1 million hectares of tropical forest were lost last year — equal to an area the size of Denmark

total loss was 21 per cent higher than it should have been to be on track to hit the Cop26 target to reverse deforestation by 2030.

The assessment was published alongside a paper from the World Wide Fund for Nature. The reports suggest at least 100 times more public funding has gone towards environmentally harmful subsidies globally than on cash for forests. "Deforestation has remained a profitable business and it's time to call a halt," Mike Barrett, WWF UK science and conservation director, said.

The government said the Environment Act included "due diligence legislation to help tackle illegal deforestation in UK supply chains".

# Dating app lets parents rate your matches with pride or prejudice

**Jack Malvern**

What would Jane Austen's matriarchal characters make of dating apps?

The ability for today's lovers to exchange messages without the need for formal introductions or chaperones would make Mrs Bennet quail.

Happily for mothers with Austenian tendencies, Tinder has introduced a new service that restores the ability for parents to meddle in their children's love lives before the suitors meet. Tinder Matchmaker allows users to seek opinions from family and friends on a prospective date before deciding to meet.

Tinder, the most popular dating app, works by getting users to set up a profile page including pictures and basic details before allowing them to see a succession of other people's profiles for them to approve, by swiping right on a phone screen, or decline by swiping left. Suitors who independently express an interest in one another are notified of a match and allowed to chat.

The new service means that a user can share other people's profiles with



Tinder users can share users' profiles with up to 15 friends

up to 15 friends, inviting judgment and perhaps scorn at images of men holding up fish or women with artful eyebrows.

Tinder, which says that the feature means that "besties and grandmas" can "act as your personal cupid", will give chosen friends 24 hours to signal their approval on profiles. The user will then be shown a list of people annotated with how many of their friends approved.

The dating app said: "The Tinder user still makes the final call on who to like — but now knows who their friends are rooting for."

The company released an advertisement for the feature starring the rapper Coi Leray in which she appears on a throne sitting in judgment as suitors compete for the attentions of a woman named Lauren.

The first candidate is rejected after being asked what streaming services he has, to which he replies: "Just the ones from my parents and my ex's parents."

Another is swiped away for introducing himself with the words: "Lauren, you got my heart soarin."

The final candidate refers to men who try to impress potential partners

by posing with a fish they have caught. "The only fish you'll see in my hands is sushi," the actor says.

He is approved by Leray and other characters who approve of his cheekbones and his assurance that he has a bed rather than a mattress on a floor.

Leray said that the feature was an extension of people handing their phones to friends to inspect suitors.

"Obviously you want your friends to like whoever you're crushing on, and Tinder Matchmaker is a fun way to get the bestie seal of approval even before the match."

Melissa Hobley, chief marketing officer at Tinder, said: "Tinder Matchmaker brings your circle of trust into your dating journey and helps you see the possibilities you might be overlooking from the perspective of those closest to you."

Tinder, which claims to be the most downloaded dating app, is increasingly facing competition from rivals including Hinge and Bumble.

Whether the feature makes for better relationships is unclear. Mrs Bennet's supervision of her daughters in *Pride and Prejudice* failed to prevent one falling for the unsuitable Mr Wickham.

## Grandfather jailed for custody-feud double murder

**Kieran Gair**

A widower who gunned down two men, including his grandson's father, during a custody dispute has been sentenced to life in prison.

Stephen Alderton, 67, murdered Joshua Dunmore, 32, and Dunmore's father, Gary, 57, with a shotgun in March, two days after a custody hearing that had split their families.

Alderton spent months contemplating murder, and a possible move to Panama, to settle the dispute over the care of his seven-year-old grandson, Cambridge crown court was told. His daugh-

ter, Samantha Stephen, had been in a relationship with Joshua Dunmore but the pair split after the birth of their son.

In previous text messages, Alderton wrote that he would "override any court decision" and that there was "always a plan B". He admitted the double murder when he appeared in court in June. Judge Mark Bishop, sentencing him, described the murders as an "execution" and Alderton was jailed for a minimum of 25 years.

The Dunmores were found dead at their homes in villages six miles apart in Cambridgeshire — Joshua in Bluntisham and his father in Sutton. Peter Gair,



Stephen Alderton was angered by a court ruling on his grandson

for the prosecution, told the court that Samantha had married Paul Stephen, a American citizen, in 2020, soon after her relationship with Dunmore ended.

A dispute arose when she asked to take her son to the US, where the couple planned to start a new life. A family court ruled that the boy could not be taken out of the country. Joshua Dunmore, a builder who maintained regular contact with his son after the split, had opposed her application.

In a text message recovered from Alderton's phone, he wrote that he "had a shortlist of people that I intend to murder".

BR01828 02/2023



Helping solve your financial puzzles?

It takes Aviva.

aviva.co.uk



solutioN: INVESTING

## News

# Ex-Post Office chiefs could face lawsuits

**Tom Witherow**

A Post Office campaigner is considering private criminal prosecutions of the former chief executive Paula Vennells and other bosses.

Alan Bates, founder of the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance, said he had had discussions with lawyers about bypassing state prosecutors. He said there had been "no consequences" for Vennells, who was in charge between 2012 and 2019, for the scandal in which up to 980 subpostmasters were convicted of fraud, theft and false accounting between 1999 and 2015 on the basis of faulty data from the Horizon computer system.

Bates was the lead claimant in a group action against the Post Office in the High Court, which resulted in a £58 million settlement and allowed dozens of subpostmasters to overturn their convictions.

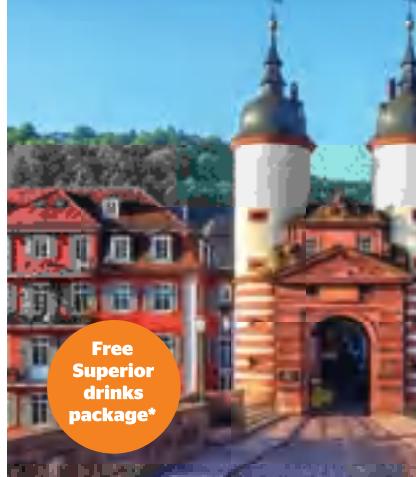
Vennells apologised for the scandal in 2019. A spokesman for her said she was participating in the inquiry into the scandal and was "determined to assist in whatever way she can".



Floorless Carpets from the Middle East, including a 16th-century Persian rug expected to fetch £2 million, feature in an Islamic art sale at Christie's in London this week

## Rhine, Strasbourg and Heidelberg CRUISE

SERVICES OF A CRUISE DIRECTOR AND CONCIERGE



EIGHT DAYS FROM  
**£1,599**  
PER PERSON

Seven nights on board in your choice of luxury cabin or suite

All meals on board, including the Captain's Dinner

Complimentary on-board tea, coffee and Wi-Fi

Return scheduled flights from a selection of regional airports or seats on Eurostar from London St Pancras International with regional rail connections available\*

Five-star service from an English-speaking crew and knowledgeable local guides

### INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

Eight guided tours including Koblenz, Boppard, Mainz, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Colmar, Rüdesheim and Cologne

Cruise through the magnificent Rhine Gorge

Free Superior drinks package\*

A luxurious river cruise to Heidelberg and Strasbourg, enjoying escorted tours to the magnificent cathedral city of Cologne and the beautiful Alsatian town of Colmar, these cultural centres are matched equally by the natural splendour of the meandering Rhine Valley.

Departures April to October 2024

0808 304 3118 quote KS492  
[thetimes.co.uk/riviera-rch](http://thetimes.co.uk/riviera-rch)

**TIMES Travel Offers**

Prices based on two people sharing. Single rooms available at a supplement. Additional entrance costs may apply. Travel insurance is not included but is strongly recommended. This holiday is operated by and subject to booking conditions of Riviera Travel, ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected, a company independent of News UK. Subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. For further information please write to Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1SP quoting The Times, KS492. See website for full details. \*A supplement may apply. \*Unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available).



RIVIERA TRAVEL

## Ding-dong over plan for a belfry at 1960s church

**Will Humphries**  
Southwest Correspondent

People complaining about church bells disturbing their peace are routinely told that they should not have bought a house so close to a belfry. But what happens if the church bells move in next to you?

Disgruntled residents of Old Road in Tiverton, Devon, have been told that the once-silent St James's Catholic church, which was built in 1967, will soon be the beneficiary of a spire and a belfry housing two bells.

The church, which began life as a social centre and resembles a large village hall, will also double in size under the new plans.

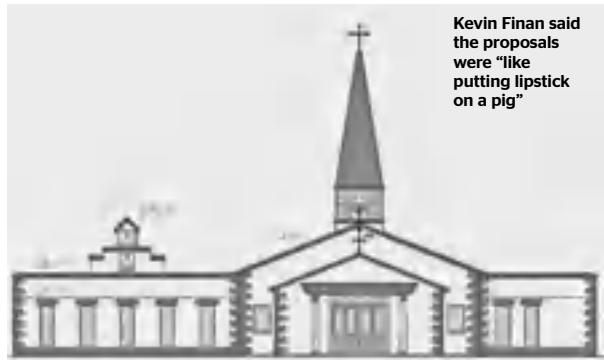
Kevin Finan, 71, who lives opposite, said no one within earshot of the church attended services and the addition of a belfry and spire was "like putting lipstick on a pig".

Finan, the former chief executive of the council, said: "The only people the bells will impact are the neighbours, who won't be attending the church. The parish is about 50 square miles so the bells aren't going to be heard by parishioners."

"I have previously lived next to a church and the bells would vibrate you out of bed in the morning but that was our choice to move there. This is being added to the existing neighbourhood. I can appreciate the argument about [a belfry and spire] being traditional but the building itself is completely characterless."

The design statement submitted on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth said the addition of "a bellcote and spire shall help identify the building as a church". "Something which is desperately needed," it added.

Mid Devon council's planning committee has approved the plans for the church, which sits opposite a row of Victorian terraced homes, after being told the bells would ring six times a week for 15 minutes before



Kevin Finan said the proposals were "like putting lipstick on a pig"

each service. One councillor called the idea of a new belfry a "thing of beauty".

Rachel Gilmour, a Liberal Democrat councillor who supported the plans, told the planning committee meeting: "Henry VIII destroyed the most beautiful Catholic churches in this country. If the Catholic church wants to extend this one in Tiverton and stick a belfry on top, then that's fine with me."

Les Cruwys, a fellow Liberal Democrat councillor and chairman of the



planning committee, disagreed. "It's one thing moving into a beautiful little village and buying a lovely cottage next to a church, but this is the opposite: the church bells are moving in next to them," he told the meeting.

Concerns were raised by residents about the potential noise impact, but planning officers argued that it would be equivalent to "light traffic noise".

Keri Parkinson, the agent for the church's planning application, said the two 5kg bells would be struck with an electric ringer and produce a sound in the range of 100 to 125 decibels. "From an internet search, it seems that this should equate to 70 decibels from street level, which it states is less than average traffic noise and a ringing telephone," Parkinson told the council in an email.

"It is worth us noting that these are Catholic bells and not Anglican. It is most unlikely that more than one bell will toll at a time apart possibly from at the end of a wedding service. A Catholic bell tolls dead hung [in a fixed position]." Anglican bell ringing can involve eight bells or more ringing for three hours for a full peal and for half an hour at a Sunday service.

Councillors supported the application with a number of conditions.

We really can't wait 15 months for an election

Hugo Rifkind

Page 25



# Comment

## Arab powers must help shape Gaza's future

As Saudi Arabia showcases a new Middle East, Gulf states need to take greater ownership of the Palestine problem

**William Hague**



Ten years ago, I was in the Israeli prime minister's office in Jerusalem with the man who is so hard to keep out of it, Bibi Netanyahu. After I had made the longstanding British case for pursuing peace with Palestinians based on two sovereign states, he talked at length about the unreliability of the Palestinian side, bedevilled by weakness, division or extremism. "It is not that a two-state solution is not desirable," he summed up, "it is that it is not available."

The assumption that peace is not available can be a dangerous one, because it turns into a belief that it never will be. It then follows that Israel should play off Palestinian factions against each other and undermine their legitimate leadership, as it has done. It means settlers might as well push out more Palestinians in the West Bank. The same view on the other side empowers extremists and means Hamas and Hezbollah will always have recruits for the next war. Each side proves all the more strongly to the other that peace will never be available, nothing more so than the terrorism perpetrated by Hamas two weeks ago.

This assumption, that future peace is inconceivable, will be key to the strategies of both sides in the intensifying war in Gaza we are about to witness. For Hamas and its allies, the objective will be to draw the Israelis into a long war of attrition that turns more of the world into their sworn enemies. If that means firing missiles from among

civilians, whose deaths become propaganda even if caused by their own side, then they have no qualms.

For the Israelis, the great problem is that there are now many military objectives — destroy Hamas, free the hostages, avoid those civilian deaths, forestall a wider war — and it is ferociously hard to devise an offensive in which at least one of those objectives is not abandoned. But at the end of the fighting, they are likely to have a clear purpose in mind: to wall off Gaza, to put it out of sight and mind, to create a no-man's land so festooned with mines, traps, drones and patrols that even an insect would struggle to cross it. Israel will then feel more secure, in a region where peace is impossible.

Such an outcome will be completely understandable and is perhaps inevitable. Yet the hard truth is that Israel's future security will still be linked to what happens on the other side of the great barrier it will build.

Saudi leaders' plan is to be the crossroads of east, west and south

Military objectives do not remain secure without political progress. We all know what is likely to happen years down the line: a new, radicalised generation drawn to terror, with more advanced weapons, readying for another battle, creating another "do or die" moment for Israel.

This is the old Middle East, to which we are now conditioned, and the horror of which we will continue to witness in the coming days. Since the genuine attempts to find peace, embodied in the Oslo Accords of the 1990s, ran into the sands, with hardliners stronger on all sides, it has become a familiar pattern. It is a

conflict that could easily last for many decades to come, with periods that seem secure always punctured by sharp reminders that security is not peace.

Yet this week we will also be treated to a display of the new Middle East. Global financiers will congregate in Riyadh to be part of the transformation of Saudi Arabia under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Hundreds of billions of dollars are pouring into hotels, sport, renewable energy, new cities and artificial intelligence. Tourism advertisements show a woman riding a horse across the desert, hair flowing freely. A more moderate version of religion is being enforced in the mosques. The Saudi leadership is engaged in an urgent programme of radical change, welcomed by a new generation of educated women and motivated by a fast-growing population, 63 per cent of whom are under 30.

This does not mean Saudi Arabia is turning into a western country. Its leaders would regard democracy as spelling complete disaster. They position themselves between all the world powers, aiming to agree nuclear security with America, fix the world oil price with the Russians and develop new technologies with the Chinese. They will buy weapons from the West but also join the Brics; they have settled differences with Qatar and sent an ambassador to Iran while also discussing normal relations with Israel; they plan to be the crossroads of east, west and south, where some can make their pilgrimage to Mecca while others will soon be buying a drink.

There should be no illusions that this massive change brings western rights or governance but it nevertheless brings hope and optimism to the region and a



Radical change is taking hold in Saudi Arabia under Mohammed bin Salman

BANDAR ALGALOUD/REUTERS

Iran will seek advantage from championing their cause. The spirit of the new, fun party will always suffer from being held in the next room to the old, unstable powder keg.

The question to ask in Riyadh this week is whether there could be, over time, a third scenario, in which Gulf states that are becoming a new global crossroads play a more decisive role in making peace attainable in their region. While

A more sustained approach, over many years, will be needed

outside powers have always complicated the Middle East, solving its problems is now beyond them. It is an Arab world in the midst of great change that can take greater ownership of a solution. They tried with the Arab Peace Initiative in 2002, but what will be needed is a more sustained approach over many years. It would combine relations with Israel with the use of financial firepower and political ruthlessness — neither in short supply — to help mould a successful Palestinian alternative to the terror of Hamas, in Gaza and elsewhere.

This week, every TV screen will show two sides who assume that peace is forever unavailable. The one hope to hang on to is that the new Middle East will ultimately steel itself to change the assumptions of the old.

### RED BOX

For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape  
[thetimes.co.uk/redbox](http://thetimes.co.uk/redbox)



Louise Callaghan



George Grylls



Jack Hill



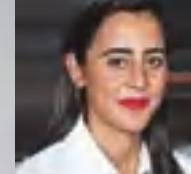
Nagham Mohanna



Anshel Pfeffer



Catherine Philp



Delara Shakib



Richard Spencer

## Follow the latest from our team in Israel and Gaza

- Regular updates on The Times Live app and website from our correspondents on the ground
- Two of our Jewish writers reflect on the past two weeks in the Stories of our times podcast
- Listen to balanced coverage on Times Radio as the situation unfolds

**THE TIMES**  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
*Know your times*

**T**  
 LIVE

**TIMES RADIO**  
INTELLIGENT RADIO FROM THE TIMES

**Stories  
 of our  
 times**

## Comment

# Met has means to clamp down on this hatred

Pro-Palestinian demos are spreading antisemitism and fuelling attacks — police can do far more

Melanie Phillips



@MELANIELATEST

**T**here has been much astonishment and concern at the support for Islamic extremism by pro-Palestinian demonstrators in response to the atrocities in Israel and subsequent bombardment of Gaza. At Saturday's demonstration in London, a speaker was filmed declaring: "What is the solution to liberate people in the concentration camp called Palestine? Jihad", with some men in the crowd echoing: "Jihad, jihad, jihad."

Demonstrators have repeatedly been chanting "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free", a call for the annihilation of Israel. Others have chanted an Arabic slogan that extols Muhammad's slaughter of the Jews in Khaybar, a 7th-century massacre that acts as a war cry against the Jews for today's jihadis. And some demonstrators have been waving a black Islamic flag.

While this has been going on under the noses of the police, pro-Israel demonstrators have been prevented from activities that threaten no one. The Campaign Against Antisemitism has been driving vans around London displaying illuminated digital pictures of Israeli children now being held hostage in Gaza. When pro-Palestinian demonstrators in

Westminster spotted such a van and started shouting abuse at it, the police insisted the children's images must be turned off and the van leave central London because it risked breaching the peace and endangering its driver and volunteer.

On Saturday, the group Christian Action Against Antisemitism was forced to call off its planned "Pray for Israel and the Jewish People" demonstration after police warned that participants could be "injured or intimidated" because the event was being portrayed as an attack on Muslims. The organisers, who on police advice had already moved the event's location from its original spot outside the Israeli embassy, said they

## Under the Public Order Act, police may restrict certain flags or slogans

felt the police had "silenced" them. With antisemitic offences having increased in London more than tenfold in the past two weeks, it seems to the Jewish community as if the police are taking the side of those producing such threats.

Several politicians have expressed fury and incredulity that the police have allowed this to happen with only a handful of arrests. The Metropolitan Police commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, says, however, that inadequacies in the law make it difficult to prosecute.

There are certainly gaps in the law. People can be found guilty of inciting violence or encouraging terrorism only if they direct such incitement at

another person or encourage others to "commit, prepare or instigate" terrorist acts. A report in 2021 by Rowley and the former counterextremism tsar Sara Khan said extremists were able to incite hatred because of the "gaping chasm" in British legislation.

The issues here go beyond terrorism. The demonstrations have been creating an atmosphere of anti-Jewish feeling, which is fuelling both verbal and physical attacks. Saying that this is just about Israel doesn't wash. An amendment to the Public Order Act 1986 passed after 9/11 meant it became an offence to incite hatred against people abroad, such as Israeli Jews.

More fundamentally, singling out Israel for existential attack makes Jews everywhere vulnerable to violence. Israel is central to Judaism. The chant "from the river to the sea" singles out Israel as being so evil it should be destroyed. This identifies all Jews who support Israel as accessories to that "evil" and therefore also as targets; and since Jew-haters regard Jews as a monolithic group, all Jews therefore become potential targets.

Context matters. For some Muslims, "jihad" has a peaceful and spiritual meaning. And the black flag imprinted with the declaration of Islamic faith supports no regime. But in the context of such exultant demands to "liberate Palestine", these become public declarations of holy war and incitement to violence.

In fact, regardless of gaps in the law, the police do have powers to stop such threatening activities. Under the Public Order Act, if the

police believe a demonstration may result in "serious disruption to the life of the community" — meaning "any group of people" that may be affected — or that it is intended to intimidate others, they can require demonstrators to adhere to conditions such as not flying certain flags or chanting specific slogans.

Since these demonstrations have helped create a climate in which Jewish people are being intimidated into avoiding public places or concealing Jewish markers of identity such as kippot or Stars of David, this would certainly appear to be covered by the law. In addition, it's an offence to use threatening words or behaviour or display any such written material in order to stir up religious hatred.

Instead of using these powers, the police appear to interpret their public order role more narrowly as upholding freedom of speech and preventing one side from attacking the other.

This produces a deeply perverse effect, as illustrated by the fate of the illuminated vans and the Christian prayer meeting. The fact that it's only the pro-Palestinians who pose a threat of violence plays against the Israel supporters, because to stop the pro-Palestinians becoming violent the police have to stop the Israel supporters from having their say.

The real problem faced by the police is surely the sheer number of people prepared to support a genocidal agenda in Israel and to threaten Jews everywhere. What Britain now sees in its midst is a monster that it has allowed to grow.



**D**on't let the tech giants water down digital competition

Tina Stowell

**T**he prime minister wants the UK to be a science and tech superpower but we have a big problem: our digital markets don't work properly. The financial clout and sheer computing power of the Californian tech giants is creating significant, often insurmountable, barriers to entry for alternative providers.

New tech companies are finding it increasingly difficult to get a foothold. Those who were once the disruptors — from Google to Amazon to Meta — are now firmly entrenched and understandably trying to keep it that way. If markets aren't creating a level playing field on their own, governments should step in.

The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill as drafted would put competition at the heart of digital markets with an empowered Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) ensuring established players can't use their dominance in one part of the digital market — for example, search — to damage the prospects of a potential competitor in others, such as online shopping.

But there is growing pressure on No 10 to weaken the bill, particularly to make it easier for regulated firms to challenge CMA decisions. Diluting the bill now would be a mistake. The measures the government originally proposed allow the big firms to continue to operate and innovate while ensuring they do not use unfair tactics to suppress competition.

The key thing is to make sure this is done fairly. The UK's new competition regime is different to Europe's and considered better by big tech because it is more flexible. But it will only work if the most dominant players participate in the process from the start. The current proposal for a judicial review appeals process is the right one. It is quick, fair, supports the non-adversarial nature of the regulatory regime and provides certainty. It allows a proper assessment of the regulator's decisions and means the tech giants could appeal on the basis of failures of process but not simply because they disagreed with the decision.

We have heard concerning reports that the government may water this down, following intense lobbying. The alternative, apparently now being considered, would allow challenges to the courts, asking them to reopen and relitigate the regulator's decisions.

This is a lawyer's charter, opening the possibility of lengthy and expensive legal challenges, giving an advantage to those with the deepest pockets.

A key priority for the bill should be to establish regulations that are fair and encourage UK businesses to compete and grow. Keeping the judicial review appeals process is a key part of that.

Baroness Stowell of Beeston is chairwoman of the House of Lords communications and digital committee

## Giles Coren Notebook

# Sam is full of wise words — but he has his off days

I'm aware that I overquote my ten-year-old son, Sam, in this column in a way that some of you might find irritating. It even irritates me sometimes. Reminds me of that Michael Aspel panel show from the 1980s — I think it was called *Child's Play* — where we were supposed to laugh at the unintentionally funny things children say, and sort of did, but hated ourselves for it.

Anyway, look, yes, I do relate conversations that I have had with Sam quite often, even about serious matters such as the ongoing catastrophe in the Middle East because ... HE IS THE ONLY PERSON I TALK TO!

I don't have an office, I don't have colleagues and I don't really go out. I stay home, I write and I talk to my family. But my daughter will not allow me to quote her for privacy reasons and everything my wife says to me is mean (and goes in the

restaurant columns). Which leaves little Sammy as the only person who ever says anything that makes me think "I should pass that on".

Recently, he has said some rather wise things, but a few of you have expressed a suspicion below the line that I am making them up. I am not. I wouldn't. I don't have the imagination. But I do, I admit, tend to reproduce his more intelligent observations. Not just because I want you to admire him as much as I do, but because I don't need his dim stuff. Dim stuff I can do for myself. Although there was a dim one the other day that I feel I should offer as a corrective.

"Hey, Dad," Sam said on the way home from school on Friday. "What's a 'ruthless mogul'?"

"Eh, why?" I replied.

"Oh, just something I saw in a Big Nate book [which is a sub-Wimpy Kid thing he reads sometimes], where someone says Nate looks cute and he says, 'Inside, I'm a ruthless mogul'. So, what is it?"

"Well, you know what ruthless is, right?"



"Yes. It's like: 'mean', 'hard', 'tough'."

"Right. So a 'mogul' was a big ruler in India years ago but nowadays we use it for a majorly powerful businessman. Usually the guy who dominates a whole industry. You've surely heard of 'media moguls'? Can you name a media mogul?"

"No."

"Oh come on, boy," I said. I was disappointed. Sam is generally pretty connected with this sort of thing. "Who is the world's most powerful media person?"

"Piers Morgan?"

"Piers wishes," I said. "But no, come on, who owns The Times [I wasn't going to go into arcane company structures or recent changes of job title]? Who owns the paper I write for and pays our bills?"

"I don't know, Dad!" he shouted, quite irritated now.

"Come on, son: Rupert ... ?" "Grint?"

### Split vote

Not only is my wife never listens to me. Like a minute ago (I'm sitting at the kitchen table getting this

Notebook done before we head away for half term) when I said to her: "Have you seen this thing where celebrity couples like Will Smith and Jada Pinkett and Meryl Streep and her husband and even the Wolverine guy and his wife are ostensibly married but have in fact been split up for years? I was thinking I could write a funny column about how you and I are the same?"

"The same what?"

"Did you hear anything I just said?"

"No."

"I was saying about this thing where Hollywood celebrities like Will Smith and Meryl Streep turn out to have been separated for years without anyone knowing about it."

"Hang on," Esther said. "They were TOGETHER?"

### Lonely Meloni

Loving the scandal in Italian politics where prime minister Giorgia Meloni has iced her glamorous TV presenter husband Andrea Giambruno after he was caught on mike boasting of his love of sexy threesomes and foursomes. Obviously, this came as a huge shock to the electorate that voted Silvio "Bunga Bunga" Berlusconi into office three times. "Eet ees ab-so-lutely deesgusting," said 75 per cent of respondents to a recent Mori poll. "Who on earth 'ave a sexy sexy with ONLY four in a bed???"



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at [timescartoons.co.uk](http://timescartoons.co.uk) or call 020 7711 7826

# We really can't wait 15 months for an election

Do the Conservatives think the public are going to like them any more if they cling on until the last possible moment?

**Hugo  
Rifkind**



@HUGORIFKIND

**G**illian Keegan is fun, isn't she? Big fan. For those who forget, she's the education secretary who burst into the consciousness of a bemused public in September, when she insisted she'd done a "\*\*\*\*ing good job" in belatedly noticing lots of schools might fall down. Last week she was wheeled out to respond to two calamitous by-election defeats, one of which (Tamworth) showed a 23.9 percentage point swing to Labour. To which her response, pretty much, was a barefaced "no it didn't".

Brilliant. What? "If you look at the details," she said, "this did not show a swing to Labour." Because, she reckoned, the defeat was actually due to the Tory vote plunging, rather than the Labour vote going up. Which is true, but also what I believe is known as "a swing". Keegan's argument, though, was that no individual Conservative voters had actually changed their minds. They'd just stayed home. And if it were a general election, she felt, they'd be back.

Of the many questions this prompts, I wouldn't want us to get too bogged down in those of the "how do you know?" and "are you just saying this stuff for a bet?" variety. So instead, let's focus on the idea that a Conservative recovery is still possible, and they just need to hold on. In which case, my key question becomes, "until when?"

Amid the general horror of last week, the specific woes of the Conservative Party obviously took a back seat. At any other time, though, it would have been one of those weeks where the PM starts to look like the clown in a silent movies who is still driving a car when the steering wheel comes off. According to the polling guru John Curtice, Tamworth

**Peter Bone — that's Sunak's next by-election headache right there**

was the safest seat lost by a government to its principal opponents ever. Mid-Bedfordshire, where the swing was 20.5 points, was little better. If it wasn't for the crisis, in other words, they'd be in a crisis.

Tamworth was the former seat of Chris Pincher, whose alleged groping brought down Boris Johnson. Mid-Bedfordshire was that of Nadine Dorries, whose own resignation had

the mystifying, ineffable trajectory of a doomed autumnal bumble bee stuck in your kitchen. It might be tempting to think "this sort of batshit chaos surely can't happen again". Yet before the polls had even opened, it already had, via the veteran backbencher Peter Bone, now suspended over allegations that include flashing a colleague in a shared hotel room. That's Rishi Sunak's next by-election headache, right there. So far, he's probably barely had time even to think about it. Maybe he can't bear to. You wake up, you know there's something unspeakable hanging over you. Aaargh! It's Peter Bone!

On its website, also last week, the Institute for Government published a study into exactly when the next general election might be. The latest possible date, they concluded, was January 28, 2025, being 25 working days after the five-year anniversary of the last one. This week, the think tank More In Common published polling on whether the public would be keen on waiting another 15 months. With results that we can roughly précis as "lol, no".

You can see, even so, why Sunak would be tempted to go long. For one thing, he'll be hoping that memories of Johnson's Partygate scandal fade, and of Liz Truss's unspeakable, gaudily premiership too. More than that, he'll be counting on inflation

falling, interest rates coming down, the cost of living easing and Suella Braverman finally finding someone — anyone, really — she can put on a plane to Rwanda. The trouble is, it's hard to see any of that actually helping him. Would he get any credit? Should he? As with John Major pre-1997, it's even possible that a healing country would feel more confident in giving him the boot.

What he really needs is for Labour to fall apart and become frightening.

**Tories need Labour to fall apart but that is hard to envisage**

That, though, is also hard to envisage. Speaking on my Times Radio show last weekend, the Sunday Times's Caroline Wheeler noted that although global crises normally give incumbents a boost at the expense of their challengers, this one doesn't seem to be working out like that.

At prime minister's questions, she pointed out, it was Starmer who made the big geopolitical points, with Sunak largely reduced to agreeing with him. Even afterwards, in the Middle East and appearing in photoops with Benjamin Netanyahu and Mohammed bin Salman, Sunak carried the air of some VIP's indulged nephew being granted a

selfie for his Facebook page. I don't know quite how he does it.

For all their bravado, the majority of Tory MPs must know where they are going, which is down. For them, as perhaps for Sunak, actual victory has already been written off, and what matters now is damage limitation; limit the landslide, save whatever seats you can.

But they should ask themselves whether the damage is really being limited. Is Labour getting weaker? Will it? Guys, I'm not sure if you've noticed, but the heir to Jeremy Corbyn is currently weathering an Israel storm and a domestic antisemitism crisis all at once, and without even particularly being on the back foot. What else have you got?

Even if there are no more Pinchers or Bones — and there will be — what great, lifesaving political deus ex machina can they possibly foresee? Most crises imaginable have happened on their watch, and none have done them any favours. As of tomorrow, Sunak will have been in office for a year. These days, that's ages. By May, he'll have been there literally ten times longer than his predecessor. Won't that do? Isn't it enough for his CV?

None of this is going to get better. Increasingly, it's just going to get silly, and scrappy, and sad. Fifteen months more? Wake up. You'll be a joke. You'll be toast. You'll be dust. For what?

## Letters to the Editor



### Gender-torn teens

Sir, Further to Janice Turner's article "Gender-confused teens need time and space" (Oct 21), these teenagers have co-morbidities and problems, and often struggle with anxieties about moving from childhood to adulthood. Before the medicalisation of these youngsters (a method that lacks an evidence base), the approach was "watchful waiting". The evidence is that 90 per cent of those aged under 18 who wish to transition (an invasive process requiring lifelong medical interventions) desist if they receive psychological support for their anxieties about growing up.

My experience is that the heated political environment surrounding this topic discourages many psychotherapists from taking on these children, thereby leaving gender-confused treatment to inexperienced therapists who affirm beliefs rather than provide the holistic approach recommended by Dr Hilary Cass.

#### Marcus Evans

Psychoanalyst and former clinical lead, adult and adolescent department, Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust; Beckenham, Kent

Sir, It is extraordinary that this government, in addition to committing itself to the erasure of smoking, is preparing to enact a law to forbid so-called LGBT+ conversion therapy, in line with the demands of the political left ("Safeguards for parents as ban on conversion therapy is scrutinised", Oct 20). How is it that a party that claims, rhetorically, to stand for personal liberty now seeks to make illegal private conversations between consenting individuals? If Kemi Badenoch is so committed to going down this illiberal road, will she also enact a ban on medical practitioners encouraging children suffering from gender dysphoria to go down the road of attempting to change their sex through medical procedures? Surely this should also be classified as a form of "conversion therapy"?

#### Marc Glendening

Head of cultural affairs, Institute of Economic Affairs

### Beloved butterfly

Sir, I am pleased to say that we won't have to wait for the outcome of the Weald to Waves breeding programme in southern England ("Churchill's beloved butterfly to return?", Oct 21). My small but sunny and sheltered back garden in Upper Holloway played host to them this summer. In fact I saw more butterflies in the garden this summer than in the past 27 years.

#### Alison Venning

London N19

### Corrections and clarifications

**ipso** Regulated The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent to feedback@thetimes.co.uk

## King's support for separate communities

Sir, Trevor Phillips ("King is wrong to extol separate communities", Oct 21) is right in pointing to the distress experienced by the Jewish community in the aftermath of pro-Palestinian protests. However, his critique of multi-ethnic Britain as a community of communities, as developed by the Parekh Report more than 20 years ago, is missing an important point: the report recognised the centrality of Israel to the Jews living in Britain, and it also pointed to antisemitism being a light sleeper. The events of the past two weeks are testimonies to both. The fault lies with the reluctance to challenge antisemitism, not with the description of Britain as "a community of communities", the phrase used by the King.

**Dr Zinovijus Ciupijus**  
University of Leeds

Sir, Trevor Phillips argues for the greater integration of communities. The precise limits of possible integration may be unclear, but his basic approach is surely right — and right in relation not only to different communities in this country but to those in the world at large. The present tendency to condemn

"cultural appropriation", for example, is driven by a non-integration agenda, by an insistence that characteristics belonging to one community must be jealously guarded by that community and not shared with any other. Objections to the part of Golda Meir being played by a non-Jew on film were driven by the same agenda. It is almost too obvious to point out that the lack of integration between Jews and non-Jews is the main source of the present conflict in the Middle East. And it was, if I may be forgiven for saying so, exactly the same non-integration agenda that motivated many of those who voted for Brexit.

All this is sad, because the future of the human race depends upon integration.

**Richard Oerton**  
Cannington, Somerset

Sir, While I agree with Trevor Phillips that total national commitment is vastly preferable to clanship with its many separations, this has to be voluntary and thus is very unlikely in the near future — every leader, religious or political, enjoys local power. I suggest that the King is right in his belief that the first step to peace is encouraging those different clans to

respect each other and work together for the common good.

**John Stevens**  
Woking, Surrey

Sir, Trevor Phillips is naive to imagine that Gaza could ever have a sensible, moderate government if Israel successfully eliminated Hamas. The understandable present retaliation by Israel and the consequent loss of lives of Gazans will only intensify the Palestinians' hatred of their neighbour.

**Charles Townley**  
Hove, E Sussex

Sir, Those voluntarily choosing to make Britain their home should adopt our way of life, customs, traditions and habits, communicate in English and adopt our dress code — just as I had to be fully covered during my working days in Saudi Arabia's intense heat. Further, English lessons should replace the vast taxpayer expense of providing interpreters and translations for multiple languages.

The US has been successful in requiring solemn allegiance to the American way of life. Why should we not do this in the UK too?

**Dr Janet Voke**  
Monks Risborough, Bucks

## Universal footballer

Sir, Further to the tributes to Sir Bobby Charlton, in 1966 my friend and I, having just finished university, decided on one final adventure before settling down to work: we would drive to Istanbul via the former Eastern Bloc countries of Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria. There were then few foreign tourists and we were greeted with hostility and suspicion at the border: the crossing in Romania had barbed wire and machinegun towers. A stony-faced guard demanded our passports, scrutinised them and then retreated to an office. He eventually returned and handed them back. "English?" he inquired. We tentatively said yes — at which point his whole demeanour changed. He smiled broadly, made a circular motion with his hands, said "Bobby Charlton, yes, yes, wonderful", and cheerfully waved us on our way.

**Michael Kriteman**  
London W1

## By-election rout

Sir, Amid the clamorous rhetoric after the two by-election results ("Bruised Tories suffer dissent in ranks as Sunak's reset flounders", Oct 21) we should not lose sight of the key messages. This is not primarily a vote against the present PM but it is a resounding rebuff from the electorate against the lack of integrity epitomised by Boris Johnson and his supporters, the economic naivety of the Truss camp, and the morality standards of some MPs, such as the former representative for Tamworth. Small wonder the results are as they are.

**Edward Hackford**  
Blakeney, Norfolk

## Crouch, bind, set

Sir, Regarding the letter (Oct 23) advocating four points for a dropped goal, may I further suggest that the value of a scrum penalty be reduced from three points to one point, as it now seems that the main purpose of the scrum is to win penalties, not quick ball, as was evident in the semi-final of the Rugby World Cup between England and South Africa. Rugby is meant to be a spectator sport but what goes on in the scrum is not transparent to the spectators, nor it seems to the referee, yet it has such an impact on winning or losing.

**Trevor Powles**  
Chipstead, Surrey

## Dressed for success

Sir, Further to the letters (Oct 19-20 & 23) on mistaken identity, I attended a function in London that required me to wear morning dress. Afterwards I arranged to meet a guest in a rather smart restaurant, and on seeing my guest arrive I got up to greet them just as an American couple walked in. The man kindly slipped a £10 note into my top pocket and asked me to find them a nice table. Of course I obliged.

**His Honour Gareth Cowling**  
Alresford, Hants

Sir, Forty years ago I attended the birth of our firstborn. In those days the NHS made sure Dad was fully gowned and masked. The labour was so protracted that I had to nip out to the toilet. Standing beside me, a very nervous fellow father said: "Doctor, I'm worried how my wife will cope with all this." Summoning all my patrician gravitas I reassured him that all would be fine.

**Paul Murricane**  
Edinburgh

## Levelling down

Sir, Moving more powers from central government bureaucrats to local officials is not where the problem lies ("Regional inequality is worse than ever", Ed Balls and Dan Turner, Oct 23). Nor in the digital age of instant and continuous communication is it always necessary, helpful or wise. A far more fruitful area for reducing glaring inequalities between our cities, towns and countryside lies in reforming today's seriously deformed system of capitalism where the rich keep growing richer than ever (whether in the north or the south) and the poor grow poorer (ditto). A much fairer spread of asset ownership, a true capital-owning democracy, bringing security and dignity to millions of households, would do far more for local prosperity everywhere than just more concrete or planning diktats.

Popular "social" capitalism has been the dream of past generations but never quite taken off here, as it has in the US. Present times and circumstances are uniquely favourable to having another try.

**Lord Howell of Guildford**  
Former energy secretary

## Assisted suicide

Sir, I write in defence of Professor David Albert Jones (letter, Oct 21) against the points made by David Cunningham Green (letter, Oct 23). First, from my perspective as an atheist, slights against the Catholic Church are cheap and have little to do with the substantive arguments that Professor Jones put forward. Mr Green should play the ball, not the man. Second, Mr Green neglects to inform us that the drug of choice for euthanasia in Switzerland is also the drug used for executing prisoners in the United States and that great concerns have been expressed about the unnecessary suffering it causes. Prisoners are reported to "experience excruciating suffering, including sensations of drowning and suffocation".

Might that also be the experience of those who opt for assisted suicide if it is ever legalised in Britain? For this reason and so many others, it is time for those in favour of legalisation to think again.

**Professor Kevin Yuill**  
Chief executive of Humanists Against Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

## OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX IN LONDON

FROM THE TIMES OCTOBER 24, 1923

At a meeting of the London County Council yesterday the Public Health Committee presented a report on the recent outbreak of smallpox in the London area. This showed that there were altogether 18 cases, two of which were fatal. Of these, 11 occurred in the County of London and seven in extra-Metropolitan districts. On September 7 the Medical Officer of Health of a South London borough notified that he had discovered a case of smallpox, the victim being a chambermaid at a hotel. The victim's movements were traced. In

24 hours five more cases were discovered, and these suggested that the outbreak might be traced to a single source — the girl mentioned. Ten further cases were reported shortly afterwards. Vaccinations and re-vaccinations by the public vaccinators, of school children who had been directly or indirectly connected with the original case, were carried out. As a result of the energetic measures taken the report continued, the outbreak was localised. Of the 18 cases, 12 occurred among people between 23 and 79 years of age, who had not been vaccinated since infancy, and of these one died; five cases were of people between the age of 12 and 50, who had never been vaccinated, and of these one died; while the remaining case was that of a patient who had been vaccinated in the Army in 1914. In his case the attack was mild.

Dr Randle said that the facts about vaccination were stated fairly in the

report. Although he believed in vaccination, he did not desire to force it down people's throats, and there was no desire to use the report as propaganda as a protection against smallpox. Captain Warburg, Chairman of the Committee, said that on previous occasions London had been extremely fortunate; but it must not be inferred from the administrative operations reported on that that London was free from the danger of epidemics because of its protective sanitary arrangements. As to smallpox, they were always on the edge of a precipice. The report was adopted.

Another case of smallpox has been discovered at Southwick, near Sunderland. A man waited in a crowded surgery to be vaccinated, and when his turn came it was found that he was suffering from it.

.....

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

## Daily Universal Register

UK: The science secretary makes a speech on the UK's artificial intelligence strategy. US: House Republicans vote for a nominee to be the Speaker.

## Nature notes



The pale, bulbous shape half-buried in the beach looked a bit like an unharvested tuber left behind in a field, hence the common name of "sea potato". Yet when alive, they're covered in fine yellow spines and are more properly known as heart urchins. They live in burrows up to 20cm deep from where they extend their tube "feet" upwards to search for decaying plants and animals to pull down and consume. Fossil urchins have been found interred in graves from the neolithic to Anglo-Saxon periods, and crop up in folklore from the medieval period, too. MELISSA HARRISON

## Birthdays today



Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, pictured, chief of the Air Staff (1992-97), life vice-president, Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, 85; F Murray Abraham, actor, *Amadeus* (1984).

84; Martin Campbell, film director, *Casino Royale* (2006), 80; Judith Chernaik, founder (1986) and co-editor, *Poems on the Underground*, 89; Ann Cleeves, crime writer, *The Rising Tide* (2022), 69; Judith Clegg, founder and chief executive of business support groups Takeout and The Glasshouse, 52; Barry Davies, broadcaster, *Match of the Day*, Wimbledon Olympic Games, the Boat Race, 86; Jonathan Davies, rugby union and league player, now a commentator, 61; Drake, rapper, *One Dance* (2016), 37; Nicholas Ferguson, chairman, Savills, Sky (2012-16), SVG Capital (2006-12), 75; Admiral Sir Ian Forbes, supreme Allied commander Atlantic (2002-03), 77; Claudia Fragapane, gymnast, five-time gold medal winner, Commonwealth Games, 26; Dervla Kirwan, actress, *Ballykissangel* (1996-2001), 52; Kevin Kline, actor, *A Fish Called Wanda* (1988), 76; Baroness (Doreen) Lawrence of Clarendon, rights campaigner and founder, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, 71; Esther McVey, Conservative MP for Tatton, housing minister (2019-20), 56; May Pang, music executive, best known for her 18-month relationship with John Lennon (his "Lost Weekend"), 73; Christopher Rodrigues, chairman, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Royal Ballet School, 74; Wayne Rooney, footballer, Manchester United (2004-17) and England (2003-16), and manager, Birmingham City FC, 38; Lord (David) Sainsbury of Turville, chancellor, University of Cambridge, 83; Ed Smith, chairman, Assura real estate investment trust, WWF-UK (2008-14), 69; Emma Tucker, editor, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Sunday Times* (2020-22), 57; Sir Mark Tully, broadcaster, BBC chief of bureau, Delhi (1972-94), and writer, *The Heart of India* (1997), 88; Bill Wyman, bass guitarist, the Rolling Stones (1962-93), 87.

## On this day

In 1973 John Lennon sued the FBI, alleging that an illegal wiretap had been placed on his New York City phone to monitor for anti-war activities. The US government agency issued a denial.

## The last word

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." Rudyard Kipling, author, poet, journalist. Speech quoted in *The Times*, February 15, 1923



## Licence to Hate

When Islamist extremists called for the destruction of Israel at a pro-Palestinian demonstration this weekend, police did nothing. This was a clear dereliction of duty

The footage is grim and unambiguous. "What is the solution to liberate people in the concentration camp called Palestine?" asks a speaker from Hizb ut-Tahrir, the extremist Islamist group that David Cameron and Sir Tony Blair wanted to ban. "Jihad, jihad, jihad," comes the chant in return. The chilling scene unfolded not in a Middle Eastern capital but among pro-Palestinian marchers on the streets of London on Saturday. From the context of the demonstration, the meaning was clear: holy war against the Jewish state.

Yet despite the widely shared video evidence of this hate-fuelled outburst, the Metropolitan Police did nothing. It is an egregious case of double standards and an operational failure. Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, was right to say: "It is inciting terrorist violence and needs to be tackled with the full force of the law." British Jews know full well what they heard, just as they know what is meant when marchers chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free". The destruction of Israel — that is what is meant. The Met's suggestion that there were a "number of meanings" of "jihad" and of a slogan advocating the abolition of Israel was an insult to the intelligence of Britain's Jews. It said that ears attuned to a lifetime of antisemitism had been deceived.

Why, then, did the Met do nothing? That was the question Suella Braverman, the home secretary, asked of Sir Mark Rowley, the commissioner, yesterday. Sir Mark seemed to suggest that the law did not allow for the minority on the march filmed espousing hate to be prosecuted. "We can't enforce taste or decency," he said, "but we can enforce the law." Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, also urged ministers to address "gaps in the law". But legislation already prohibits hate speech, and a clearer example would be hard to find. If it were riots or violent resistance to arrests that the Met feared then it should have the honesty to say so. In any case, modern technology would have allowed officers to identify offenders and arrest them after the crowds dispersed. If there had been white neo-Nazis advocating a race war against Muslims, they would have been arrested forthwith. Do Jews not count?

It is right that the prime minister's spokesman appeared yesterday to rule out new legislation. There is plenty already. Downing Street should instead educate chief police officers on the powers available to them. This is an urgent requirement: as Israel's offensive against Hamas develops, the vocal minority of bigots who wish to terrorise British Jews will become even louder.

Whether it be through the provisions of the Public Order Act or the Terrorism Act, such thugs must be apprehended. They do not represent the views of mainstream British Muslims and have no right to a platform for their hatred. The alternative is to give free rein to a ragtag coalition of religious fundamentalists and unreconstructed extremists, such as those from the Socialist Workers Party, whose only aim is to demonise Israel.

It is time for the police to assert themselves. But if there is anything likely to give the Met pause it is the perception that it is acting under political pressure. In exploiting the weekend's scenes for self-promotion, Ms Braverman helped to create that unfortunate impression. After the first pro-Palestinian marches, she lost no time in promising to ensure that any demonstrators who glorified terrorism would feel the full force of the law. Nothing happened. A period of silence from Ms Braverman would now be in order.

In Britain, police rightly retain operational independence. It is time they were left alone to exercise it. But doing nothing about hate speech on the streets of this country is not an option. In effect, turning a blind eye to antisemitic chanting grants Islamist extremists a public licence to indulge in racial hatred. It must not happen again.

## Enemy Within

Viktor Orban seems set on sabotaging the West's response to Russian aggression

Despite being a member of Nato and the European Union, Hungary has refused to provide military aid to Ukraine. That was the choice of Viktor Orban, the prime minister, and it is part of a disturbing pattern that is taking him out of the western mainstream and into the sticky embrace of Vladimir Putin. Mr Orban, it seems, views himself as a floating voter between West and East. It is a dangerous position to take in troubled times.

This month Mr Orban became the first western leader to sit down for intensive talks with the Russian president since the invasion of Ukraine 21 months ago. It was an obvious snub to Hungary's allies, who were not consulted in advance. He had no mandate to talk on the behalf of the alliance. Moreover, Hungary is a member of the International Criminal Court, which has issued a warrant for Mr Putin's arrest on a war crime indictment.

This was not a gaffe. Shortly after the meeting in Beijing, Russia promised to top up the 1.3 billion cubic metres of gas that has already been supplied to Hungary by Gazprom this year. "We will supply additional volumes on an ongoing basis in the

autumn-winter period," Alexei Miller, the sanctioned Gazprom chief, said. A warm Christmas, then, for Hungarian households. At the meeting there was talk, too, of co-operation on nuclear energy.

Although much of the European Union has made efforts to reduce consumption of Russian energy and stifle the Kremlin's cash flow, Mr Orban is happy to keep the gas taps open. He has voted in favour of some EU sanctions packages, but remains a sceptic about economic warfare. Within Nato, the Orban veto has been delaying Swedish membership. Petr Pavel, a former Nato general who is now president of the Czech Republic, sees the Putin-Orban love-in as a way to break up the unity of the European Union. The Estonian prime minister, Kaja Kallas, calls it "very, very unpleasant".

Mr Orban is not in the business of competing for popularity among his supposed allies. Rather, he imagines that his brand of "illiberal Christian Democracy" — his phrase — has a place in a non decadent, family-valued new world order in which Russia and China play leading roles. That's

quite a jump from his position in 2007, when he told colleagues that "oil may come from the East but freedom always comes from the West".

Now, as Hungary's longest serving prime minister, he faces criticism for weakening judicial independence, democratic backsliding and nepotism. As long as there was a like-minded partner in the form of Poland's Law and Justice government, Mr Orban could count on flanking cover in arguments with Brussels. But after this month's Polish elections, his fellow populists are likely to be replaced by the more liberal-minded and, in EU terms, collaborative government of Donald Tusk, former president of the EU council.

Mr Orban will be an increasingly isolated figure in the western alliance at a time when Russia is stepping up its sabotage, surveillance and disruption operations. The bloody war against Ukraine is accompanied by a drumbeat of cyberattacks, assassinations and strikes against vulnerable undersea cables. That demands a thoughtful response from a unified western leadership, not opportunism from a rogue leader desperate for Mr Putin's approval.

## Recipe for Success

The French government is right to expose restaurants selling ready meals as fresh food

The French restaurant is seen by admirers around the world as an antidote to the industrialised convenience food of the 21st century. The humble bistro or brasserie can hold its head high when offering a menu that, though limited, is composed of fresh ingredients prepared with care on the premises. But this reputation for culinary integrity is under threat from, of all things, the clandestine ready meal. You have probably consumed one of these microwaved offerings without knowing it, and at great expense.

The clue is often in the indecent haste with which the ratatouille, cassoulet or coq au vin

arrives on the table, too fast to have been the product of a diligent chef. It may be steaming, or appear dried out and reheated. Not dreadful, but certainly not great. A pricey disappointment that cannot quite justify a complaint to the waiter, but leaves one feeling short-changed.

And where has this dog's dinner come from? A wholesale warehouse, probably, open only to the more cynical members of the restaurant trade. Bought in bulk for a knock-down price and sold with a flick of garnish at an exorbitant mark-up.

Thankfully, the French government is on to this scam, and doing something about it. By 2025 at the

latest restaurants will, by law, have to label dishes they have bought in and reheated. This will blow the lid off the traditional image of French restaurant cuisine: according to the government-recognised Association of Master Restaurateurs, only 4 per cent of France's 175,000 eateries cook everything from scratch.

French bureaucracy can be maddening but this is a thoroughly welcome development. Fast food is for the street, not the restaurant table. People are paying for freshness, elegance and originality, not boil in the bag. British restaurants should be forced to follow suit. This is a recipe for better food.

# World

# Paris to ignore rights law in migration crackdown

## France

Adam Sage Paris

France is prepared to break European human rights law to expel "dangerous" foreigners as President Macron's government pledges the toughest crackdown on immigration in 30 years.

Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, said France would deport foreigners deemed a threat without waiting for the European Court of Human Rights to hear their appeals. If their removal was judged to have violated the European Convention on Human Rights, Paris would pay a fine but not allow them back.

Darmanin has put forward legislation — which will also extend the period of time that someone can be held in detention without bringing a charge — designed to woo traditional centre and hard-right voters who would typically vote for the Republicans party or Marine Le Pen's National Rally.

He believes that as the terrorism threat rises amid the war in Israel and Gaza and the killing of Dominique Bernard, a teacher in Arras, northern France, by an alleged Islamist radical this month, public opinion is on his side.

Under the proposed bill, foreigners served with deportation notices could be detained for 18 months if they also have a criminal record or are on an intelligence agency watchlist while their expulsion process is handled. At the moment, they can only be detained for 90 days and are often released before the deportation procedure has been completed.

The minister also wants to make it easier to expel asylum claimants who fail to obtain refugee status and refuse residency permits to applicants who cannot speak French or who espouse radical



**Gérald Darmanin said ECHR laws protecting foreign criminals put French citizens at risk**

Islam. Darmanin has drawn accusations that his hardline stance threatened to undermine Macron's second term of office by jettisoning the pro-European values at the heart of the head of state's agenda. The minister, who harbours aspirations for the Elysée Palace when Macron steps down at the end of his second term in 2027, declared there were "no taboos" in the fight against terrorism.

He is seeking to win right-wing support for his immigration bill, which will come before the Senate next month and the National Assembly in December.

Darmanin said that he had been justified in deporting two radical Islamists, one a convicted terrorist, to Russia even though the court had said they would face torture there.

Without opposition support, Darmanin's proposed legislation stands little chance of getting through both houses of parliament, where the government lacks an absolute majority.

Darmanin initially hoped to woo moderates on both left and right with a package that included a crackdown on asylum but also authorisation for illegal immigrants to stay in France if they found jobs in sectors where there were labour shortages.

Now the minister has given up hope of winning over the centre-left and is moving rightwards to woo Republicans MPs.

Darmanin drew up the battle lines by expressing the sort of reservations about the court that Suelia Braverman, the home secretary, has voiced in Britain. He notably attacked the court over its enforcement of the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that "everyone's right to life shall be protected



**France is split on the immigration issue**

by law" and "that no one shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Darmanin said this stopped him from expelling foreign criminals, and notably radical Islamists, to countries where they risked the death penalty or torture. "But should we keep [them] with us when they can also cause death in our country?" he said. "What is the role of the interior minister? To protect the population."

Darmanin suggested that France had been right to expel two criminals from the mostly Muslim republic of Chechnya last year after one had served a jail sentence for participating in a terrorist plot and the second was accused by the French interior ministry of being an Islamist radical.

The court said the expulsion violated the European Convention on Human Rights because of the risk that the Chechens would be tortured on their return to Russia.

Darmanin said: "I think the French people ... find that it makes sense that someone given a ten-year jail sentence for terrorist activities can be expelled because they are very dangerous."

Unlike Braverman, however, he said there was no question of leaving the convention.

He said France would instead circumvent the court by expelling foreigners deemed to be dangerous before it had time to give judgment. He added that he did not mind if that meant paying a fine.

"We used to wait until we had the opinion [of the court] even if that meant keeping extremely dangerous people on our soil. Now we don't wait. We expel and we wait to see what the court is going to say. The consequence of that is indeed a fine," Darmanin told the *Journal du Dimanche*.

A source at the Ministry of the Interior said the court's fines were only €3,000 and added that it often took three years to give judgment.

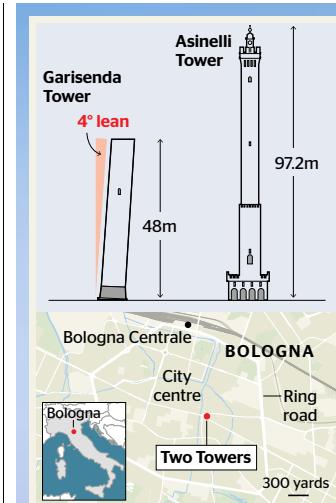
Darmanin said 89 "radicalised foreigners" had been expelled since the start of the year. He says his new immigration bill will facilitate the procedure by removing a ban on expelling foreign criminals if they are married to a French national or if they immigrated to France before the age of 13.

The issue is sensitive given that the French teacher's killer, a former pupil from Ingushetia, also a mainly Muslim Russian republic, was refused asylum but escaped expulsion because he had arrived in France at the age of five.

Writing in *Libération*, the left-wing daily newspaper, Thomas Legrand, a political commentator, said Darmanin was in effect claiming that "the rule of law prevents him from acting as he would like to ensure the safety of the French people".

He said that in other democracies, a minister would be weakened if he was found to have broken the law. In France, he "emerges reinforced".

Legrand added that Darmanin was "ruining what was left of Macron's fragile equilibrium [between left and right]. Emmanuel Macron is being robbed like a novice by the cunning interior minister".



## France turns up the heat on ready-meal restaurants

David Chazan Paris

The French have long fretted that their celebrated cuisine is being undermined by fast food and outclassed by Britain's diverse dining scene.

In the latest attempt to rescue Gallic gastronomy, the government is making it compulsory for restaurants to label dishes they have bought and reheated rather than cooked on the premises.

The practice of serving warmed-up factory-made food appears to be surprisingly widespread. Only 4 per cent of France's 175,000 restaurants serve dishes entirely cooked from scratch, according to Alain Fontaine, the president of the Association of Master Restaurateurs — a title conferred by the government on those who uphold culinary traditions.

The vast majority of restaurants buy industrially produced ready meals or

frozen food from specialist supermarkets where customers must show proof that they work in the catering trade.

In 2014, the government introduced a "home-made" label aimed at highlighting dishes cooked in restaurant kitchens from fresh ingredients. It was seen as a way of rewarding chefs who avoided the temptation to save time and money by serving dishes that appear freshly made but are in fact ready meals. The initiative failed because the label was voluntary and rarely used in practice. Inflation has exacerbated the problem as restaurants struggle to remain affordable.

Now, having tried the carrot approach, the government is trying the stick. From 2025 at the latest, restaurants will be compelled by law to label all dishes not cooked from scratch in their own kitchens, Olivia Grégoire, the trade minister, has announced. The

government had been working for months on a new way to reverse the decline in standards, she said. "It is impossible in the country of gastronomy not to clearly inform consumers," Grégoire told *La Tribune Dimanche* newspaper.

"It is also good for the morale of restaurateurs who take pains to offer their customers dishes cooked from scratch when increases in food prices and energy costs have not spared them."

Stéphane Manigold, the owner of several Paris restaurants including Substance, Maison Rostang and Contraste, welcomed the planned change in the law as "a victory for consumers and artisans of taste, and a defeat for micro-wave cooks and tourist traps".

It is unclear whether the new rule will be introduced in time for next summer's Paris Olympics when the government wants to showcase French culture, cuisine and architecture. Anxiety

that London and other world cities are beating Paris in the battle for culinary supremacy has been building for years.

In 2012, Joël Robuchon, the late French chef who won more than 30 Michelin stars, astounded foodies by declaring: "London is very possibly the gastronomic capital of the world. Why? Because it's only in London that you find every conceivable style of cooking. When it comes to what's new in cooking, to innovative cuisine, it's all happening in London."

Alain Ducasse, the famed French chef who has more than 60 restaurants in seven countries under his name, including Alain Ducasse at the Dorchester in London, recently said: "London is the city of the world. It's about cultural diversity in gastronomy. You can eat so many cuisines at the top level."

Beware coq au vin served with indecent haste, leading article, page 27

**Bologna fears that days are numbered for leaning tower**

**F**ears are growing for a medieval leaning tower that dominates the Bologna skyline after sensors picked up an

**Birth of Germany's 'left-wing conservatives'**  
Page 30



**Garisenda Tower, in Bologna, left, tilts away from the neighbouring Asinelli Tower**



alarming acceleration in shifts in the stonework (Tom Kington writes).

Streets have been closed around the 900-year-old Garisenda Tower, which stands 48 metres tall and leans at an angle of four degrees. The leaning tower of Pisa has a five-degree tilt.

"It's a symbol of the city and we must guarantee its safety," Matteo Lepore, Bologna's mayor, said as experts installed microphones to pick up any cracking that could herald the tower's collapse.

Garisenda Tower is one of a few remaining in Bologna dating back to

the Middle Ages, when competing rich families built 75 towers.

The Garisenda started to tilt soon after it was built — as noted by the poet Dante in his *Divine Comedy* — and the top ten metres were removed in 1350 amid fears it would fall.

"Like Pisa, Bologna is built on a plain, and there is a problem with soft clay," Nunziante Squeglia, an expert in geotechnics at the University of Pisa, said. Lepore said Garisenda Tower may need shoring up or filler material injected into its foundations.

# '190,000 Russians' die or lose a limb in Putin's war

## Ukraine

**Marc Bennetts**

More than half of the Russian soldiers who have been severely injured in Ukraine have lost limbs, a government official in Moscow has said, as President Putin's forces suffered fresh losses in an offensive in the east of the country.

"This is such a vivid problem. It's a lot," Alexei Vovchenko, a deputy labour minister, said at a meeting with Russian senators, according to state media. He gave a figure of 54 per cent for the soldiers who had lost limbs.

Russia has not provided numbers for wounded soldiers since March last year, a month after the start of its invasion, when it said the figure stood at 3,825. However, the British Ministry of Defence said yesterday that up to 190,000 soldiers had been killed or so badly injured that they would be unable to take any further part in combat.

Some analysts have suggested that Russia's severely injured-to-killed ratio in Ukraine could be as high as 1.7 to 1. Such a figure would mean that about 60,000 Russian soldiers have had an arm or leg amputated since the president ordered tanks into Ukraine 20 months ago.

The figures do not include casualties among the Wagner group. A Telegram channel close to the mercenary outfit said in July that about 20,000 Wagner fighters had been killed and 40,000 injured, with the majority of the casualties coming during the battle for Bakhmut, the town in eastern Ukraine that has witnessed the bloodiest fighting in Europe since the Second World War.

This month, a Russian soldier in Siberia who had had his left arm amputated after being wounded in Ukraine complained that he had waited six months for a prosthetic limb that turned out to be a metal stick and a plastic tip in the shape of a hand.

"He could not control it in any way — it was useless," a family member said. Officials reportedly paid five million roubles (£43,400) for the "artificial

## Wagner killer wows pupils

**Marc Bennetts**

A Wagner mercenary with two murder convictions was invited to a school to talk to pupils about the war in Ukraine as part of efforts by the Kremlin to boost support among the younger generation.

Alexander Raspravkin was dressed in full camouflage and pupils posed for photographs with an anti-tank missile he took to the school in Vyaznaya, 250 miles from Moscow.

The Wagner machinegunner was jailed for six years in 2010 after beating his grandfather so badly that he died of his injuries. He was imprisoned for 12 years in 2017 for killing a man in a drunken brawl, but is believed to have been released last year to fight in Ukraine.

The school said the pupils "very much enjoyed" Raspravkin's visit.

According to Yevgeny Prigozhin, the late Wagner leader, more than 32,000 prisoners were pardoned after serving six-month contracts with the mercenary group. Among them was Dmitry Zelensky, who killed his girlfriend and put her

body through a meat grinder to try to conceal the crime.

At least 10 people have been killed by former Wagner mercenaries who have returned from the front, according to Agentstvo, an investigative journalism website banned by the Kremlin.

Demyan Kevorkyan, who was jailed for 18 years in 2016 for murder, was arrested in August on charges of killing two strangers. Another former Wagner fighter has been charged with murdering an 85-year-old woman and others with sexually assaulting children.

"I'd like to ask Putin if he could forgive this," said Anna Bolotnyuk, after a man who raped and killed her daughter, Yana, 18, was released two years into an 18-year sentence and sent to the front in Ukraine.

Critics say that the true number of violent crimes committed by former Wagner mercenaries may be higher than reported because many people are afraid to report them to police after the Kremlin approved a law making it a crime to "discredit" people who have fought in Ukraine.

limb" to a company owned by the relatives of a local politician.

Up to 50,000 Ukrainians, including civilians injured by Russian missiles, are estimated to have lost limbs since the start of the war. Kyiv does not provide casualty figures.

Russia has taken heavy losses during a frenzied attempt to capture Avdiivka, a strategically and symbolically important town in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region. Putin's forces are believed to have lost about 70 armoured vehicles in its effort to encircle the frontline town last week.

In his daily address, President Zelensky said the situation in Avdiivka and the nearby town of Maryinka was "par-

ticularly tough". However, he said Ukraine was holding its positions.

In southern Ukraine, Kyiv's forces are said to have broken through on the eastern bank of the Dnipro River opposite the city of Kherson, in a potentially significant development that could provide an impetus to Ukraine's stalled counteroffensive. The city has been shelled relentlessly by Russian army since it was forced to retreat across the river in November.

A Ukrainian military spokesman said it was too early to speak about a significant advance. Six postal workers were killed yesterday in a Russian missile attack on a post office warehouse near Kharkiv in northern Ukraine.

## Stolen Ukrainian artefacts recovered

### Spain

**Isambard Wilkinson Madrid**

The police in Spain have recovered 11 pieces of ancient Ukrainian gold jewellery worth €60 million that were stolen after Russia annexed Crimea.

Three Spaniards and two Ukrainians have been arrested, including an Orthodox priest whom the police identified as the alleged leader of a crime network trafficking artefacts from Ukraine.

The recovered pieces are "gold jewels of great historical and economic value" from the Greco-Scythian culture of the 8th to 4th centuries BC, the police said in a statement. They said the suspects intended to sell the artefacts in Madrid to investors through a network of commercial companies. The haul includes a belt, earrings and necklaces.

Last year investigations led the police

to recover from a safe deposit box one of the pieces that had been sold to a Madrid businessman. A gold belt with ram heads, as well as ten other recovered pieces, had been part of an exhibition at a museum in Kyiv between 2009 and 2013. After the exhibition closed the artefacts ended up in the possession of the priest.

Investigators discovered the suspects had taken the stolen jewellery to Spain before May 2016 through an import declaration in which false documentation was allegedly used to claim they belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

**The belt, earrings and necklaces had been part of an exhibition in Kyiv**

Last week the Ukrainian parliament gave initial approval to a law that would ban the Moscow-linked UOC, after Kyiv accused it of collaborating with Russia since last year's invasion. The UOC, which is distinct from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, says it no longer aligned with the Russian Orthodox Church and denies the charges levelled at it by Kyiv.

According to the police, the group created several companies in which the jewellery had been included as part of the capital to try to give it a legitimate appearance.

The network commissioned Spanish experts in cultural property to carry out an appraisal of the jewels to establish their value.



## World

# Left joins right in Germany's new party

## Germany

Oliver Moody Berlin

Germany's political landscape has been shaken up by the emergence of an anti-establishment party that pitches itself as "left-wing conservative", combining criticism of mass immigration with pacifism and support for a strong welfare state.

After months of speculation Sahra Wagenknecht, 53, a seasoned populist who grew up in socialist East Germany, broke away from the struggling Left party in the Bundestag yesterday to found a movement of her own.

Polls suggest the party could attract up to a quarter of the vote across the country, rising to almost a third in the restive eastern states, where it could

play a significant role in regional elections next year.

There is preliminary evidence that it can draw voters away from the mainstream parties and the hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, as well as mobilising parts of the electorate that have become disenchanted with politics.

Yet the movement's potential to cause disruption remains hard to gauge. For the time being the "Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance" (BSW) consists of little more than Wagenknecht, half a dozen of her closest allies in the Bundestag, a little-known IT millionaire and a simple website with a handful of platitudes in place of a policy programme.

Her supporters claim she has taken

nine MPs from the Left party with her, potentially hamstringing its parliamentary operation, although only two of them have publicly confirmed they are jumping ship. Some believe the Left party could now implode.

"It's like when your grandma has cancer," Dietmar Bartsch, joint leader of the Left party in the Bundestag and an old sparring partner of Wagenknecht's, told *Der Tagesspiegel*. "You know she's going to die, but when the time comes, it's still sad."

The BSW's hardest task will be building a party infrastructure that can compete across all 16 German states in time for the European parliamentary elections next June.

Wagenknecht has previously indicated she would need to recruit at least

200 experienced politicians from other parties to establish the necessary machinery and avoid the fate of her last solo project, *Aufstehen* (*Stand Up*), which collapsed within six months of its creation in 2018. It is unclear whether she yet has the necessary party apparatus behind her.

The movement's biggest asset is the cult of personality around its leader, who is ranked as the third most popular politician in Germany. Wagenknecht, a former leader of the Left party, shares many of the AfD's critiques of the status quo, having campaigned stridently against pandemic lockdowns and state immigration targets.

Like the AfD, she also favours immediate peace negotiations with Russia and an end to sanctions against

Moscow and Germany's provision of weapons to Ukraine. Her appearances at anti-war rallies have cemented her status as one of the superstars of German radical politics.

In an interview with The Times in June, however, Wagenknecht distanced herself from the right-wing extremist currents in the AfD and suggested she would adopt a more conventionally left-wing set of economic policies.

Her gamble appears to be that a significant number of German voters are angry with "the worst government in history" and feel that immigration is out of control but at the same time are wary of backing the AfD because of the nakedly ethno-nationalist rhetoric used by some of its leaders.

## Oldest hound had anything but a dog's life

## Portugal

Isambard Wilkinson

Bobi, the world's oldest dog, has died in Portugal at the age of 31 after an early brush with death and a life of rustic leisure and good "human" food.

Bobi was a purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo who spent his life in Conqueiros, a village in central Portugal. Guinness World Records announced his death after 31 years and 165 days of life.

Leonel Costa, his owner, attributed Bobi's longevity to several factors, including the peace of the countryside, never having been chained or kept on a leash, and always eating "human" food".

Bobi's breed usually lives for 12 to 14 years. At birth, he and his three littermates were due to be put down by being buried alive, apparently the practice at the time. Bobi hid in a pile of firewood and Costa and his siblings found him a few days later. They kept him a secret until he opened his eyes, knowing that their father would not then be able to face burying him.

Bobi was declared the world's oldest dog in February this year, breaking a record held since 1939 by an Australian cattle dog that died aged 29 years and five months. Bobi was registered in 1992 with the veterinary service of the central Portuguese municipality of Leiria. His age had also been verified by a pet database managed by Portugal's National Union of Veterinarians.



**Snappy snap** A menace to rival that in Jaws lurks in this picture of a Cuban crocodile, which was highly commended in this year's Mangrove Photography Awards

## Opera intimacy expert for MeToo age

## Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

Over the course of the Liceu theatre's 186-year history, performers have faced fires and anarchist bombs. Now the Barcelona opera house has hired an expert to police other dangers: the cast's participation in overly passionate scenes and sexual harassment.

Ita O'Brien, a British intimacy director who has worked with HBO and Netflix and has taught at top UK drama schools, will ensure that singers in the Liceu's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* feel comfortable embracing one another.

She said that historically a performer would arrive in a city just a few days before an opening, and was not expected to discuss intimate scenes. "Without that process of agreement and consent

sought, people were left feeling awkward, harassed, absolutely abused," she told Reuters.

At rehearsals, she invites performers to "connect with a hug" then discuss where they are happy to be touched or feel uncomfortable. "We are inviting the performer to really tell us your boundaries and that's a big shift in the industry," she said. "Your yes is your yes, your no is your no, and a maybe is a no."

In a recent rehearsal O'Brien, 59, ensured that the mezzo-soprano Adriana Bignami Lesca, who plays Cleopatra's servant Charmian, was comfortable kissing another woman on the lips, and supervised scenes in which Antony embraces Cleopatra.

The Liceu will stage six performances of *Antony and Cleopatra* from October 28, conducted by the American composer John Adams, and staged

jointly by the San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

A pioneer of the role, O'Brien became the first intimacy co-ordinator to be employed by the Royal Opera House in a Katie Mitchell production of *Theodora* last year. A year earlier, Michaela Coel, named best actress at the Baftas, dedicated her award to O'Brien, saying: "Thank you for your existence in our industry, for making the space safe, for creating physical, emotional and professional boundaries ... so we can work without being exploited or abused."

In January, the 82-year-old opera star Plácido Domingo faced new accusations of sexual harassment from a fellow Spanish singer in a television programme, three years after such claims prompted an apology and curtailed his career. He has denied wrongdoing.

## Delivery-bots switch to snow tyres in the Finnish winter

## Finland

Oliver Moody

Trundling aimlessly around in circles or queuing in miniature traffic jams outside blocks of flats, little six-wheeled delivery robots have become a familiar sight in Helsinki over the past 18 months.

The technology now faces its toughest test yet: the first snowstorms of the season.

S Group, a retail chain, is upgrading its robots with robust winter tyres so they can continue to ferry groceries around the city. "Snow

should not be an obstacle," Tiina Meyer, a business development manager at the company, told Finnish television.

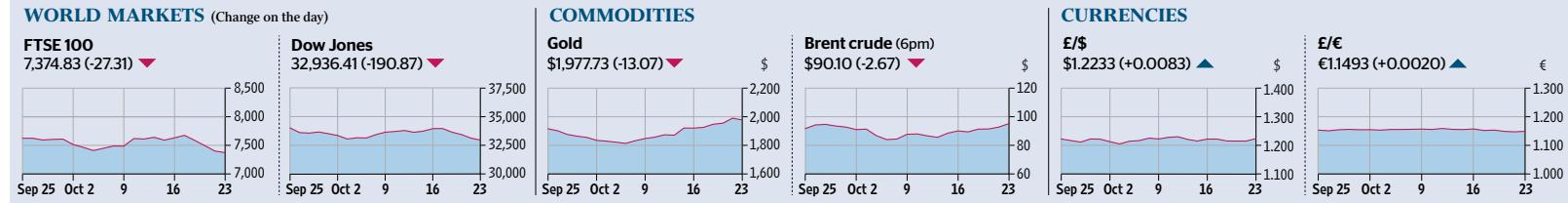
The trials use robots from Starship Technologies, an Estonian start-up. Powered by batteries, they drive autonomously about 99 per cent of the time, using 12 cameras and an array of radars and ultrasound sensors to navigate.

The robots have also been tested in various British cities including Leeds, Milton Keynes, Trafford, Cambridge and Greenwich.

**Remote operators are on standby if the robots fail**



# Business



## St James's Place gates £826m property fund as withdrawals mount

**Tom Howard**

St James's Place has suspended dealings in its property unit trust, making it the latest fund investing people's savings in British commercial property to be gated as clients look to get out of the struggling market.

The wealth manager's move means that investors cannot take out or put in more money for the time being. The offices, warehouses and shops in the

trust's portfolio were last valued at £826 million.

St James's Place also has moved to defer redemptions in two of its other property funds. While investors in those life and pension funds, which have portfolios valued at £563 million and £838 million, respectively, can still request their money back, it will take longer than usual.

All three funds, although they own different buildings, are predominantly

made up of offices, warehouses and retail parks. Shopping centres, high street units and leisure properties make up a smaller part of their portfolios.

St James's Place said it had decided to act to "maintain the stability" of the funds. It cited a "number of challenges" facing the sector, including a fall in demand for UK commercial property and the effect that working from home has had on vacancy rates in offices.

The outlook for shops and offices has

been altered dramatically by the pandemic, while higher interest rates have hammered valuations in the past year. Since the start of last year, UK property funds have suffered outflows of almost £1 billion, according to data from Calastone, a data provider.

Tom Beal, director of investments at St James's Place, said the wealth manager wanted to avoid having to sell properties quickly to generate cash, adding: "Selling properties under such

pressure may lead to the fund manager selling them for less than their actual market value, potentially resulting in financial losses for the fund and its investors."

St James's Place said that it was committed to resuming dealing in its SJP Property unit trust "as soon as we are satisfied that conditions are right".

Shares in St James's Place fell 9¾p, or 1.6 per cent, to 636¾p last night. The stock has fallen 44 per cent this year.

# Chevron in \$53bn bet on fossil fuels

## Oil major seals second biggest takeover this year

**Emily Gosden** Energy Editor

Chevron has agreed to buy Hess in a \$53 billion, all-share deal as the American oil major doubles down on fossil fuels.

The acquisition is the second blockbuster oil and gas takeover this month, after ExxonMobil's \$60 billion acquisition of Pioneer, the fracking specialist.

The California-based Chevron said the deal would strengthen its long-term prospects by adding "world-class assets", most notably the "extraordinary" Stabroek area off the coast of Guyana, the biggest oil discovery of the past decade. Hess has a 30 per cent stake in Exxon-operated fields estimated to hold the equivalent of more than 11 billion barrels of oil. Hess also has significant fracking assets in America's Bakken shale region in North Dakota, as well as interests in the Gulf of Mexico and southeast Asia.

Mike Wirth, Chevron's chief executive, insisted the company was "committed to helping to build a lower-carbon energy system". However, he told CNBC: "We operate in the world we live in and that is one that still needs oil and gas delivered by responsible producers."

Mark van Baal, the founder of Follow This, an environmental activist shareholder movement, accused Chevron of "betting on the failure of the Paris climate agreement", which requires fossil fuel usage to decline rapidly this decade.

Chevron, valued at more than \$300 billion, ranks behind Exxon as the second biggest international oil company that is not government-owned. It reported net income of \$35.5 billion in 2022. Hess, which is valued at about \$50 billion and reported net income of

\$2 billion, was founded in 1933 by Leon Hess, who began delivering fuel oil from a lorry aged 19. His son, John Hess, has led the company since 1995 and the family remains its biggest shareholder with about a tenth of the stock. Hess, 69, is to join the Chevron board.

The deal is the second largest announced this year in any sector globally, according to London Stock Exchange analysts, and takes oil and gas mergers to \$254 billion, the highest year-to-date total since 2014.

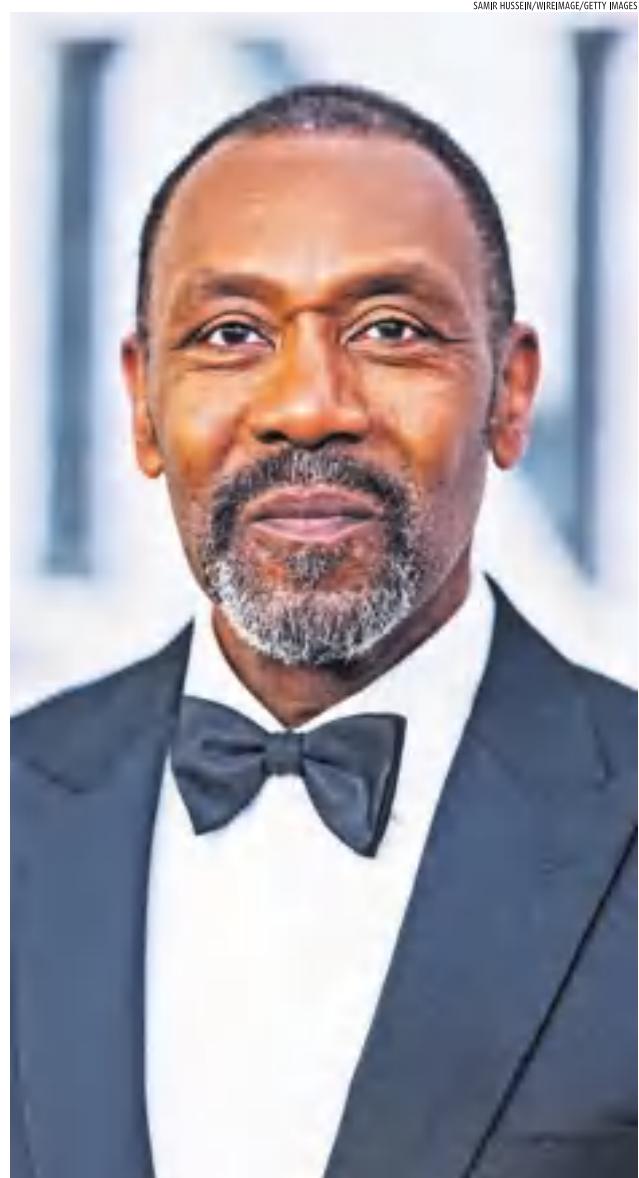
Brajit Borkhataria, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets, said there appeared to be "an increasing realisation" that oil and gas prices might remain high for some time, given a lack of investment.

While the Chevron-Hess takeover is an all-stock deal, analysts including RBC previously have noted the potential for more deals to come as companies sit on healthy cash balances thanks to the high prices of recent years.

However, Borkhataria suggested that European oil groups might be less able to carry out such deals since "US majors trade at a premium to most of the sector". Weaker valuations for European companies made it "much more difficult" to execute accretive M&A utilising equity", he said, and there was a question over their "social licence to execute large-scale M&A", given their emissions reduction targets.

BP, valued at £90 billion, had been talked of as potential takeover target for its largest American rivals. Its shares fell 13¾p, or 2.4 per cent, to 532¾p, yesterday with that prospect appearing less likely now Exxon and Chevron are both with sizeable deals.

Demand for fossil fuels "will peak by the end of the decade", page 39



**Smart idea** Sir Lenny Henry is co-founding a TV production company to champion shows from under-represented writers and talent. Esmerelda is being backed by the Paris-based Banijay and will be supported via a £50 million UK growth fund

## Britain leads Europe for start-up cash

**Ben Martin** Banking Editor

British start-ups have attracted \$15 billion in investment from venture capital firms so far this year, cementing the UK's status as Europe's leading hub for young, high-growth companies, research has shown.

The figure outstrips the \$8 billion attracted by start-ups in France and the \$7 billion in Germany and means that Britain is behind only the United States and China as a destination for venture capital investments, according to HSBC Innovation Banking and Dealroom, a data provider. It puts Britain on course to attract \$18 billion in start-up investments over the course of 2023, down from the boom years of 2021 and 2022 but slightly higher than the \$17 billion recorded in 2020.

In the third quarter, American investors were the biggest source of venture capital backing for British start-ups at 37 per cent, ahead of UK investors, who provided 31 per cent. European investors accounted for 9 per cent, Asia 4 per cent and the rest of the world 20 per cent.

These figures are likely to fuel worries in government and the City that many British start-ups are looking overseas for financial backing, to the detriment of the domestic economy. In July the government set out a plan to change this through a series of measures aimed at unlocking an extra £75 billion in capital for high-growth businesses from the British pension fund industry.

Nine of Britain's largest defined-contribution pension providers have pledged to invest at least 5 per cent of the assets in their default funds in unlisted equities by 2030, in an agreement dubbed the "Mansion House Compact" by Jeremy Hunt. In a boost to the government's plan, today 20 of the UK's top venture capital and growth equity firms that manage more than £25 billion combined will unveil an agreement to work with the defined-contribution retirement schemes that signed up to the July pledge to help them to increase their investments in start-ups.

## Business

### Need to know

**1** The majority of employees are now in the office five days a week instead of working from home for the first time since Covid lockdowns eased. In a survey of 15,000 professionals and employers, recruiter Hays found only 39 per cent were working in a hybrid fashion, versus 43 per cent in an office full-time. **Page 2**

**2** Barber shops are the fastest growing sector of the retail economy, with more than 2,300 opening over the past year, according to the Local Data Company, taking the total number to 19,404. Over the same period, 369 nail salons and 636 beauty salons have opened. **Page 3**

**3** Chevron has agreed to buy Hess in a \$53 billion, all-share deal as the American oil major doubles down on fossil fuels. It is the second big oil and gas takeover this month, after ExxonMobil's \$60 billion acquisition of Pioneer, the fracking specialist. **Page 31**

**4** British start-ups attracted \$15 billion in investment from venture capital firms this year, cementing the UK's status as Europe's leading hub for young, high-growth companies. The figure outstrips the \$8 billion attracted by start-ups in France and the \$7 billion in Germany. **Page 31**

**5** St James's Place has suspended dealings in its property unit trust, as clients look to get out of the struggling market. The offices, warehouses and shops in the trust's portfolio were last valued at £826 million. **Page 31**

**6** Indivior has reached a \$385 million agreement to resolve legal claims over its blockbuster opioid addiction treatment. The company has been battling lawsuits over allegations from claimants that it violated antitrust and consumer protection laws in marketing Suboxone.

**7** The yield on the benchmark ten-year US government bond breached 5 per cent yesterday for the first time since the early stages of the financial crisis in 2007, extending a bond market sell-off that analysts warned could carry on for the rest of the year.

**8** Gloom among European consumers has intensified as higher interest rates and sticky inflation threaten to constrain economic growth. The European Commission's consumer confidence index for the eurozone has fallen to -17.9 in October from -17.8 in September. **Page 34**

**9** Britons lose more cash to identity fraud than people in any other developed country. More than a fifth have fallen victim to impersonation in the past year, losing an average of £268 each, according to Adyen, the financial technology platform. It was the highest value across the 26 countries polled. **Page 35**

**10** WPP has sacked a member of staff in its GroupM advertising arm, buying operation in Shanghai after a raid on its offices last Friday. The employee was detained on bribery charges and the marketing firm has brought in a third party to conduct an independent investigation. **Page 37**

# World seeks to crack the code

**Katie Prescott**  
Business Technology Editor

Scaffolding covered the stately home at the heart of Bletchley Park as the Second World War code-breaking centre was spruced up to host the masters of Silicon Valley for the government's inaugural global artificial intelligence safety summit.

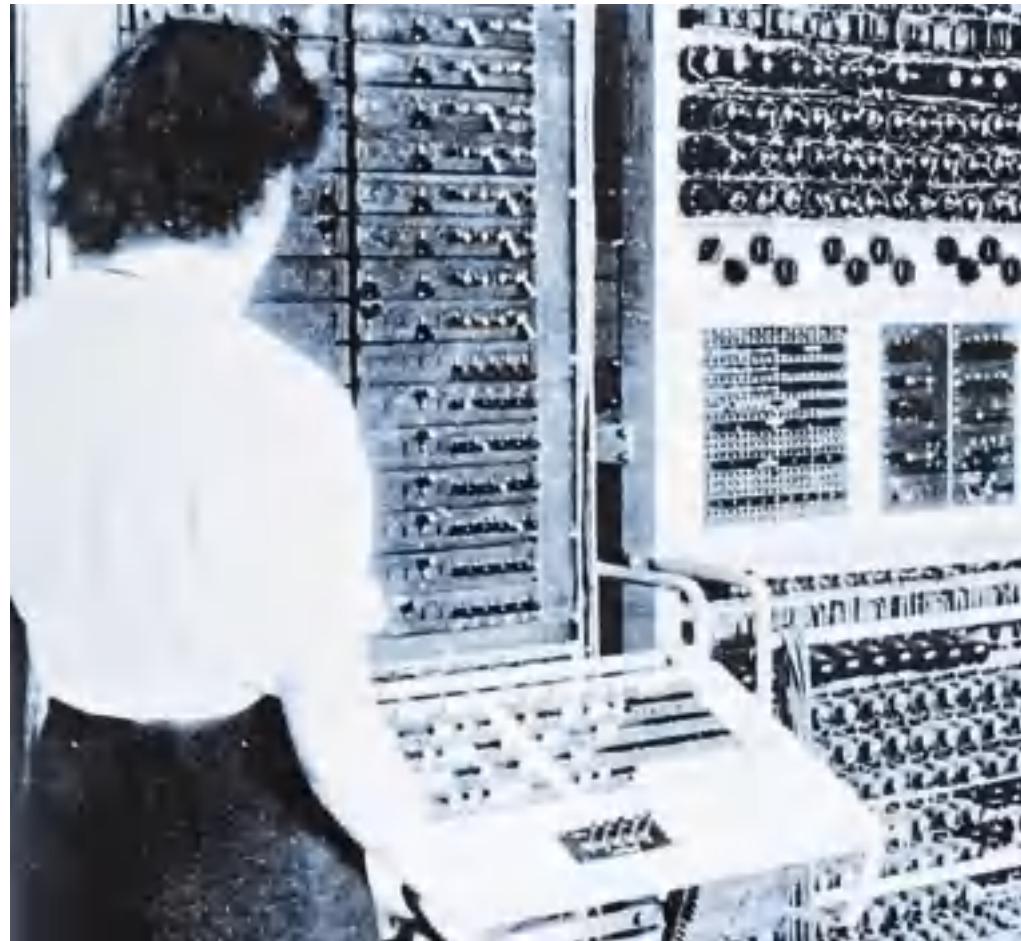
Spread over two days next week, the first hosted by Michelle Donelan, the science, innovation and technology secretary, is the one that most companies, along with their global counterparts, will attend. The second will be led by Rishi Sunak, angled towards the political implications of the revolution in AI.

Discussing perhaps the world's most exciting technology with some of the richest and most powerful global companies has attracted an illustrious guest list. The chief executives of OpenAI — the maker of ChatGPT — Google DeepMind and Anthropic, three of the biggest AI labs, are understood to be attending, alongside representatives from Adobe and policy chiefs from Amazon, Meta and Microsoft. Kamala Harris, the US vice-president, and President Macron of France are expected to join an event that Donelan hopes will cement Britain's position as the home of safe innovation in AI.

There will be much to discuss. Artificial intelligence is fast becoming the defining technology of the era, variously compared with the dawn of the nuclear age, the launch of the internet and even the discovery of fire. Potential downsides range from the loss of jobs to the manipulation of democracies to perhaps even the extinction of humanity. Elon Musk, the Tesla billionaire, was among several leading figures who signed an open letter calling for a global moratorium on the development of a technology with the power to create non-human minds "that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete and replace us".

Amid all this, the government is trying to carve out a niche as a leader when it comes to managing such harms. The Bletchley summit is only one strand of this. It also has put £100 million into a task force looking at safety research, led by Ian Hogarth, the technology entrepreneur and investor.

Discussion will focus on the most advanced AI models, known as "frontier AI", as officials argue that the risks around them require an "urgent international conversation" because of the pace at which the technology is evolving. Both Eric Schmidt, the former chief executive of Google, and Mustafa Suleyman, the co-founder of Google DeepMind, have called for an AI equiv-



alent of the intergovernmental panel on climate change to address the risks.

World leaders are finalising the wording of a statement due to be signed at the event that will set a framework for global collaboration on guidelines. A draft communiqué is circulating that highlights the risks around AI systems creating bioweapons and launching cyberattacks. It urges unified action.

In official pre-summit briefings, some of the more practical ideas put forward have included a public information campaign to make sure that people are aware of the increased presence of the technology in their lives and that they understand it. There have been calls for a central body or standards committee and suggestions that technology com-

panies be made to reveal what is inside their AI models, the vast swathes of content that underpin them.

More fundamentally, delegates are calling for more emphasis on skills, explaining that many companies still do not understand how to implement AI, never mind potential future risks.

Nicklas Lundblad, director of public policy at Deepmind, believes two key points must come out of the summit: "The first is an international understanding of the opportunity and risk and the second is mechanisms to co-ordinate. It is hard — it's hard for issues such as climate change and poverty — but if we can at least get to a first understanding between the participating countries that these are the mecha-

nisms, these are the principles, that would be a huge win."

The first half of the opening day will look at national security risks, what happens if human beings lose control of the technology. In the second part of the day, delegates will consider the guardrails and how to harness the benefits

Inevitably with such ambition, the summit has its dissenters. Some in Britain's AI sector have expressed concerns that rather than leading the conversation, the country is kowtowing to the United States. When the White House convened AI business leaders, they were all American and when Sunak brought together leading executives in AI at the end of May — from OpenAI, Google DeepMind and

## Indivior stumps up \$385m to settle legal troubles

**Alex Ralph**

Indivior has reached a \$385 million agreement to resolve outstanding legal claims over its blockbuster opioid addiction treatment.

The FTSE 250 company has been battling lawsuits over allegations from a group of claimants that it violated antitrust and consumer protection laws in marketing Suboxone.

Indivior, the former pharmaceuticals business of Reckitt Benckiser, said that it had reached a settlement with direct purchasers, or drug wholesalers, in the litigation in the United States before a trial that had been scheduled to begin on October 30.

The agreement comes after a \$30 million resolution with insurers in America in August and a \$103 million

deal in June to resolve claims brought by more than 40 states.

Indivior said the latest agreement marked the conclusion of the multi-district litigation, once the settlements are approved by a court in Pennsylvania. As part of the agreement, Indivior will pay \$385 million from its cash position and will take a charge of \$228 million in the third quarter, which will be excluded from adjusted earnings.

"This charge represents the additional amount above the current remaining provision of \$157 million for the antitrust multi-district litigation, which reflects the previously announced settlement agreements with the states and end-payers [insurers]," it said.

Indivior said it expected the agreement to remove the "material uncertainty related to Indivior's going con-

cern basis of accounting", which it had issued alongside its half-year results in July.

The news prompted a jump in Indivior's shares of 5.2 per cent, or 78p, to £15.87.

Mark Crossley, 54, the company's chief executive, said: "The resolution of this litigation, which was filed over a decade ago, provides greater certainty for all Indivior stakeholders and allows us to continue focusing on our important work for patients suffering from opioid use disorder and mental health illnesses."

Indivior was spun off in 2014 from Reckitt, the consumer goods group behind Nurofen and Dettol. It has built a dominant position in America, where its treatments are prescribed to recovering addicts to reduce withdrawal

symptoms. However, its reputation, balance sheet and share price have been hampered by the lawsuits relating to Suboxone.

Three years ago Indivior agreed to pay \$600 million to US authorities and pleaded guilty to a criminal charge to resolve an investigation into the marketing of its opioid addiction treatment.

Shaun Thaxter, 56, the former chief executive of Indivior, was jailed for six months in the US after pleading guilty in 2020 to causing misbranded information about the drug's safety.

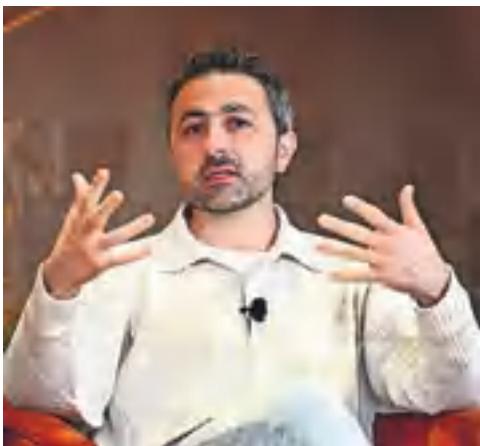
Analysts at Jefferies, the broker, said: "We are encouraged that Indivior can finally put its legacy multi-district antitrust matter behind it ... The [multi-district litigation] has been a barrier to some longer-term investors entering the stock."

# of AI at Bletchley Park



SSPL/GETTY IMAGES; BRIAN CAHN/ZUMA/SHUTTERSTOCK; PATRICK T FALLON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bletchley Park, home to Britain's codebreakers during the Second World War, will welcome guests including Kamala Harris, the US vice president; Mustafa Suleyman, the co-founder of Google DeepMind, has warned of the risks posed by AI



Anthropic — they also were all US-owned.

According to one insider: "There is a big contradiction between positioning the UK as an AI leader and then saying we need to pander to US CEOs to sort out regulation." It was, he said, like "asking turkeys to vote for Christmas".

James Manyika, Google's representative at the summit, said the gathering risked focusing too much on one issue, at the expense of others. Another executive said it was little more than a jamboree: "It is not clear what 100 companies are going to meaningfully contribute in one day."

The department for science, innovation and technology, said the summit would bring together "a wide array of

attendees, including international governments, academia, industry and civil society, as part of a collaborative approach to drive targeted, rapid international action on the safe and responsible development of AI. This builds on a wide range of engagements leading up to the summit to ensure a diverse range of opinions and insights can directly feed into the discussions."

Even as temporary buildings are erected and finishing touches are put in place to bring the venue up to scratch, clouds are gathering over the world stage. With the Israel-Gaza conflict, war in Ukraine and worsening relations between the West and China, insiders see it as a particularly bleak time to come to a global consensus on anything.

## Grumbling over guest list

Matt Clifford, the prime minister's representative for the summit, wrote on Twitter/X that there are "tough choices about invitations" because of its small size (Katie Prescott and Mark Sellman write).

The list is yet to be made public and there has been grumbling from companies that haven't been included. The small cohort of mainly American Big Tech companies that are developing so-called frontier AI models will be out in force, though. Clifford said it would be "roughly split between cabinet ministers from around the world, CEOs of companies building AI at the frontier, academics and representatives of international civil society".

Demis Hassabis, a co-founder and chief executive of Google DeepMind, will be attending, along with James Manyika, Google's senior vice-president of research, technology and society. Brad Smith, the president of Microsoft, is expected, along with Sam Altman, the chief executive of OpenAI. Amazon is sending Marc-Etienne Ouimette, its global leader for AI policy, while Meta is fielding Yann LeCun, its chief AI scientist.

Adobe will be represented, because of its role in developing watermarking systems to identify AI-generated data. Marc Benioff, the chief executive of Salesforce, will be there. Dario Amodei, chief executive of Anthropic, is flying in, as will Alexander Wang from Scale AI, which supplies data to AI companies, and Aidan Gomez from Cohere, the AI platform for businesses.

Then there's Alex Karp, chief executive of Palantir, the data analytics business. Nvidia, the creator of the chips that power AI, will be involved in some capacity.

From Britain, there will be Poppy Gustafsson, the chief executive of DarkTrace, the cybersecurity firm, and Nigel Toon, chief executive of Graphcore, which develops computer processors focused on AI, along with Marc Warner, chief executive of Faculty AI. From Stability AI there will be Emad Mostaque, its chief executive, and Ben Brooks, the head of policy.

Some FTSE100 chief executives describe being asked and then the line going quiet. Others say that they have been invited to "parts" of the day.

# US bond yields soar as sell-off continues

**Jack Barnett** Economics Correspondent

The yield on the benchmark ten-year American government bond breached 5 per cent yesterday for the first time since the early stages of the financial crisis in 2007, extending a bond market sell-off that analysts warned could carry on for the rest of the year.

Traders ditched US treasuries, pushing the rate on the ten-year bond, seen as the world's safest financial asset, to an intraday high of 5.021 per cent. Yields then fell back below 5 per cent after Bill Ackman, the billionaire investor, indicated on Twitter/X that bonds were now a good investment.

Bond disposals spread to the UK market, lifting the yield on the 30-year gilt to an intraday peak of 5.209 per cent, its highest since the summer of 1998.

Several factors have engineered a month-long sell-off that has raised rich countries' bond yields to levels not seen for several years. Most of the selling has been concentrated on longer-dated assets, suggesting that investors are demanding a greater return for locking up their cash for an extended period.

The US Federal Reserve is expected to leave interest rates at 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent for some time. Government deficits in the United States, Britain and Europe are not expected to fall significantly soon, suggesting that the bond supply will remain high.

Similarly, the risk of a renewed increase in inflation has resulted in investors demanding a steeper rate on fixed-income assets to compensate for eroding returns. This month data showed that inflation in America and

Britain had topped expectations by remaining unchanged at 3.7 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively.

Philip Shaw, at Investec, said it was "difficult to be certain" about what was driving the bond sell-off, but he highlighted concerns about the US deficit and credit rating as possible factors.

Volatility in the US bond market is the worst since the "dash for cash" in the early stages of the pandemic. It is also comparable to 2013's "taper tantrum", when traders dumped US treasuries as quantitative easing was reined in.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley said it was unclear whether the rise in treasury yields would act as a substitute for additional Fed rate rises until the end of the year, indicating that bond market volatility could continue. "Until then, hold on tight!" they said.

# Indivior freed up to fight global crisis

**BUSINESS COMMENTARY** Alistair Osborne

**C**ompanies can struggle to give investors the full-on customer experience. Not Indivior, the drugs outfit treating opioid addiction. Since it was spun out of Reckitt in 2014, stock market life has been an upper and downer rollercoaster.

Its key fixation? Pricey treatments, mainly linked to Suboxone Film, a daily dose slipped under the tongue. There was 2020's \$600 million settlement with the US Department of Justice after Indivior admitted to misleading the Massachusetts Medicaid programme about the dangers of the drug around kids: a failure that landed the ex-boss, Shaun Thaxter, with six months in a US clinic. All on top, too, of the \$1.4 billion Reckitt had forked out to pacify US authorities over Suboxone marketing that was allegedly dodgy.

That, though, was just for starters. Until this year, Thaxter's successor Mark Crossley was still grappling with three more suits — enough to spook investors and overshadow all the good stuff Indivior does to tackle the worsening opioid crisis. In July he paid \$103 million to settle a claim by more than 40 US states, alleging the group had made minor tweaks to Suboxone to prolong patent protection and outgun generic rivals. And in August he came up with a \$30 million dose to see off some litigious insurers.

Yet a big unknown still hung over the stock: a case due to start next week, brought by drug wholesalers. They claimed Indivior had illegally suppressed generic competition. The company disputed that. But whatever the merits of the case, it was a key reason for Indivior's warning at July's half-year figures that a punishing damages award would place "a material uncertainty" over its "going concern" status.

So, the good news? It's settled for \$385 million. The bad? It's \$228 million more than the provision in the accounts. Yet Crossley is right that settling a lawsuit filed more than a decade ago brings "greater certainty" for all stakeholders: the reason the shares rose 5 per cent to £15.87, also boosted by upbeat third-quarter guidance. As Stifel analysts put it, while the size of the payment is "disappointing", it "removes an impediment for many investors interested in the operational opportunity Indivior provides".

And, depressingly, the operational opportunity is getting bigger. In America, where Indivior has four-fifths of its business, drug overdose deaths reached 105,452 last year, with almost 80,000 related to opioids: a category up 69 per cent between June 2019 and December 2022. Most are now caused by synthetic opioids, not least fentanyl, which can be 50 times more potent than heroin. Worse, dealers are cutting other drugs such as cocaine with minuscule amounts of fentanyl to make them more addictive.

The upshot? A bigger market for Indivior, which started out treating those hooked on prescription drugs, but, under Crossley, is morphing into a business fighting what it calls the "global crisis" of addiction: a world where 61 million people misuse opioids, 209 million smoke or ingest the far stronger cannabis around

nowadays and 108 million have drink problems. Today, Indivior's key drug is Sublocade: a successor to Suboxone Film that is injected by a doctor in monthly doses and can also suppress the effects of fentanyl. Sales are up 57 per cent to about \$455 million over the first nine months, with Crossley aiming to turn it into a \$1.5 billion sales-a-year blockbuster. Last year, he also bought Opiant Pharma, whose nasal spray treats overdoses.

In short, demand is sadly high for the only pure-play treatment company around whose vital work should also give investors a nice fix. Assuming, of course, that this time it really has kicked its lawsuit habit.



**M**ore proof Big Oil does things differently in America. Weeks after ExxonMobil agreed to buy Permian Basin shale outfit Pioneer in a \$60 billion all-share deal, look at this: up has popped rival Chevron with the \$53 billion all-paper purchase of Hess, the business with assets in Guyana, home of pretty much the biggest oil find of the past decade.

No hand-wringing across the pond, then, over the transition to green energy. In fact, the reverse. Last month, the Chevron boss Mike Wirth told the Financial Times that the group was "not selling a product that is evil. We're selling a product that is good." He also dismissed the view of the International Energy Agency that demand for fossil fuels would peak before the end of this decade. "You can build scenarios, but we live in the real world," said Wirth, adding that he didn't think the IEA was "remotely right".

Whatever, he's put his money where his mouth is — even if he's sensibly using Chevrons puffed-up shares, not cash, to bulk up on the black stuff. It's not as if Hess wanted a cash exit, either. Its boss John Hess is 69. But the founder's son, whose family's stake is now being valued at around \$5 billion, said he intended to hold Chevron stock "for a long time".

Who knows if such faith in oil will prove misplaced — and it'll offend the green lobby. But shareholders are backing the Americans. Since 2020, shares in the transitioning BP have underperformed Exxon by 44 per cent and Chevron by 23 per cent, while Shell has lagged by 38 per cent and 16 per cent. For now, investors prefer to be over a barrel.

## Mixed messages

**A**pparently, the office is back. Or so says recruiter Hays, which has canvassed 15,000 people and found that, for the first time since Covid, more workers are travelling into the office five days a week than doing a hybrid routine. Still, has anyone told investors in St James's Place's property fund, a unit trust chocka with offices? Such has been the rush to get their money out, the "wealth manager" (!) has gated the fund. Surveys can find out all sorts of stuff. But money talks.

[alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk)

## Business

# High interest rates intensify European consumers' gloom

**Jack Barnett** Economics Correspondent

Gloom among European consumers has intensified as higher interest rates and sticky inflation threaten to constrain economic growth, official figures suggest.

The European Commission's consumer confidence index for the eurozone has fallen to -17.9 in October from -17.8 in September. It represents the third month in a row that the reading has fallen, but the drop was flatter than

analysts had expected. The consumer confidence reading is also far below the long-term average of about -10, though it has recovered sharply from the depths reached after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

While inflation is now falling, its multi-decade high for the past two years has hit household finances. The European Central Bank has tried to ease price pressures by setting the official borrowing costs at a record high of 4 per cent. It is expected to leave rates

on hold this week amid concerns about stalling growth.

The data used to generate the European Commission's confidence index was collected this month, meaning that the conflict between Israel and Hamas is likely to have weighed on optimism.

A third straight monthly decline in confidence "suggest that households remain defensive and that spending is rebounding less strongly than we expected a few months ago", Claus Vistesen, chief eurozone economist at

Pantheon Macroeconomics, the consultancy, said.

Separately, concerns are mounting over Germany's economy sliding back into recession. Yesterday the country's central bank said it expected GDP to have contracted in the third quarter, making it the latest institution to warn that Europe's largest economy is in a downturn.

The Bundesbank said that "external demand for industrial products continued to be weak" and that "increased

financing costs also damped investment, [which] depressed domestic demand especially in construction".

This month the International Monetary Fund said that German GDP would contract by 0.5 per cent this year, making it the worst performer in the G7.

Germany briefly tipped into recession last winter and growth has stalled since then. Its manufacturing sector, which generates a large chunk of its output, has been hit by rising energy prices since Russia's war in Ukraine.

## Middle East investors home in on 'safe' capital

**I**nvestors from the Middle East are choosing to invest in properties in London over rival international centres, given the "availability of diverse assets" in the capital (Jessica Newman writes).

According to research from Al Rayan Bank, one of Britain's largest Islamic banks, London "remains the primary focus" for investors thanks to its combination of strong rental growth, surplus demand and its status as a "reliable location for safe returns".

Of the 150 investors surveyed by the bank for its GCC investment barometer, a third had bought a mixture of commercial and residential property in London over the past 12 months, more than any other global



market. Those that invested in London in the year to the end of July spent an average of \$90.8 million each, higher than the average

\$90.4 million spent in Tokyo and \$89.7 million in Zurich over the period.

More than four fifths of the respondents, from

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates with an average net worth of \$208 million, said their confidence in the UK

market had increased over the past year, with the majority saying they planned to make new investments or to increase their

investments over the next five years. Of those planning to invest in London, 55 per cent were targeting central London, with

Central London was said to be the prime focus for more than half of those planning to invest in property in the capital

east London (32 per cent) the next most popular area.

In national terms, 59 per cent were considering residential apartments, 52 per cent were looking at commercial office space and 49 per cent at residential housing.

Maisam Fazal, chief commercial officer at Al Rayan Bank, said: "Investors know they can rely on the UK's stable currency, growing demand for housing, rising rental incomes, transparent legal system and its skilled property professionals, which make buying and owning property in the UK a profitable and headache-free experience".

Outside London, with 56 per cent of investment, the top UK destinations were Liverpool and Manchester, with 34 per cent.

## Betting on affordable homes comes with a cost for Vistry

**Tom Howard**

Deciding to go all-in on building affordable homes for housing associations and local councils is set to dent this year's profits at Vistry by £40 million.

The housebuilder said yesterday that it had made 200 people redundant after closing down five regional business units and folding their work into nearby offices.

Vistry, which owns the Bovis Homes brand, confirmed last month that it would focus its resources on its "high-return, capital-light, resilient" partnerships division rather than building for private sale.

Greg Fitzgerald, the chief executive, said at the time there was "much less risk" with partnerships because the partners, be they housing associations, councils or big landlords, forward-funded the building of schemes. However, because of that, the partners generally pay less for a house than a typical homeowner.

Vistry expects the lower profit margins to cost it about £40 million this year, meaning that its adjusted pre-tax profit will be £410 million rather than



the £450 million that initially it had suggested.

Chris Millington, at Numis Securities, said he "assumes the impact will recur in 2024 and 2025". Other analysts noted the "softer tone" of the update generally, pointing to the fact that the company would say only that it was "targeting" a profit of £410 million.

"It is unfortunate that Vistry had to reduce guidance so soon after the announcement of its strategic gear change," Anthony Codling, at RBC Capital Markets, said.

Vistry shares, down by a quarter over the past month, fell another 42p, or 5.8 per cent, to 683p.

The developer, which also builds

houses and flats under the Linden Homes brand, can trace its roots back to the late 1800s. Last year Fitzgerald, 59, decided to buy Countryside Partnerships, a struggling developer, and to fold its operations into those of Vistry, expanding its partnerships business. Now it has opted to focus entirely on that division, ditching its tag as a traditional housebuilder.

During market slowdowns, building affordable homes for housing associations and local authorities should be a steadier business.

Vistry has not noted the usual post-summer holidays pick-up in demand from private homebuyers that it had expected. It blamed "the higher interest rate environment and inflationary cost pressures on household income".

Since the start of July, Vistry has been selling 0.6 homes per week at each of its 140 or sites around the country, about a fifth fewer than it was selling a year ago. To get more sales over the line, it has been offering incentives, such as free carpets and deposit contributions. The company also has been in talks with several suppliers about reducing their charges.

## Commercial rent collection nears pre-pandemic levels

**Tom Howard**

Commercial property landlords' rental collection, which dropped sharply during the pandemic, is almost back to where it was before the first lockdown.

Landlords received 77 per cent of the rent owed to them on the day it was due last month, according to data from Remit Consulting, which tracked 125,000 leases and £2 billion in rent demands.

A week after the due date, 88 per cent of rent demanded had been paid. In 2019, before the pandemic, landlords received just over 90 per cent of rent owed within seven days.

At the height of the lockdowns, barely a third of rents were being collected on time amid a moratorium that protected corporate renters, many of which had to shut for weeks, from being evicted if they did not pay their rent.

The scheme was criticised by landlords, who felt that even well-capitalised businesses were using the legislation as a "licence to not pay rent".

Although rent collection has been improving, even at the June quarter day this summer only 65 per cent of all rents were paid on time.

"The rent collection rate at the start

of the current quarter is the most robust since 2019," Elijah Lewis, head of research at Remit Consulting, said.

Retailers were the best for paying their rents on time last month, with 77 per cent of retail rents collected on the due date. That probably reflects the cheaper rents that retailers have been able to negotiate in recent years.

Lewis said landlords would be

**88%**

The total in rent paid to commercial landlords a week after the due date

Source: Remit Consulting

encouraged by "what appears to be a sustained improvement in rent payments by high street businesses".

The same percentage of office rents were collected on time, while 74 per cent of leisure tenants such as cinemas, bowling alleys and theatres had paid by the due date. Industrial tenants were the worst payers, with 73 per cent of their rents paid on time. After a week, 85 per cent of warehouse renters had paid up, the highest total since the start of the pandemic.

# Stephen King

Surging inflation exposes truth about West's fiscal incontinence

**“**A handful of years ago, fans of fiscal stimulus argued that governments should borrow a lot more. The reason was obvious. Interest rates were at rock bottom. It made sense, therefore, to invest in public sector infrastructure projects: we could have faster railways, more hospitals and, best of all, a green transition at very little economic cost.

As it turned out, governments did borrow a lot more, but not for big infrastructure projects. The costs of the 2008 financial crisis triggered the first borrowing surge. Covid did the rest. Today government debts in most developed countries have reached levels (relative to the sizes of their economies) that, outside of wartime, were hitherto unthinkable. For a while, these higher debt levels didn't seem to matter very much. So long as interest rates remained low, there was little reason to worry. Western economies were, apparently, heading the same way as Japan: persistent deflationary risks and ageing demographics pointed to rates stuck at the so-called zero-rate bound.

However, the cost of borrowing has surged. In the pandemic, the US ten-year treasury yield — in effect, the benchmark for borrowing costs more or less everywhere — dropped to about 0.5 per cent. Yesterday the yield topped 5 per cent.

The most obvious reasons for higher yields are the return of inflation and, in the United States at least, a more robust period of economic growth than expected. Oddly, when inflation first rose, bond investors shrugged their shoulders and appeared not to worry too much. One reason for their complacency was quantitative easing: central banks had become the bond-buyers of last resort and, as such, bond markets were "rigged".

Another was the sense, initially shared by too many central bankers, that inflation was merely a temporary phenomenon. Yet, as those same bankers were forced to raise short-term interest rates to much higher levels in response to the emergence of "second round" inflationary effects — modest versions of the wage-price spirals that proved so toxic in the 1970s — it became apparent that economic conditions had shifted: old battles against deflation had been replaced by even older battles against



The fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 generated a valuable "peace dividend"

inflation. That, in turn, meant that quantitative easing (designed to thwart deflation, not control inflation) was no longer available to act as a prop for excessive government borrowing.

Admittedly, what constitutes "excessive" is a matter of debate. One way, however, is to consider the "sustainability" of fiscal policy. The US Congressional Budget Office and the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility both provide long-term fiscal projections based on policies.

Admittedly, their calculations are what might best be described as "heroic" — dependent on questionable assumptions regarding the future pace of productivity growth — but at least their projections help to illustrate the challenge.

We have, it seems, become fiscally incontinent. After decades of disappointing economic growth, government revenues are generally lower than originally projected. But spending commitments have continued to rise, most obviously

because of the rising costs of health and social care for ageing populations.

There are also other areas where governments may need to spend more: events in Ukraine and the Middle East, for example, suggest that the "peace dividend" that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ensuing collapse of Soviet-style communism lies in pieces. And then there's rising debt service costs. It's one thing having government debt at around 100 per cent of national income when interest rates are close to zero, but it's quite another when interest rates are up at 5 per cent or thereabouts. Put simply, the combination of higher existing levels of government debt alongside higher debt service costs implies that fiscal positions are becoming increasingly unsustainable.

The CBO now estimates that, on unchanged policies (and no additional spending commitments beyond those already announced), US government debt will rise to a whopping 181 per cent of GDP by 2053. The OBR's



equivalent estimate is an even more remarkable 310 per cent by 2073.

There are only so many ways out of this "debt trap". Those of an optimistic nature might argue in favour of boosting growth (and, hence, the debt denominator) via either targeted infrastructure projects (step forward, Sir Keir Starmer) or tax cuts (take a bow, Liz Truss). Unless, however, the markets are convinced that growth really will be raised, the risk is that interest rates will head higher.

A second, politically unpalatable option is a sustained dose of austerity, either via spending cuts (including, for example, lower pension payments thanks to a higher retirement age) or increases in the tax burden (already at a historic high in the UK). Default is a third option, typically deployed by emerging economies that have run out of "fiscal space". The long-term costs, however, tend to be disastrous.

A fourth is what is often known as "financial repression". Regulations are changed to allow governments to jump to the front of the credit "queue". Forcing banks, for example, to hold more by way of government bonds as "risk-free capital" may be seen as a way of making banks safer, but it may serve only to extend fiscal incontinence still further and starve the private sector of funds. Then there's inflation. Throughout time, monarchs, despots, populists and democratically elected governments have "printed money" to balance the books (even if it doesn't always work: as the OBR has emphasised, the UK has the "wrong" kind of inflation, leading to higher public spending via indexation without equivalently higher revenues). There's already been plenty of talk about the case for raising inflation targets.

Yet printing money and, thus, creating inflation serves only to rob a nation's creditors, particularly those cash savers who discover that, in real terms, their interest income has turned negative. It is a regressive wealth tax in all but name, one reason why bond investors are demanding higher yields. Fiscal incontinence, it turns out, comes with a high price.

**Stephen King is HSBC's senior economic adviser and author of *We Need to Talk About Inflation* (Yale)**

## Britons lose most when fraudsters steal identity

### Max Kendix

Britons lose more cash to identity fraud than people in any other developed country, new analysis has shown.

More than a fifth of Britons have fallen victim to impersonation in the past year, losing an average of £268 each, according to a survey by Adyen, a financial technology platform.

Per person, it was the highest value in the 26 countries studied.

The trend chimes with recent figures from UK Finance, the banking industry body, which show that while the number of other types of scam have started to fall, identity fraud has almost doubled in the past year.

Norway came after Britain in the league table, with consumers who had been a victim of identity theft losing an average of £256, while Danes had been defrauded by an average of £232.

Nearly half of Indians polled had been a victim of identity theft, but they typically lost much smaller sums. In the United States, 42 per cent of respondents to the survey said they had experienced identity fraud, losing an average of £230.

Identity theft occurs when a fraudster steals someone's credit or debit card number, or current account data, and uses that payment information to make an unauthorised purchase. While other types of fraud often rely on social engineering by scammers, where the customer has to believe who they are communicating with is genuine, identity fraud stems mostly from large data breaches leaked on the dark web.

Alexa von Bismarck, at Adyen, said: "Payment fraud is endemic across the UK, driven by new sources like push-payment scams, as well as traditional identity theft. Newer technologies like AI have contributed to creating a breeding ground for scammers."

"Fraud is the Achilles' heel of the retail sector, with only half of British businesses currently using an effective fraud system. This has made retailers an easy target for fraudsters and led the UK to claim the No 1 spot for payments fraud."

"It is incumbent on retailers to act fast and make sure they put in place fraud defences, especially as we enter the traditional peak season."

In a separate poll of business owners by Adyen, a third of respondents had experienced higher volumes of payments fraud in the past year. Many were using artificial intelligence to help prevent fraudulent transactions.

## Great reads for October

Enjoy 10% off our favourite books this month, including Matt Chorley's hilarious romp through the places that changed British politics.

To buy now visit [timesbookshop.co.uk](https://timesbookshop.co.uk), call 020 3176 2935 or scan the QR code



**EXTRA  
10% OFF**  
TIMES+ members only  
[mytimesplus.co.uk](https://mytimesplus.co.uk)



**T TIMES Bookshop**

## Business

# Don't worry, just look at our profits, says Keller

**Robert Lea** Industrial Editor

Keller has told investors to set aside anxieties about the North American and European construction markets and instead to focus upon the unexpectedly large profits it will make this year.

The announcement prompted a 16.5 per cent, or 111p, revival in Keller's share price to 784p last night.

The company claims market leadership in ground engineering — or geotechnical contracting, preparing land for the construction of infrastructure and housing. With 10,000 employees around the world working on as many

as 6,000 projects every year, it undertakes 60 per cent of its business in the United States and 20 per cent in Europe.

However, against a backdrop of an overheating North American construction sector and a moribund European market, its shares had fallen by 20 per cent in recent weeks.

Keller has played a key role in the construction of HS2, but much of its work on the foreshortened railway line is completed and analysts reckon that £50 million of outstanding work on the project accounts for only 3 per cent of the group's order book.

It had been due to update the market

on its third-quarter performance next month, but, given the circumstances, investors have been updated three weeks early.

The company said: "We expect full-year underlying operating profit to be materially ahead of current market expectations [and], reflecting the very strong earnings performance, the group's cash generation for the year to date is considerably ahead of the prior year and better than our expectations."

That prompted upgrades from analysts and a share price rise, valuing the company at £637 million.

Investec, the house broker, expects the group to reach £150 million of

underlying operating profit this year, compared with the £133 million it had pencilled in and the £108 million it made in 2022. It expects cashflows to push net debt down to £200 million from an expected £280 million.

Keller's trading statement said there had been "strong performance with a more progressive recovery in the operating margin than expected" in North America. However, it said: "In Europe, the macroeconomic environment remains a challenge, resulting in weak demand in the residential and commercial sectors across the region.

"Profitability continues to be impacted by the competitive pricing

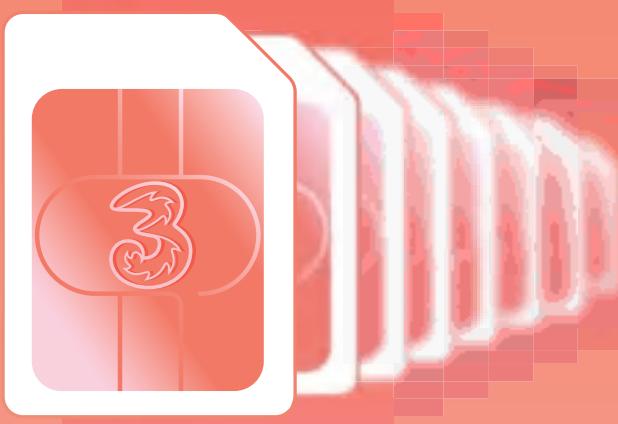
environment. Anticipated profitability improvement in the second half will be less than expected and as a result we are taking appropriate corrective actions."

There is also trouble in Saudi Arabia and with Neom, the kingdom's revolutionary \$500 billion "city" along a narrow, 100-mile strip east from the Red Sea, intended to house nine million people. Keller said design issues meant piling work had been delayed and it was redeploying resources from the project.

Founded in Germany in 1860, Keller is based in London and is the world's largest geotechnical specialist contractor, with worldwide annual revenues of £3 billion.

# Big value for your business

**Unlimited calls | texts | data**



From as little as

**£7.50**

a month\*

excl. VAT

**Business exclusive**



**Find out more at  
Three.co.uk/Business**



\*Price excludes VAT. Unlimited use in the UK only. £12.50 a month each SIM when you buy 2 SIMs on a 24 month plan. Price includes 5% monthly discount for paying by a recurring method such as Direct Debit. Each April, your Monthly Charge will increase by 4.5%.

# Demand for scanners is a tonic for embattled Philips

**Lara Wildenberg**

Profits in the third quarter at Philips have proved markedly stronger than expected and have prompted the Dutch medical devices manufacturer to lift its full-year forecast.

Philips reported income from operations of €224 million in the three months to the end of September, rebounding from a loss of more than €1.5 billion a year earlier.

The performance was driven by an 11 per cent increase in sales to €4.5 billion thanks to strengthening global demand for its medical scanners, patient monitoring equipment and personal health devices.

However, it said that its comparable order intake, covering about 40 per cent of group sales, was 9 per cent down on last time, blaming lower orders in China and longer lead times in its supply chains. Despite the fall in orders, Philips said it expected 6 per cent to 7 per cent comparable sales growth in 2023, with a profit margin of up to 11 per cent. Its previous outlook had suggested mid-single-digit sales growth with a high-single-digit profit margin.

Once known for making lightbulbs

and televisions, Philips has sold off its consumer electronics subsidiaries to focus on the medical care technology market.

Shares in Philips were lifted by its upgrade, rising by 2 per cent, or 35 cents, to €17.75 yesterday. The stock has stumbled from peaks above €48 since 2021, when the company announced a recall of devices used to monitor breathing for signs of sleep apnoea amid concern that users could be at risk of inhaling or swallowing pieces of toxic soundproofing foam. Since then it has cut about 7,500 jobs, out of a planned reduction of 10,000 by 2025.

The company suffered a further setback last month when the US Food and Drug Administration, the American regulator, criticised the testing and analysis performed on the machines as "inadequate". Yesterday Philips said that completing the recall "remains our highest priority" and that, based on test results to date, the use of the sleep therapy devices "is not expected to result in appreciable harm to health in patients". It said that after "communications with the FDA" it had agreed to implement additional testing.

# Ramaswamy gets a big win in medical treatment sale

**Lara Wildenberg**

A Republican hopeful in America's presidential election race is in line for a financial windfall after the company he founded agreed to sell an experimental bowel disease treatment for more than \$7 billion.

Rovant Sciences, which Vivek Ramaswamy launched in 2014, has agreed to sell its 75 per cent stake in Telavant Holdings to Roche, the Swiss drugs group, in a deal worth \$71 billion upfront, plus a near-term milestone payment of \$150 million.

Telavant holds the rights to develop, manufacture and commercialise RVT-3101 in the US and Japan. The antibody treatment offers a potential therapy for patients with inflammatory bowel diseases, such as Crohn's disease, which affect almost

eight million people worldwide. Pfizer holds the remaining stake in Telavant and has retained rights to market the drug outside America and Japan.

Ramaswamy, 38, made his fortune by creating Rovant, which bought up patents of drugs that other pharmaceutical groups had abandoned before being launched, then developed and brought them to the market.

He stepped down from his role as chairman in February to focus on the presidential race, but still holds a 7 per cent stake in the group, according to latest filings.

The Cincinnati-born entrepreneur is the second most popular Republican candidate among primary voters after Donald Trump, according to a recent CNN poll.

Shares in Rovant were 56 cents, or 5.9 per cent lower at \$9.10 in afternoon trading in New York; Roche shares fell \$wFr1.60, or 0.7 per cent, to \$wFr237.40 in Zurich.



**Vivek Ramaswamy is campaigning to become the next US president**

# WPP sacks staffer after Shanghai raid

Lottie Hayton

WPP has sacked a member of staff in its GroupM advertising airtime-buying operation in Shanghai after a raid on its offices last Friday.

The employee was detained by Chinese authorities on bribery charges and the marketing conglomerate said it had brought in a third party to conduct an independent investigation.

GroupM's offices were raided and one present employee and two former staff were held. A fourth, Patrick Xu, GroupM China's chief executive and country managing director for WPP China, was questioned by police but was not detained.

In addition to dismissing the member of staff, WPP also said that GroupM was suspending trade with any external organisation that it understood to be part of the police inquiries.

"We are absolutely committed to behaving in accordance with the law and our own code of conduct and will take all necessary action to ensure this is the case within our business," the company said.

On Saturday, a statement by officials said that the Shanghai Public Security Bureau's economic crime investigation department had "cracked" a commercial bribery case involving an advertising company, although the company was not named. The statement said that a senior executive and two other people had been detained as part of the investi-

gation. It said that those who had been detained "took advantage of their positions to accept huge bribes" between 2019 and February 2023.

GroupM make up about a third of WPP's £14 billion annual revenues. According to a story published by Chinese state media in July, GroupM was expecting China's total advertising revenue to increase by 7.9 per cent to \$150.6 billion this year.

Mark Read, 56, the chief executive of WPP, said at the time: "As our fourth largest market globally, China will continue to play a crucial role in WPP's long-term growth strategy. We believe abundant opportunities will undoubtedly rise in the years ahead."

The number of corruption inquiries in China has increased. Last month, Clear Channel Outdoor Holdings, the advertising company based in Texas, agreed to pay more than \$26 million to the US Securities and Exchange Commission after its local subsidiary bribed Chinese government officials to obtain advertising contracts.

Meanwhile, China's natural resources department has investigated the Henan and Hubei sites of Foxconn, a Taiwanese group that makes iPhones for Apple, subjecting it to tax audits and land use inspections. Its founder had announced previously that he would run in elections in Taiwan. Terry Gou, 73, who founded Foxconn in 1974, resigned from the company's board when he announced his candidacy.



## China's main index sinks as investors lose patience

**T**he leading Chinese share index tumbled yesterday to its lowest point in four and a half years as hopes faded among investors that politicians would deliver an effective stimulus to revive the country's

flagging economy (Jack Barnett writes).

The mainland Chinese CSI 300 index fell by more than 1 per cent, or 36.34 points, to close at 3,474.24, its lowest level since February 2019.

Traders are losing

Investors have been hit hard by the crises that have beset some of China's vast development companies

patience with authorities' efforts to arrest a downturn among property developers that has curbed wider economic activity. Beijing has tinkered with lending rates, lowered the cost of stock trading and cut the amount of cash that banks must set aside to cope with losses, all in order to encourage lending, spending and investment in the world's second largest economy.

While a weak recovery in Chinese retail consumption and trade suggests that government support is helping, economists think further measures are required.

So far this year, the CSI 300 has fallen by more than 10 per cent, while Hong Kong's premier Hang Seng index, which is sensitive to Chinese stock movements, has lost nearly 15 per cent.

Analysts at Pantheon Macroeconomics said: "China's recovery is still very fragile, but we are gradually seeing the effect of the previously deployed stimulus coming through."

# The power behind the visionaries

From first-time founders to the funds that back them and everything in between, we combine the strength and security of a global bank with bold thinking, empathy and insight. Because **innovation needs different**.



**HSBC** Innovation Banking

Discover more at [HSBCInnovationBanking.com](http://HSBCInnovationBanking.com)

# Business

## The Times unit trust information service

	Sell	Buy	Yld
	Sell	Buy	+/- %
ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS			
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573			
Gilt Acc A @ 206.01	... -0.27 1.05		
Strategic Bond Fund A @ 134.38	... +0.46 1.04		
UK Corp Bond C @ 104.79	... -0.78 3.87		
UK Equy C @ 631.26	... -14.91 3.28		
UK Equy S @ 202.26	... -1.42 3.97		
UK Gilt & Inv A @ 700.24	... -54.19 3.51		
UK Index A & Inv @ 1423.81	... -5.83 3.50		
UK Mid Cap A @ 4654.61	... -11.35 1.10		

### ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD

0800 092 2051

	Sell	Buy	Yld
	Sell	Buy	+/- %
Corporate Bond A @ 31.27	... -0.04 3.51		
Ethical A @ 110.40	... +1.20 1.38		
European P @ 109.20	... +1.10 1.38		
Global Bond A @ 109.10	... +1.20 1.38		
Global Inv Fund A @ 129.30	... +1.80 1.39		
Japanese S @ 72.52	... -0.84 1.39		
North Ameri : 158.00	... -2.30 0.35		
Special Cos S @ 96.08	... +1.09 1.06		
Special Sits @ 44.98	... +0.51 1.06		
UK Equity A @ 88.64	... +0.99 3.90		
Income R Acc @ 499.93	... -4.21 2.90		
Income R Inc @ 210.00	... -1.40 4.02		
Monte Carlo R Inc @ 2.31	... +0.48 1.29		
Strategic Assets R Acc @ 98.26	... +0.65 3.00		
Strategic Bond R Mm C @ 892.61	... -0.84 3.99		
Strategic Bond R Inc A @ 87.34	... -0.83 4.38		
Strategic Bond R Inc C @ 92.44	... -0.04 4.11		
Strategic Bond R Inc D @ 47.26	... -0.02 4.19		
UK Growth R Acc @ 688.26	... -8.79 2.10		
UK Smaller Cos R Acc @ 1699.57	... -2.78 1.54		
UK Special Sits R Acc @ 668.34	... -5.11 1.10		

### AXA FRAMINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD

Dlng: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Yld
	Sell	Buy	+/- %
Equity Inc A @ 572.40	... -2.70 4.43		
Gilt Acc @ 201.20	211.80 +0.10 1.08		
Gilt Inc @ 74.35	78.24 +0.39 1.09		
Health Acc @ 292.00	... -22.00 3.00		
Jap Smr Co A @ 625.65	66.09 +0.19 0.30		
Managed Inc A @ 138.30	... +0.40 4.20		
Monthly Inc C @ 196.40	... -1.70 10.20		
UK Growth Inc A @ 191.40	... -1.90 10.20		
UK Select Opps Inc A @ 1680.00	... -20.00 3.05		
UK Smr Cos Inc A @ 232.00	... -2.10 10.20		

### AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD

Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808

	Sell	Buy	Yld
	Sell	Buy	+/- %
Gen Acc @ 210.00	... +6.00 2.64		
Gen Inc @ 1079.00	... +2.00 1.00		

### UK/Global Investment Companies

Euro Acc A @ 234.70

Extra Inc B @ 30.14

Global Growth R Acc @ 288.10

Japan Acc @ 162.20

Pac Growth Acc A @ 478.80

UK Acc @ 232.00

UK Income @ 192.10

UK Smaller Cos @ 734.10

UK Growth @ 890.50

UK Select Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

UK Smaller Cos @ 162.20

UK Income @ 162.20

# Demand for fossil fuels ‘will peak by end of the decade’

**Emily Gosden** Energy Editor

Demand for oil, gas and coal will peak before 2030 amid an “unstoppable” shift to clean energy, the International Energy Agency has forecast.

For the first time, the agency sees global demand for all three fossil fuels hitting high points this decade on the basis of stated government policies, rather than relying on climate pledges that may not be backed by concrete action.

“A legacy of the global energy crisis may be to usher in the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era,” the IEA said in its annual *World Energy Outlook*, predicting that energy-related carbon dioxide emissions should peak by 2025.

However, it reiterated its warnings that a far quicker shift away from fossil fuels was needed if the world was to “keep alive” the goal of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

The Paris-based agency was founded in 1974 as a forum for energy co-operation to try to ensure secure access to oil supplies. Today its remit includes advice and analysis on the wider global energy system.

In the report, it forecasts strong growth in clean energy technologies, with almost ten times as many electric cars on the road by 2030 as today. The IEA said that “thanks largely to the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States”, a huge package of subsidies for clean technologies, it now projected that half of all new car registrations in America would be electric in 2030, up from a projection of only 12 per cent in its outlook two years ago.

It also sees “renewables’ share of the global electricity mix nearing 50 per

cent, up from around 30 per cent today; heat pumps and other electric heating systems outselling fossil fuel boilers globally; and three times as much investment going into new offshore wind projects than into new coal and gas-fired power plants”.

However, today’s policies still put the world on track for an average temperature increase of 2.4C this century, far higher than the limit agreed in the Paris climate accord.

“This risks not only worsening climate impacts after a year of record-breaking heat, but also undermining the security of the energy system, which was built for a cooler world with less extreme weather events,” it said. “Bending the emissions curve on to a path consistent with 1.5C remains possible but very difficult. But the costs of inaction could be enormous.”

Fatih Birol, its executive director, said: “Governments, companies and investors need to get behind clean energy transitions rather than hindering them. Taking into account the strains and volatility in traditional energy markets today, claims that oil and gas represent safe or secure choices for the world’s energy and climate future look weaker than ever.”

The IEA’s report suggests that an end is in sight to sky-high gas prices within the next two years. Though markets remain “precarious” for now, from 2025 it sees an “unprecedented surge” in new liquefied natural gas projects that should “ease prices and gas supply concerns”. It forecast a “glut” of LNG that would leave Russia struggling to find new buyers for the gas it previously sold by pipeline to Europe, resulting in Russia’s share of the international gas market declining sharply.

## Every Lidl helps to become the third biggest in London

**Isabella Fish** Retail Editor

Lidl has overtaken Asda to become the third largest supermarket in London, hitting a market share of 9.1 per cent in the capital.

The German discount supermarket chain has been expanding rapidly in the city and now trades from more than 100 stores within the M25.

Asda had a London market share of 8.7 per cent in the 12 weeks to October 1, according to the latest data

# 9.1%

Lidl's market share in London, lifting it above Asda and Waitrose

Source: Kantar

published by Kantar, the market researcher. Asda moved down to fifth place in the rankings, behind Waitrose, which has a market share of 9 per cent.

Tesco and Sainsbury’s remained the biggest supermarkets in London, with market shares of 26.6 per cent and 24.3 per cent, respectively. Morrisons had a market share of 5.4 per cent and Aldi one of 4.1 per cent.

Ryan McDonnell, chief executive of Lidl GB, said that becoming the third largest supermarket in London “re-

THE TIMES

## Business briefing

Inflation may be starting to come down but the UK economy is still struggling to grow. Despite the latest decision to hold interest



rates, markets remain wary of further increases to come and are questioning whether the cost of borrowing will stay higher for longer.

Access to the latest news and analysis has never been more important. Get our latest economics and business coverage at 8am and 12.30pm each weekday, direct by email from the Business Editor Richard Fletcher and the Business News Editor Martin Strydom.

**Sign up at** [home.thetimes.co.uk/myNews](http://home.thetimes.co.uk/myNews)

## What our listeners say about us

“Less aggressive than Radio 4”

“A game changer”

“For news and current affairs, I prefer Times Radio”

Listen for free today and see if you agree.

# TIMES RADIO

INTELLIGENT RADIO FROM THE TIMES



DAB RADIO | ONLINE | SMART SPEAKER | APP

## Business Markets

**Emma Powell Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Abcam bid 'good value'

Shareholders in Abcam have been advised to vote in favour of a \$5.7 billion bid by an American conglomerate. Last year Abcam, a supplier to the pharmaceuticals industry, moved to the Nasdaq stock exchange from Aim. Now Danaher has approached the Cambridge-based biotechnology group with a \$24-a-share offer. Glass Lewis, the advisory group, said Abcam stock had been "consistently moderately below" the price and the deal should be supported unless a better offer emerged. Shares in Abcam rose 29 cents, or 1.3 per cent, to \$22.92.

#### Chestertons sold

The oldest estate agency in London has been sold to a European property services group for £100 million. Chestertons, whose roots date back to 1805, has been bought by Emerica, which is owned by Partners Group, a Swiss-based private equity firm. Chestertons was bought out of receivership by Salah Mussa in 2005, since when it has tripled the number of its branches to 30. The business has said that it expects to turn over a record £70 million this year.

#### Men lead for longer

Male chief executives serve an average of 2.9 years longer than their female equivalents worldwide, according to research by Russell Reynolds Associates. The executive search company found that since 2008 the average tenure of FTSE 100 chief executives was 6.5 years, with men serving an additional third of a year longer than women. Male chief executives in the top 350 listed companies in the UK served 1.2 years longer than their female counterparts on average.

#### Northvolt 'eyes float'

Northvolt, the Swedish battery maker, is said to be eyeing Stockholm as the venue for a planned stock market flotation. The group could be valued at \$20 billion, the Financial Times reported, adding that the plans were preliminary and could change. Northvolt's gigafactory in northern Sweden is Europe's first such facility making lithium-ion batteries, offering an alternative to imports from Asia. Northvolt was founded in 2016 and has more than 5,500 staff.

### TESLA

Market cap	Q3 revenue
\$673bn	\$23.4bn

**C**lassifying Tesla as a growth stock is becoming more of a stretch. To justify a share price equating to 56 times forecast earnings, investors need to believe that the electric car company's side-bets will become material drivers of profitability. Yet investments in self-driving technology, batteries and its long-awaited cybertruck could take longer than anticipated to contribute visibly to Tesla's bottom line. Challenges to growth in the core electric vehicle business have placed more pressure on newer sources of revenue achieving scale.

The rapid rise in interest rates has pushed up the burden of monthly repayments for the group's electric cars, which start at a higher price point than other models. Tesla repeatedly has cut the price of its key Models 3 and Y in an attempt to boost demand. Elon Musk, Tesla's boss, has indicated that he is willing to continue reducing prices.

Third-quarter revenue of \$23.4 billion missed a consensus forecast of \$24.2 billion and was 6 per cent lower year-on-year. The deterioration in the operating margins was more pronounced still. This metric declined for a fourth consecutive quarter, to 7.6 per cent from 9.6 per cent during the previous three months, and was less than half the 17.2 per cent margin recorded in the third quarter of last year.

Price cuts have not been the only problem. Periodic shutdowns in some production facilities also made a "decent" dent in the margin. The downtime was to upgrade production lines, increasing capacity and making factories more efficient, part of what Musk calls Tesla's "game of pennies" — efforts to cut costs at the margins to give it more room to flex the price of its cars.

In recent years Tesla had immense pricing power. Since January, its main focus has been on making its cars more affordable, so that it can achieve the scale in volumes needed to expand margins and generate enough free cash to fund investments elsewhere.

#### Out of charge

##### Share price



#### ADVICE Avoid

**WHY** The shares look overvalued given the pressure on margins and speculative side-bets

#### VOLUME CHALLENGES

Weaker demand is not the only reason that investors should lower their expectations for sales volumes. Having a keener eye on costs means that Tesla is expected to be more cautious about stepping up production in its newer Berlin and Austin factories, which produce the Model Y.

Musk is also more circumspect on plans for a new plant in Mexico, where Tesla is due to break ground next year. The company will not go "full tilt" on filling out capacity until it has a clearer idea of the prognosis for the global economy, including interest rates. The factory is expected to produce the Model 2, a more compact and cheaper car slated to go on sale in 2026.

Then there is the long-promised cybertruck. The vehicle will be the first new Tesla since the Model Y in 2020 and will mark the group's entrance into the highly lucrative pick-up truck market, which traditionally carries higher margins. Demand has not been an issue, with pre-orders at more than a million, but Musk has been at pains to reset

the market's expectations for the magnitude and timeframe of production. Scaling cybertruck and making it cashflow-positive carried "enormous challenges", Musk said.

The challenge lies in the unconventional design of the electric pick-up, including a roof that relies on casting from a single metal sheet rather than a traditional pressing machine. It will be a year to 18 months before the cybertruck is a "significant positive cashflow contributor", according to Musk. The first truck will roll off the line at the end of next month and numbers will reach 250,000 a year by 2025, the company thinks. That is about half the 500,000 figure that had been bandied around the market.

Musk has held forecasts for 1.8 million vehicle deliveries this year, a 37 per cent annual increase. But analysts cut their expectations for volumes over the next two years. Barclays lowered its prediction for production volumes next year to two million, and to 2.3 million for 2025. That implies only a 15 per cent annual increase for each year, a long way off Tesla's longer-term target of a 50 per cent compound annual growth rate.

#### SPECULATIVE SIDE-BETS

The challenges faced by Tesla are not reflected in its share price, which has almost doubled since the start of this year despite a post-results sell-off. Its forward price/

earnings ratio is about twice that afforded to all bar one of the other so-called Magnificent Seven technology stocks. That includes Nvidia, the chipmaker whose explosive sales growth has made it the main avenue for investors looking to capitalise on the AI boom.

Tesla cannot lay the same claim to being a slam-dunk AI beneficiary as Nvidia. The hope among bullish investors is that selling self-driving software to third-party carmakers will establish a lucrative income stream for Tesla, something akin to Apple's services division, which carries margins north of 70 per cent.

Installing the autonomous driving software across its fleet could provide a helpful proof of concept for Tesla, but inspiring drivers to take up its existing self-driving software has not been a smooth road. It has already cut the cost of its driving assistant system this year to make more people sample the technology.

Estimates for how much value should be ascribed to Tesla's side-bets vary. Bullish analysts at Morgan Stanley attribute 77 per cent of its \$380 target price on the stock to its ex-auto activities, ranging from battery storage to insurance to licensing its self-driving technology. As it stands, car manufacturing accounted for 84 per cent of sales in the latest quarter.

In the meantime, funding investments in AI research and development and gradually expanding output of the cybertruck will weigh on margins. The former also includes Dojo, a supercomputer that will be used to train Tesla's machine-learning models and is aimed at improving the autonomous driving system.

Tesla aims to finance this through free cash generated by its existing business. This is sliding. In the 12 months until the end of September, it produced \$3.71 billion in free cash, the weakest level since 2020.

R&D expenses rose to 5 per cent of revenue in the third quarter, up from 3.4 per cent during the same period last year. Tesla has said that spending should continue heading north. That will become harder to explain if it is forced to splash out more on encouraging demand for its vehicles.

## PRICES

### Major indices

	New York	Zurich
Dow Jones	32936.41 (+190.87)	SMI Index 10331.92 (+16.68)
Nasdaq Composite	13018.33 (+34.52)	DJ Euro Stoxx 50 4041.75 (+17.07)
S&P 500	4217.04 (-7.12)	
Tokyo Nikkei 225	30999.55 (+259.81)	
Hong Kong Hang Seng	17172.13 (-123.76)	
Amsterdam AEX Index	719.18 (+2.94)	
Sydney ASX 200	7030.00 (-59.70)	
Frankfurt DAX	14800.72 (+2.25)	
Singapore Straits	3053.36 (-23.33)	
Brussels BEL20	3325.15 (-27.78)	
Paris CAC-40	6850.47 (+34.25)	
Zurich SMI Index	10331.92 (+16.68)	
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4041.75 (+17.07)	
London FTSE 100	7374.83 (-27.31)	
FTSE 250	17058.39 (+26.26)	
FTSE 350	4021.59 (-12.10)	
FTSE Eurotop 100	3459.84 (-3.96)	
FTSE All-Shares	3978.44 (-12.12)	
FTSE Non Financials	4875.44 n/a	
TechMARK 100	5893.06 (+21.95)	
Bargains	n/a	
US\$	1.2252 (+0.0089)	
Euro	1.1482 (-0.0001)	
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)	
Exchange Index	80.29 (+0.05)	
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
CPI	132.00 Sep (2015 = 100)	
RPI	378.40 Sep (Jan 1987 = 100)	
RPIX	375.30 Sep (Jan 1987 = 100)	
Morningstar Long Short Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)	
Morningstar Long Short Commodity	4703.45 (+27.75)	

### London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Dec 23	91,370	92,410	90,850	92,090	192944	472366
	MAR 24	95,980	96,480	95,980	92,190	60	16
3-Mth Sterling	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Dec 23	95,985	95,995	95,985	95,990	92081	612731
	Mar 24	96,070	96,070	96,045	95,960	80993	641971
	Jun 24	96,230	96,235	96,200	95,225	96027	562171
	Sep 24	96,430	96,450	96,405	95,440	80168	284787
	Dec 23	96,625	96,655	96,600	96,640	99848	363358
3-Mth Euroswiss	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	97	4278
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 23	7425.0	7433.0	7361.0	7399.0	99149	480267
FTSE100	Mar 24	7431.0	7431.0	7388.0	7421.5	9	



## Airline boss hands over the controls

The chief executive of Qatar Airways is stepping down after almost three decades in charge, according to reports (Helen Cahill writes).

Akbar Al Baker, who was appointed chief executive shortly after Qatar Airlines was established, said in a staff memo that he would step down in November, Bloomberg reported.

In the memo, Al Baker, 61, said: "In 1996, with a fleet of

just five aircraft, unwavering dedication and a loyal and passionate team, together we embarked on a remarkable journey to aviation excellence. From that very first day, our journey has been nothing short of extraordinary."

Qatar Airways has become a long-distance airline and has focused on a premium quality service. However, the carrier also has clashed with manufacturers over alleged defects in passenger jets in recent years. A High Court judge said in January that Al Baker

appeared "not to wish to engage" in a large commercial case regarding peeling paint on aircraft.

Qatar Airways sued Airbus, Europe's biggest aerospace manufacturer, over allegations that the A350 aircraft was unsafe because of cracking paint and claimed £1.3 billion in damages. Airbus denied negligence and said the paint was a maintenance issue.

Badr Mohammed Al Meer, the chief operating officer of Hamad International Airport, has been tipped as the likely replacement for Al Baker.

## The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Keller On track for record year	16.5%
Indivior Settles lawsuit	5.2%
Flutter Entertainment Bullish commentary from Exane BNP Paribas	4.1%
Ocado Bounces off four-month lows	3.8%
International Consolidated Airlines Benefits from lower oil prices	2.8%
United Utilities Higher bond yields	-1.3%
InterContinental Hotels Extends losses	-2%
Energean Oil prices slip	-1.5%
Fresnillo Gold eases from five-month peak	-4.7%
Vistry Cuts profit forecast	-5.8%

London Grain Futures				
<b>Liffe Wheat (close £/t)</b>				
Nov	188.35	Jan	uno	Mar
May	200.50	Jul	uno	Volume: 773

London Metal Exchange (Official)				
Cash	3mth	Dec 22		
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)				
78240.78245	78950.78980	8080.0-8090.0		
Lead (\$/tonne)				
2169.0-2171.0	2093.0-2095.0	2110.0-2115.0		
Zinc Spec Hl Gde (\$/tonne)				
2403.0-2404.0	2408.5-2409.0	2438.0-2443.0		
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)				
2144.0-2144.5	2172.0-2174.0	2293.0-2298.0		
Nickel (\$/tonne)				
18130.0-18135.0	18370.0-18375.0	19395.0-19445.0		
Tin (\$/tonne)				
24550.0-24550.0	24800.0-24850.0	24970.0-25020.0	15mth	

## Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open \$1971.21

Close \$1977.63-1977.83 High \$1982.55

Low \$1964.57

AM \$1984.20 PM \$1988.50

Platinum \$ (£)

Silver \$23.12 (\$18.91)

Palladium \$ (£)

## European money deposits %

Currency

1mth 3mth 6mth 12mth

Dollar 0.13 0.20 0.29 0.55

Sterling 4.20 5.40 4.74 0.81

Euro 0.10 0.15 0.20 0.50

## Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.50 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

## Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Copenhagen	8.5518-8.5788	8.5687-8.5704	134ds	402ds		
Euro	1.1497-1.1462	1.1483-1.1481	10pr	32pr		
Montreal	1.6656-1.6744	1.6733-1.6736	4ds	14ds		
New York	1.2142-1.2236	1.2228-1.2228	2pr	8pr		
Oslo	13.450-13.567	13.538-13.543	108ds	258ds		
Stockholm	13.342-13.469	13.421-13.426	178ds	564ds		
Tokyo	182.07-183.29	183.11-183.14	93ds	265ds		
Zurich	1.0832-1.0917	1.0902-1.0904	36ds	106ds		
			Premium + pr	Discount = ds		

## Dollar rates

Australia	1.5777-1.5778
Canada	1.3686-1.3687
Denmark	7.0080-7.0087
Euro	0.9390-0.9391
Hong Kong	7.8236-7.8240
Japan	149.77-149.77
Malaysia	4.7650-4.7700
Norway	11.072-11.078
Singapore	1.3679-1.3681
Sweden	10.976-10.980
Switzerland	0.8917-0.8917

## Other Sterling

Argentina peso	427.91-427.92
Australia dollar	1.9291-1.9292
Bahrain dinar	0.4576-0.4641
Brazil real	6.1162-6.1312
Euro	1.1481-1.1483
Hong Kong dollar	9.5653-9.5669
India rupee	101.60-101.60
Indonesia rupiah	19385-19394
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3765-0.3788
Malaysia ringgit	5.2829-5.3341
New Zealand dollar	2.0910-2.0916
Singapore dollar	1.6725-1.6729
S Africa rand	23.144-23.156
U A E dirham	4.4835-4.4837

## Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia \$	1.930	+0.01
Canada \$	1.672	+0.01
Denmark Kr	8.573	+0.01
Euro €	1.149	
Hong Kong \$	9.553	+0.05
Hungary	438.246	-0.47
Indonesia	19454.992	+167.68
Israel Shk	4.962	+0.03
Japan Yen	182.970	+0.85
New Zealand \$	2.093	+0.01
Norway Kr	13.561	+0.13
Poland	5.130	+0.01
Russia	115.393	-1.03
S Africa Rd	23.105	+0.08
Sweden Kr	13.464	+0.12
Switzerland Fr	1.090	+0.01
Turkey Lira	34.267	+0.24
USA \$	1.221	+0.01

Rates supplied by Morningstar

Data as shown for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or its publication

# Global headwinds leave London's miners in a hole



Jessica Newman Market report

**L**osses by a string of miners forced the FTSE 100 into negative territory for a fourth consecutive session yesterday, dragging London's senior share index to a near-two-month low.

Factors including growing tensions in the Middle East, concerns about higher-for-longer interest rates and dwindling hopes of stronger stimulus from China each played a part in denting the prices of most base metals. Miners, therefore, came under pressure, with **Antofagasta** dropping 27p, or 2 per cent, to £12.97, **Glencore** slipping 6½p, or 1.5 per cent, to 428½p and **Anglo American** retreating 29p, or 1.4 per cent, to £20.31%. The biggest drag, though, was from **Fresnillo**, the Mexican precious

## MEDIA

### Mission Group slams on brakes



Porsche is among the advertising and marketing firm's clients

**H**aving told the market less than a month ago that it was on track to meet its own board's expectations, investors in The Mission Group were alarmed to learn that in fact its full-year performance was going to end quite differently.

Shares in the Aim-quoted advertising and marketing specialist more than halved after it said that because trading was "rapidly becoming more challenging" than expected, the group's annual performance would be "materially

below market expectations". The company, which comprises a group of 19 digital marketing and communication agencies, employs 1,100 people in 28 locations. It has

received an unsolicited offer at 14p a share from SEC Capital. The board, however, said the proposal "significantly undervalues the current potential of the company" and rejected the bid.

Ashley Kelty, of Panmure Gordon, noted that the decision to turn down the offer, with at less than 3p, "raises serious questions about the board and its fiduciary duties, as it's extremely unlikely that the shares could reach this level over the medium term even in event of success". Still, the excitement got the markets moving and the shares soared 2½p, or 80.3 per cent, to a record high of 5¼p.

Producing a less remarkable but still impressive performance was **Tirupati**, the small graphite producer, which leapt 3½p, or 25 per cent, to reach 17½p after it told investors that it expected China's decision to impose export controls on graphite to be positive in terms of the "likely impact on prices, and on the long-term demand" for Tirupati's product.

# Business Equity prices

**Dividend yields** Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.

**12-month high & low** High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

## Automobiles & parts

## Banking & finance

## Consumer goods

## Investment companies

## Engineering

## Health

## High Tech

## Hotels & tourism

## Industrial stocks

## Manufacturing

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Pharmaceuticals

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing & engineering

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail & leisure

## Software & services

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

## Automotive

## Automotive parts

## Banking

## Finance

## Investment trusts

## Manufacturing

## Pharmaceuticals

## Retail

## Software

## Telecommunications

## Transport

## Utilities

## Water

## Food & drink

## Healthcare

# Equity prices **Business**

# It pays to go private

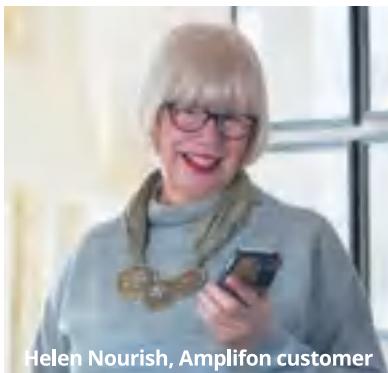
**G**etting the right hearing aids can transform the lives of those with hearing loss. Indeed, one of the biggest benefits of getting hearing aids through a provider like Amplifon, an independent global hearing specialist, could be the chance to obtain suitable hearing aids quickly. They will take the time to understand the hearing needs of each customer and the impact it has on their daily lives. The solutions are designed to suit each individual and to ensure they stay connected every day.

- ONE in FIVE adults in the UK have hearing loss – that's around 12 million adults.
- In the UK more than 40% of over 50s have hearing loss, rising to 70% of over 70's.
- By 2035, we estimate there'll be around 14.2 million adults with hearing loss greater than 25 dB HL across the UK.
- An estimated 1.2 million adults in the UK have hearing loss severe enough that they would not be able to hear most conversational speech.

Source: RNID – National hearing loss charity



## My hearing aids are so comfortable I forget I'm wearing them!



Helen Nourish, Amplifon customer

**H**elen Nourish realised she was suffering with the same hearing problems her mum had gone through after struggling to hear the television.

It got so bad that she had to have the volume turned right up and she was forever asking people to repeat themselves. Not only that, but she struggled to hear birdsong.

"My husband John would laugh and say 'you're getting just like your mum!', " she says.

As well as hearing loss, Helen was also experiencing a ringing in her ears – a symptom of tinnitus. She was referred to a hearing loss clinic where she was given hearing aids. Yet she was disappointed to find they didn't do enough to solve the problems.

A keen walker, golfer and bowls player, Helen's social life began to suffer. "I couldn't hear what was being said in groups, so I would sit not saying much – I felt like I was missing out," she says.

Deciding she needed a better solution, Helen did some research online and found Amplifon. She made an appointment at her local clinic and was impressed with the service.

"The audiologist did a very thorough test and was able to explain that the reason I was getting discomfort was because I had narrow ear canals," she says. "She recommended some different sized hearing aids which were better suited to my ears."

Since then her quality of life has improved

greatly, with hearing aids that connect directly to her iPhone. "They are so comfortable I forget I'm wearing them," she says. "I hear the ringing direct to my ear, rather than from the phone – it's brilliant."

Her social life has also improved and she can chat easily with her two grandchildren, Sam and Poppy, when they call.

"It's wonderful to be able to chat to them on the phone and hear what they are saying at last," she says. Her tinnitus has also improved.

"The sound quality is much better and they even help with my tinnitus," she says. "Because I can hear other sounds better I don't notice the ringing in my ears so much. Now I recommend Amplifon to other friends." ■

## Fantastic service is worth the extra money



Steve Javan, Amplifon customer

**S**teve Javan's previous hearing aids proved ineffective. Music fan Steve struggled with screeching hearing aids before deciding to go private. Like many people who suffer from hearing loss, he faced a unique combination of issues that required an equally unique hearing system to solve them. He was given hearing aids that proved ineffective particularly in his weaker left ear "I had the volume up so loudly the hearing aids were screeching," he adds.

He eventually got in touch with Amplifon and booked a free hearing test, which takes an hour and 20 minutes.

The process includes a comprehensive health history, thorough examination of the ears and a series of tests that not only map the sounds and frequencies you can hear, but also mimic real-life scenarios to identify the impact hearing loss is having on everyday life.

"My audiologist identified the problems I had without me having to tell him," Steve says. "Of the hearing aids I'd had in the past, he said one of them had been doing nothing because I had hardly any hearing in that ear. That's when he explained I could use a cross-over system."

With the system, the hearing aid in Steve's right ear transmits sound to the aid

in his left ear, which acts as a speaker. As well as performing much more effectively, Steve found they were neater and less conspicuous than his previous hearing aids.

"There was a huge difference straight away, it was superb," he says. "I can pick up the sounds a lot more and I can wear headphones now, which I couldn't before." Following his test, Steve was able to trial his aids before he bought them.

Since choosing to go private, he has never looked back. "Amplifon provides a fantastic service, so to me it's worth the extra money," he says. "I would say to people, 'don't be afraid to go', because it has changed my life." ■

We won't charge you a penny to trial hearing aids. See how well they work for you over 14 days.

### HOW IT WORKS

1. Have a free hearing test at your local Amplifon clinic
2. With your audiologist, choose hearing aids best suited for you
3. Try them out for 14 days with no obligation to buy
4. Simply buy or return the hearing aids

**£20 M&S e-gift card when you take our FREE 14 day hearing aid trial in November.\***



\*A hearing aid trial must be taken before 30th November 2023 to receive a £20 M&S E-Gift Card. This offer applies to new customers only. The quote reference must be stated and recorded correctly in order to qualify for this offer and cannot be changed. Please allow up to 28 days for your E-Gift Card to arrive.



### FREEPHONE

**0800 912 7856**

108 clinics across England and Wales

Please call & quote TM241023 giving a valid email address in order to qualify for the e-gift card or complete your details below and we'll give you a call to book your FREE hearing aid trial.

Mr  Mrs  Miss  (Please tick) Other:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★ Rated 'Excellent' October 2023

Address your envelope to  
**FREEPOST AMPLIFON**  
No stamp required.

**amplifon**  
A Global Leader in Hearing Care



**Indian cricketer hailed as one of the finest spin bowlers**  
**Bishan Bedi**  
**Page 46**



## Obituaries

# Haydn Gwynne

Versatile actress best known for playing Margaret Thatcher, Queen Camilla and the cynical news editor in *Drop the Dead Donkey*

When Haydn Gwynne decided she wanted to be an actress she felt like she was "coming out of the closet". She was in her mid-twenties, had a degree in sociology, was fluent in French and Italian and had just spent five years teaching English at the University of Rome.

On a holiday in New York, she took in some Broadway shows and had a moment of revelation. In "a bolt of lightning" she realised she did not want to go back to the classroom. She wanted to go on stage and had been "in denial"; acting had been her true calling all along.

"I had suppressed my ambition and thought it wasn't a proper job," she said. "So when I finally told people my dark secret, I remember feeling surprised people weren't more shocked."

She moved back in with her parents and wrote to every theatre company in Britain. With no theatrical training and only a handful of amateur stage appearances in school and university productions to her name, she was ignored or rejected everywhere she turned.

"I didn't mind the letters saying 'Thanks but no thanks,'" she said. "It was when you went for a reading. They weren't unkind and they would smile at you. But you could see in their eyes that

### She emerged from the flop that was Ziegfeld with her career intact

they weren't interested. That hurt."

Eventually, towards the end of 1984, Alan Ayckbourn offered her a part at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough in his revival of Sandy Wilson's eccentric 1971 musical *His Monkey Wife*, based on a John Collier story about a man who marries a chimpanzee.

From there her ascent was rapid. As a late starter she bypassed the usual ingénue parts and went straight into heavyweight lead roles from Restoration comedy to Ibsen. She could also sing and was cast in 1988 to play Billie Burke, the long-suffering second wife of the Broadway producer Flo Ziegfeld, at the London Palladium in the lavish, no-expense-spared musical *Ziegfeld*.

With Gwynne looking resplendent in a £10,000 stage costume, it should have been a dream part but it turned out to be a career-threatening disaster. The show became one of the most expensive and derided follies in stage history, closing after seven months with losses of £3 million that sent its producers into liquidation.

Gwynne was one of the few to emerge from the debacle with her reputation intact, having sung her torch songs with flair and style; but she admitted the experience was "traumatic" and "the nightmare to end them all", which left her crying herself to sleep after each excruciating performance.

She fled to California and spent weeks on a road trip, driving across the United States alone wherever her inclination took her and out of radio contact with her agent. When her odyssey finally ended, the hire company told her they had never had a



**Gwynne as Alex Pates in *Drop the Dead Donkey*; as Camilla with Harry Enfield in *The Windsors* and with James Lomas, rehearsing for *Billy Elliot***

car returned with so many miles on the clock.

Back in Britain she landed the role of Dr Robyn Penrose in *Nice Work*, the BBC's 1989 adaptation of David Lodge's Booker-nominated campus satire. The series attracted much attention for its explicit — and intentionally comical — sex scenes in which she cavorted naked with Warren Clarke.

"I didn't totally mind that because the script was funny," she remarked. "But people hovering around you, wiping the sweat off your brow, putting make-up on your bits ... I'd be happy never to play a love scene again for the rest of my life."

The role that made her a household name came in 1991 in Channel 4's topical sitcom *Drop the Dead Donkey* as Alex Pates, the professional but waspish and cynical news editor. Set in a television newsroom and with real-life politicians such as Neil Kinnock and Ken Livingstone making guest appearances, the show was a TV landmark but Gwynne surprisingly chose to quit after the second series. "If I had

kept playing Alex I might have typecast myself," she said. "I had visions of only being offered feisty, middle-class women with a script that called for them to get their kit off at regular intervals."

She received more high-profile television roles and came to specialise in the portrayal of tough-talking professional women, including the nonsense Dr Joanna Graham in ITV's long-running *Peak Practice* and Superintendent Susan Blake in the BBC's police drama *Merseybeat*. Yet, ever keen for fresh challenges and with the lure of the stage rather than the screen never far away, she chose to leave both series well before they ended.

She did several seasons with the RSC but, as she



grew older, she worried that her career would fizz out "once you're no longer shaggable", as she bluntly put it.

Such fears proved unfounded. She was tall and willowy — her patrician features meant that she was a natural to play older and imperious figures, none more so than Margaret Thatcher, whom she portrayed on the West End stage in 2013 opposite Dame Helen Mirren's Queen Elizabeth in Peter Morgan's play *The Audience*.

"Everything about her [Thatcher] was antithetical to what I believe in," Gwynne said. "But as soon as you are asked to play someone like this, you stop judging. You're coming at her from the inside out."

She was due on stage in the role on the day that Thatcher died. Once it was decided that the performance should go ahead, it led to an evening of intensified drama, as Gwynne recalled.

"It was electrifying. The audience were absolutely petrified about how they should react," she remembered. "There was a huge build-up before my entrance and when I walked on with

Mrs Thatcher's distinctive gait, there was always laughter.

"That night, there was absolute silence; the anxious feeling in the auditorium was so palpable and overwhelming that for a moment there was a real danger that we would be infected. I took a mental deep breath, and Helen did, too, and we seized control and the audience relaxed and came with us."

Three years later she played Camilla, then the Duchess of Cornwall, in the Channel 4 comedy sitcom *The Windsors*, alongside Harry Enfield as Prince Charles and Richard Goulding as a lager-swilling Prince Harry.

Portraying the future queen as a cartoonish villainess ruthlessly plotting her way to power, she

played the part "as if she were Joan Collins in a soap called *Balmoral*". But, she insisted, the series was not anti-monarchist but merely "silly and affectionate and just having fun".

It seemed that the royal household did not get the joke and Gwynne believed she was subsequently shunned. "I had met her [Camilla] years ago before *The Windsors*," Gwynne said. "But now any time we're at the same event, I get shooed away or bundled off in case we come face to face."

This year *The Windsors* was revived in a coronation special with Gwynne now elevated to Queen Camilla and thrilled that her scheming had come to crown-jewelled fruition. She also played Lady Susan Hussey, Queen Elizabeth's woman of the royal bedchamber, in the Netflix series *The Crown*.

Haydn Gwynne was born in 1957 in Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, the daughter of Rosamond (née Dobson) and Guy Hayden-Gwynne, a former Barnardo's boy who ran a printing business. Educated at Burgess Hill girls' school she represented Sussex at tennis at junior county level and for a while contemplated a professional career. Instead she went to Nottingham University and then to Italy before her moment of revelation that she wanted to act.

Despite the disaster that was *Ziegfeld*, she retained a love of musicals and one of her signature performances came as the dance teacher Mrs Wilkinson in Stephen Daldry's 2005 stage musical based on his own movie *Billy Elliot*. After a triumphant run on the London stage that earned her a nomination for a Laurence Olivier award, she reprised the role on Broadway and picked up a Tony nomination.

There were further Olivier nominations for her roles in the West End musical *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (2015) and in Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* (2017).

She is survived by her two sons, Orlando and Harrison, from her marriage to Jason Phipps, a psychoanalyst, from whom she had recently separated, although they remained friends.

Her spirited, high-kicking rendition of *The Ladies Who Lunch* was a highlight of Cameron Mackintosh's Stephen Sondheim gala *Old Friends* in the West End last year and she was due to rejoin the cast for a further run in London last month but was prevented from doing so by her cancer diagnosis.

It meant that her final West End appearance came in *The Great British Bake Off Musical* in March this year, when her character, modelled on Prue Leith, performed cartwheels across the stage, leaving the audience in admiration.

**Haydn Gwynne, actress, was born on March 21, 1957. She died of cancer on October 20, 2023, aged 66**



## Register

# Bishan Bedi

Artful Indian spin bowler whose subtle variations bamboozled batsmen while his outspoken views could be just as entertaining

Few bowlers looked as unthreatening as Bishan Bedi. Most batsmen revised their opinion after the Indian spinner had languidly approached the wicket and slowly released a high arching ball that tantalised them to try and hit him out of the ground.

It never bothered him when they did because they would often soon perish to the magic subtleties of arguably the finest slow left-arm bowler of his time. Indeed there were few more beautiful sights on a cricket pitch than Bedi walking to the wicket as if on a Sunday-afternoon stroll and flinging the ball higher than perhaps any other bowler in Test cricket. Each delivery looked the same but they were different in length, pace and line. One would be a left-handed bowler's orthodox leg-break to the right-handed batsman, another would drift in with the arm. Able to generate useful turn as well, Bedi said his greatest delight was getting a batsman stumped, as this meant he had beaten him twice — in the air and off the pitch.

Unmistakable in his brightly coloured turban, or patka, of his Sikh religion, Bedi missed only eight of the 75 Tests played by India from 1966 to 1979, taking 266 wickets (at an average 28.71), a record in his home country that stood for several years.

Watching Bedi bowl to the likes of Geoffrey Boycott, Ian Chappell or Garry Sobers was one of the most entertaining cricketing duels of the Seventies. His pronouncements could be just as entertaining, though they lacked the subtlety of his artful bowling.

Bedi was so lovable to offer outspoken views on the state of the game or even team-mates such as Sunil Gavaskar (with whom he had a long feud) that an Indian official once told him to remember that he came from the land of the *Mahabharata*, *Bhagavad Gita* and *Ramayana*. "I replied that we also come from the land of the *Kama Sutra*."

Bishan Singh Bedi was born in Amritsar in Punjab, northern India, in 1946. Unlike many Indian cricketers, who start playing in the street almost as soon as they can walk, Bedi had no interest in the game until he was 12. He took it up at St Francis High School in Amritsar because he was being teased about being fat and thought he could lose weight by bowling fast.

Bedi soon turned to spin and was barely 15 when he made his first-class debut for Northern Punjab. Early success put paid to any idea of joining his father's textile business, and he made his Test debut at 20. As one of the few Punjabis in the side it took time for him to be accepted and it was not until the 1969-70 season in India that he



made his mark. In eight Tests against New Zealand and Australia he took 36 wickets, including seven for 98 against Australia at Calcutta.

By the early Seventies he was a fixture in an India team that would feature three frontline spinners: Bedi and two out of Erappalli Prasanna, Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraghavan and Bhagwat Subramanya Chandrasekhar. He took another 25 wickets against England in 1972-73, including match figures of five for 109 at Delhi in the course of sending down 86 overs, of which 43 were maidens.

The easy rhythm of his approach and delivery meant that he was able to bowl for long spells and maintain his accuracy. Over the course of his Test career he conceded on average little more than two runs an over. Bedi ascribed his longevity — along with the abiding smoothness of his fingers and suppleness of his shoulders — to the fact that he washed his own clothes by hand, calling it "the best exercise".

In 1972 he joined Northamptonshire, twice taking more than 100 wickets in a season and in 1976 helped the county to win the Gillette Cup, the first trophy in their history. Against Lancashire in the final at Lord's he took three important wickets before conceding 26 in his last over as David Hughes hit him for three sixes. It was unusually rough treatment but Bedi took it with his usual phlegmatic calm. Bowling negatively was not for him and when he was hit for six he would often applaud the batsman.



**Bedi in 1967 and fighting his left-arm spin against Surrey at the Oval in 1971**

Bedi felt embittered after being released by the club in 1977 because the county said his bowling had fallen away and he was costing too much in wages.

His Test form held up and by then he had taken over the Indian captaincy. His first full series in charge was in the West Indies in 1975-76. On pitches made for batting he took 18 wickets in the four Tests and at Port of Spain his side made an unlikely 406 in the fourth innings, then a record chase, to win the match by six wickets. In the final Test at Kingston he declared the first innings early in protest against intimidatory bowling; three of his batsmen had been injured. He also ended the second Indian innings prematurely, sending out just five batsmen, declaring the others "absent hurt".

In the 1976-77 Indian season he took 22 wickets against New Zealand followed by 25 wickets against Tony Greig's England. After England's

emphatic win at Madras (now Chennai), Bedi accused John Lever, who had taken seven wickets, of using Vaseline to polish the ball and make it more likely to swing. The bowler, who had been rubbing the product on his eyebrows to stop sweat running into his eyes, was cleared of cheating.

Bedi refused several lucrative offers to join Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket franchise in Australia. He was rewarded by having his best Test series in Australia in 1977-78, taking 31 wickets at an average of 23.87, including ten for 194 at Perth. He played his final Test at the Oval in 1979. Disputes with the Delhi cricket authorities meant that he retired from the domestic game in 1981, earlier than he needed to. As it was he took a total of 1,560 first-class wickets at an average of only 21.69.

He was later appointed India's coach and manager in 1990 but after a defeat to Australia said he would like to dump

his side in the sea. While touring England in 1990 he criticised his old team-mate Gavaskar for refusing honorary membership of the MCC. On his return Bedi was sacked by the Indian Cricket Board, but remained a popular figure with a whimsical charm: "Critics call Bishan a rebel. Wrong. He was a cricketer who knew his rights well," said the ex-India captain Kapil Dev. "He stood up for the cricketers, fighting for better match fees, travel facilities and accommodation."

Bedi later joined those who accused the Sri Lankan spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, of having an illegal bowling action. Asked if he should think about tempering his "big mouth", Bedi said: "Ninety-nine per cent of human existence is fence-sitting. In India it is 99.9 per cent. To stay silent about something is a crime in my opinion."

## He took two corgis back to India and called them Charles and Diana

He found a kindred spirit in the great Australian spinner Shane Warne and even advised him on how to bowl to the India superstar Sachin Tendulkar. "Warne asked me: 'Bish how do you bowl to Tendulkar?' He couldn't sleep. I told him: 'Bowl to him with a slip, a gully and a forward short leg. These guys are there to work on his mind. He's such a great player he will not like these close catchers. He will think 'How dare you do that to me?'" Shane tried it and he got Sachin caught at gully. I was in the press box and he waved his cap at me. Cricket is a battle of wits."

Bedi met his wife, Glen, on a tour of Australia. The marriage ended in divorce but he is survived by their two sons, Gavasinder and Gill, together with his second wife Anju and a son and a daughter from their marriage, Angad, an actor and model, and Neha.

Bedi was devoted to his dogs. During the 1979 World Cup in England, the Indian team was invited to Buckingham Palace. When Queen Elizabeth descended the stairs he was more interested in her corgis "plonking down each step". He later took two corgis back to India. "The male was called Charles and the female Diana," he recalled. "At the airport the British customs officer said: 'Are you taking the mickey out of our royalty?' I replied: 'No I'm taking royalty with me.'"

**Bishan Bedi, cricketer, was born on September 25, 1946. He died after a long illness on October 23, 2023, aged 77**

## Lives remembered

### Sir Bobby Charlton

**David Marks writes:** A few years ago I was taking a train from London Euston to Manchester Piccadilly when Sir Bobby Charlton (obituary, October 21) and a number of what I assumed to be Manchester United executives sat down opposite me in the carriage before we departed Euston. He made no fuss whatsoever and I sensed the others were proud to be in his company.

While we waited to depart, some people who were joining the train saw him from the platform and stared in wonderment and a few came into our carriage for autographs — he was completely obliging and charming.

**Squadron Leader (Ret'd) BMP Goodwin writes:** As a young pilot officer in the RAF Regiment, in 1977 I was tasked with taking 12 new Land Rovers in convoy to RAF Gatow, West Berlin, during the Cold War.

I was briefed that upon arrival in the Russian sector, military etiquette was

that as the convoy commander, I should march from my vehicle and salute the Russian officer who would meet me at the designated "white line".

I was surprised to encounter a full Russian colonel marching towards me. I duly stopped, saluted and he returned my salute. He then, with immense enthusiasm, offered me his hand for shaking. Reciprocating this unexpected gesture of friendship I offered my hand too. With great enthusiasm he then said to me: "Manchester United! Bobby Charlton!"

Even there Bobby Charlton could influence peace and harmony.

**@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can send your contribution by post to Times Obituaries, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, or by email to tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

I was briefed that upon arrival in the Russian sector, military etiquette was

to be Manchester United executives sat down opposite me in the carriage before we departed Euston. He made no fuss whatsoever and I sensed the others were

pride to be in his company. While we waited to depart, some people who were joining the train saw him from the platform and stared in wonderment and a few came into our carriage for autographs — he was completely obliging and charming.

### Michael Campbell-Johnston SJ



**Michael Elmer writes:** I first met Michael Campbell-Johnston SJ (obituary, October 18) in Latin America, shortly after his ordination, and we later saw each other in a variety of places in the Americas,

corresponding between times about the church, Latin America and languages.

He was a good linguist, though he told against himself the tale of excusing his Portuguese when preaching in Brazil, only to have someone at the back shout out, telling him to carry on

"because we can understand nearly everything you say!"

Unlike some on the left, he was never an uncritical admirer of Castro and I recall an interesting and lively visit to the Cuban embassy, then a stone's throw from Farm Street. His time as Provincial was not his happiest and other Jesuit friends have said that he was not the best they recalled, but he had his admirers.

On a visit to Farm Street, my young son thought that Campbell-Johnston having an ancestor's skull as a *memento mori* was the height of cool — a family vault in Scotland had been vandalised and he had, perhaps illegally, kept it — and he further endeared himself to the children by telling them that it was a serious sin to refuse a second and even additional helpings of ice cream when they were offered by the Jesuit Provincial.

# Dave Courtney

London gangster, author, actor and accomplished curator of his own mythology

"Dodgy" Dave Courtney, a thick-set, shaven-headed gangster, came to public attention in 1981 after a New Year's Eve "misunderstanding" involving five Chinese waiters, their meat cleaver and the price of a takeaway. "I walked into the restaurant and shut the door. A load of blokes turned towards me. They could tell I wasn't there for prawn crackers and noodles," he said. He then served time in Belmarsh prison after attacking the waiters with the cleaver.

Eight years later he was acquitted of a gangland murder only to admit brazenly on the steps of the court that he was, in fact, responsible. "Course I was guilty," he said. "They deserved it. I didn't do nobody that didn't. I know everybody says that, but in my case it's true."

An accomplished curator of his own mythology, Courtney claimed to have been involved in debt collecting, nightclub door work, assault and smuggling. He was known as "the Yellow Pages of the underworld" and in 1995 arranged for 100 of the East End's finest muscles and tattoos to line the route for the funeral of Ronnie Kray, the gangster.

Over the years he lost several teeth, was twice stabbed in the back, broke every knuckle on his hands in fights, had a five-inch blade thrust into his right elbow, was shot at close range in the right knee, had his left arm cut with a flick knife and sacrificed part of a finger during the meat cleaver incident. On one occasion his nose was bitten off during a fight in a beer garden; it was later sewn back on.

"He used to get things for people," his then wife, Jenny, told the Evening Standard in a 1997 feature on gangsters' molls. "He can get prostitutes, debt collecting, someone bashed up, security for clubs."

Courtney was said to have inspired Vinnie Jones's debt-collector character Big Chris in Guy Ritchie's black comedy *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998). "Like when he gets that bloke lying on the sunbed, and carrying round two sawn-off shotguns," he said. "I've been in the unfortunate position of having quite a lot of guns pointing at me and the one that frightened me the most was a dirty old sawn-off shotgun, so I knew how scary two would look."

Some disputed Courtney's colourful accounts. "Mad" Frankie Fraser, known as "the dentist" for his habit of torturing victims with gold-plated pliers, accused him of embellishing his criminal record, suggesting in 1999 that he was "not fit" to be featured in the Cons to Icons exhibition of art by



Courtney was accused of being a police informant in 1999

underworld figures. "He hasn't earned the right to be in such company," Fraser said, accusing his fellow gangster of being "a grass", or police informer.

Courtney was "very hurt" and denied co-operating with the police. He had, however, given them a key to his house after becoming fed up with the damage caused on their regular visits. "Look, I'm not going to have a dead body or a gun in my house for you to find," he said, explaining that he never took "work" home.

In the mid-1990s Courtney turned his back on crime and took up acting and writing, completing six books starting with *Stop the Ride, I Want to Get Off* (1999).

"I'm looking for something that will give me the lifestyle I'm used to without the grief," he said of his change of direction. In his fifth book, *F\*\*\* the Ride* (2005), he claimed to have been acquitted in 19 trials.

On screen he played a London villain who kills his way to the top of the drug world in *Full English Breakfast* (2014) and the crime boss Ray Razor in *Crudwick Gangsters* (2017).

Some of his associates seemed not quite so eager to move on. In 2002 he was driving a friend's Range Rover when the car was "bumped" off the A2 in south-east London and he was thrown out of the window, suffering serious injuries. "I'm convinced somebody somewhere wants me dead," he said from his hospital bed.

David John Courtney was born in Bermondsey, south London, in 1959, the son of Patrick Courtney, a Scout leader who worked for the gas board, and his wife Teresa (née Dargan), a strict Irish Catholic who was a store detective for Woolworths, "which is pretty

funny considering the amount of stuff I used to lift from Woolies", he wrote. His headmaster at Adamsrill Primary School, Sydenham, observed prophetically: "That boy is going to cause his mother, future wife and the police a lot of trouble."

He grew up above a butcher's shop in Camberwell Green until the family moved to a "prefab house on stilts" in Stepney and later Forest Hill. In his early teens he broke into a toy warehouse, began stealing cars and took part in a wages snatch from a building site. "I got loads of fines and could have been sent to borstal but always managed to slip out of it somehow," he wrote.

Before long he had been expelled from school, seen by psychiatrists and, as a last resort, sent on an outdoor pursuits course in Devon. "We had to go out on the moors and go rambling and fishing and abseiling and pot-holing and all that country-life crap," he added.

At age 15 his first job was as a window dresser for a department store. One night he hid inside a wardrobe and, after the store had been locked up, went around stealing as much as he could carry. "About the only thing I didn't have on my back was a three-piece suite," he said. Unknown to him, there was a silent alarm linked to the local police station and he was apprehended. Before long he had fallen

## He inspired Vinnie Jones's character in Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels

en in with some of the East End "firms" including, he claimed, that of the Kray twins.

Courtney married Susan Ray in 1979 and Annette Barn in 1985; both marriages were dissolved. He later married Jennifer Pinto, a DJ and rap artist known as JennyBean, at a ceremony in Las Vegas. In 2012 he was cleared of attacking her after claiming that she was involved in an affair with Angela Bostock, the ex-partner of Steve McFadden, who played the hard man Phil Mitchell in *EastEnders*.

He and Pinto were separated and he is survived by his partner, Angela, and by his children: Drew; Courtney, who is a singer and tattoo artist; Chelsea; Lillie, a soldier; Beau, an entrepreneur; and Levi. His stepson, Genson, a drug dealer, was shot dead by Pinto's brother in 2011.

In December 1990 Courtney was fined £225 at Bow Street magistrates' court for drug possession and obstructing a

police officer. The following year he was described as a "doorman" when he appeared at Staines magistrates' court accused of robbery and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

He appeared in *The Krays* (1990), Peter Medak's biopic about the East End gangsters, and released a single, *Who Is He?*, celebrating his 1989 murder acquittal. He was also co-author with Jim Dawkins, a former prisoner officer, of *The British Crime and Prison Quiz Book* (2008), with a foreword by Charles Bronson, the convicted armed robber.

Despite the books and television work, Courtney was unable to keep out of trouble. In January 2009, he was given an 18-month conditional discharge at Bristol crown court after admitting unlawfully possessing ammunition. He had been stopped because his red BMW had the illegal registration plate BADBOYL. In court he claimed that the bullet was a prop for a stage show in which he encouraged young people to remain on the straight and narrow, though the judge, Mr Justice Ticehurst, observed that his inability to distinguish between a fake and a real round "perhaps undermines your street credibility".

Soon he was declared bankrupt, owing HM Revenue & Customs £250,000, and not long afterwards was acquitted at the Old Bailey of three charges of possessing prohibited weapons. The case came about after auditors in his bankruptcy case noticed a gold-sprayed "James Bond-style" revolver while searching his home for assets. He told the jury that they were items from his wife's collection of theatrical props.

The cigar-smoking Courtney, who referred to himself as Dave Courtney OBE, or One Big Egg, lived in a converted former school in Plumstead, southeast London. Known as Camelot Castle, it was a homage to King Arthur with St George's flags, a replica of Arthur's sword in the stone and a large mural depicting Courtney as Arthur. On the gate hung an oversize knuckleduster while inside were suits of armour, a private nightclub and a "sex dungeon". He kept a pet peacock called Percy, offering a £100 reward when it escaped last year.

"Course I like to be loved," he once said. "I'm more of a Robin Hood than a robbin' bastard."

**Dave Courtney, gangster, author and actor, was born on February 17, 1959. He was found dead on October 22, 2023, aged 64**

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

**IF** you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:15-16 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Births

**BURGESS** on 1st October 2023 to Laura (née Patrick) and Marcus, a daughter, Charlotte Noelle.

**DURAN** on 7th September 2023 to Louise (née Tomlinson) and Hervé, a son, Matilda.

**ENGLISH** on 19th October 2023 to Gloria (née Williamson) and Toby, a daughter, Matilda.

**IRWIN-BROWN** on 7th June 2023 to Charlotte (née Gillies) and Jake, a son, Caspar Stirling, brother to Lockie.

**KAVAKEB** on 8th October 2023 to Kemmi and Dominic, a son, Casrah Oisin Hassan.

**MCALLISTER** on 4th October 2023 to Alice (née Varley) and Kay, a daughter, Charlotte Isobel May.

### Deaths

**ARMITAGE** Peter died unexpectedly but peacefully at home on Friday 13th October. Beloved husband of Bronnie (deceased), much-loved father of Georgina and Nicola, adored Bumpa of Jack, Alice, Iona & Freddie. Memorial service at St Helen's, Tarporley, on Thursday 9th November at 1pm. Brightles. Donations to St John and the Holy Cross Church, Cotebrook, and St Luke's Hospital, e/o Jacqueline Wilson Funeral Directors, 01829 781572.

**FLINT** Michael George died peacefully on 21st September 2023, aged 91. Much-loved husband of Liz and fun-loving father of Jane, Tom and Will and grandfather of nine. Reguline Mass 2nd November at 11.30am at All Saints, Bisley. He will be greatly missed by his family and the many friends and colleagues made throughout a hardworking and convivial life at Douai and at Oxford, as a highly regarded Gloucestershire solicitor and during 55 years in Bisley. He kept his great sense of humour to the end.

Soon he was declared bankrupt, owing HM Revenue & Customs £250,000, and not long afterwards was acquitted at the Old Bailey of three charges of possessing prohibited weapons. The case came about after auditors in his bankruptcy case noticed a gold-sprayed "James Bond-style" revolver while searching his home for assets. He told the jury that they were items from his wife's collection of theatrical props.

The cigar-smoking Courtney, who referred to himself as Dave Courtney OBE, or One Big Egg, lived in a converted former school in Plumstead, southeast London. Known as Camelot Castle, it was a homage to King Arthur with St George's flags, a replica of Arthur's sword in the stone and a large mural depicting Courtney as Arthur. On the gate hung an oversize knuckleduster while inside were suits of armour, a private nightclub and a "sex dungeon". He kept a pet peacock called Percy, offering a £100 reward when it escaped last year.

"Course I like to be loved," he once said. "I'm more of a Robin Hood than a robbin' bastard."

**Dave Courtney, gangster, author and actor, was born on February 17, 1959. He was found dead on October 22, 2023, aged 64**

**SCHUBERT/BOWIE** Datuk Dr Paddy OBE died peacefully on 21st October 2023, aged 98. A life filled with wit, wisdom and success was concluded when Paddy passed peacefully away on 21st October 2023. She was survived by Oliver Knott, her three grandchildren Jodie, Harry and Tom, and her two stepchildren Robin and Claire Bowe and other family.

**SYKES** Richard Gordon Steward died peacefully on 6th October 2023. Wife of Gillian, father of Matthew, James and Edward, grandfather of Stanley, Charlotte, Freya and William. Funeral service at Mortlake Crematorium on 6th November at 2pm. Donations if desired to Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis society. Inquiries to WS Bond Funeral Service, London W4 2ED.

**TROLLOPE** Betty Joan died peacefully in hospital on 17th October 2023, aged 97. Much loved. Formerly head of Rochester Girls' Grammar School. Private cremation. Service of thanksgiving will be held at Rochester Cathedral this year.

**UPTON** Eve Cordelia (née Wade) on 15th September 2023, aged 86. Married for many years to James Upton. Loving mother to Ondine, Karina (sadly recently deceased) and William and grandmother to Alfie, Molly and Tatyana. Generous and caring, she sought to help others and worked for many years for Victim Support. Her funeral will be at 1.30pm on Saturday 18th November at GreenAcres Heatherley Wood, Grayshott Rd, Headley, Grayshott GU35 8LA. All welcome. No flowers. Donations to The Woodland Trust or Victim Support (Kensington and Chelsea). or 07813 094925.

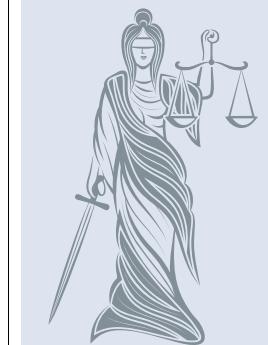
**WOODROFFE** Rosemary (née Colquhoun) died peacefully on 11th October 2023. Beloved wife of the late Geoffrey, dear sister of John and sister-in-law of Margaret, devoted aunt and godmother of Robbie. Funeral service at Invictus St Sers Parish Church on Thursday 2nd November at 11.30am, to which all friends are invited. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to Parkinson's UK.

**WYNNE-GREEN** Peter passed away on 17th October 2023, aged 78, after a short illness in hospital. Much-loved husband of the late Gillian and father of Alex, Peter, and David. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Great Chart, Ashford, on Thursday 2nd November at 11am. No flowers. Inquiries to Earl & Co Funeral Directors, 01233 888181.

## LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



The simple way to place your announcement in The Times. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

[newsukadvertising.co.uk](http://newsukadvertising.co.uk)

## Court Circular



Kensington Palace  
23rd October, 2023

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited The Ladder, 2-4 Clinton Road, Redruth, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall (Colonel Edward Bolitho).

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Portreath Bakery, Duchy Business Centre, Wilson Way, Pool, Redruth, and was received by

Mr James Williams (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall).

The Duchess of Gloucester subsequently visited Furniss of Cornwall, Unit 11, Druid's Road, Redruth.

Her Royal Highness, Royal Patron, later visited TR14ers Community Dance Charity Limited at Camborne Wesley Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Camborne, Cornwall.



★★ BOOK WITH THE NO. 1 CRUISE SPECIALIST FOR FRED. OLSEN CRUISE LINES ★★

## THE ALL-INCLUSIVE NO-FLY

# British Isles Cruise Sale

FROM ONLY £729PP



**EXCLUSIVE FREE  
GRATUITIES<sup>++</sup>**

**SCENIC  
SCOTTISH ISLES  
5 NIGHTS DEPARTING 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

### MAY 2024

Sat 25 Embark *Bolette* and depart Liverpool

Sun 26 Spend today relaxing at sea

Mon 27 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland

Stornoway is a thriving town with a busy port, best seen from the top of 'Gallow's Hill' – reached by the impressive grounds of Lews Castle. Originally built in 1847, the castle has had some well-known owners, including Lord Leverhume, who founded the company now known as Unilever

Tue 28 Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland

Largest town on the Isle of Skye, Portree is set within a natural harbour surrounded with brightly-coloured houses and rocky cliffs. Serving as a gateway to the rock formations at Trotternish Ridge, the Tudsdale ruins and Dunvegan Castle – seat of the Clan MacLeod since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Close by is Loch Coruisk, home to puffins, golden eagles, oystercatchers and occasional sea eagles

Wed 29 *Cruise by the Small Isles*

*Cruise by Dutchman's Cape (Bac Mòr)*

*Cruise by Fingal's Cave*

*Cruise by Iona*

Thu 30 Arrive in Liverpool

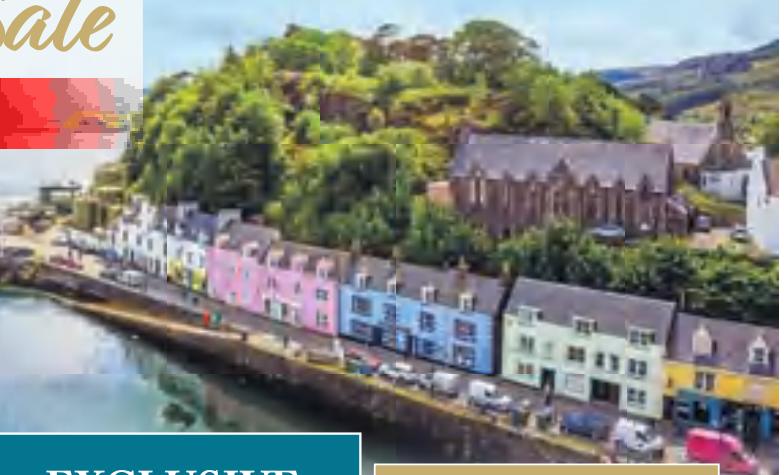
**YOUR EXCLUSIVE  
READER OFFERS LTD SALE PRICES**

CABIN	GRADE	FULL PRICE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD PRICE (PP)
Interior	I	£749	£729
Ocean View	E	£949	£939
Terrace	TC	£1,399	£1,379
Balcony Junior Suite	BJ	£1,699	£1,689
Premier Suite	PS	£2,199	£2,169

**Solo fares are available from £1,359**

### MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

The Olsen Way Promise<sup>++</sup> - Fred. Olsen are so confident that you will enjoy the way they cruise, that they will make you a promise – The Olsen Way Promise<sup>++</sup>. If after a couple of days on board you find that it is not right for you, you can return home from the next available port and your cruise price will be refunded in full.



**FREE  
DRINKS PACKAGE  
FOR ALL BOOKINGS<sup>++</sup>  
ENDS 8PM 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**EXCLUSIVE  
READER OFFERS  
PRICES WILL INCREASE**

**SMALL SHIP  
CRUISING, POUND  
STERLING ON BOARD**

**SCENIC LANDSCAPES &  
WILDLIFE OF THE BRITISH ISLES  
9 NIGHTS DEPARTING 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2024**

### JULY 2024

Mon 22 Embark *Borealis* and depart Dover

Tue 23 St. Peter Port, Guernsey

Main port town of the Channel Islands, St. Peter Port is picturesque and historic, and has much evidence of Georgian and Regency architecture, heavily influenced by the French. Occupied by the Germans during World War II, it is surprising that so many of the town's historic fortifications still stand today; 800 year old Castle Cornet is one such building that has seen many conflicts and holds many artefacts from over the centuries

Thu 25 *Cruising by Iona, Fingal's Cave, Dutchman's Cap (Bac Mòr) & The Small Isles, Scotland*

Fri 26 Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

*Cruising Pentland Firth*

Sat 27 Portree, Isle of Skye

Mon 29 St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly

*Cruising Pleinmont to Jersey*

*Cruising by Brecqhou & Sark*

*Circumnavigate Alderney, Channel Islands*

Wed 31 Arrive in Dover

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

**YOUR EXCLUSIVE  
READER OFFERS LTD SALE PRICES**

CABIN	GRADE	FULL PRICE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD PRICE (PP)
Interior	I	£1,349	£1,299
Ocean View	F	£1,699	£1,689
Terrace	TC	£2,699	£2,669
Balcony Junior Suite	BJ	£3,199	£3,169
Premier Suite	PS	£4,299	£4,229

**Solo fares are available from £2,429**

### WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR FREE DRINKS PACKAGE<sup>++</sup>

- Wines by the glass
- Selected Cava by the glass in the bars
- Selected branded beers and ciders
- Selected house spirits: white rum, gin, vodka, whisky, brandy and Irish Cream in the bars
- A selection of soft drinks served by the glass: Pepsi, lemonade, tonic waters, juices and mineral/spring water

**0808 239 7764**

QUOTE OFFER REF 633236

OPEN 7 DAYS  
8:30AM – 8PM

**Today** An unsettled day with a scattering of showers and some longer spells of rain. Max 16C (61F), min 1C (34F)

### Around Britain

### Five days ahead

Remaining unsettled with spells of heavy rain and showers, rather breezy at times also

#### Tomorrow

Sprinkles of rain in eastern Scotland and north-west England. Heavy rain in the far south of England and southern and western Ireland. Largely dry elsewhere with some sunny spells. Max 15C, min 3C

#### Thursday

Spurts of rain in northern England and Scotland. Sunny periods and scattered heavy showers elsewhere, some of which may be thunderous in the south. Max 16C, min 4C

#### Friday

Heavy rain in eastern Scotland. Sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers elsewhere, merging into longer spells of rain at times in the southwest. Max 15C, min 3C

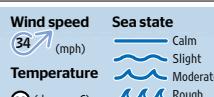
#### Saturday

An unsettled day with spells of heavy rain and a scattering of showers. A few rumbles of thunder possible in the south of England. Max 15C, min 2C

#### Sunday

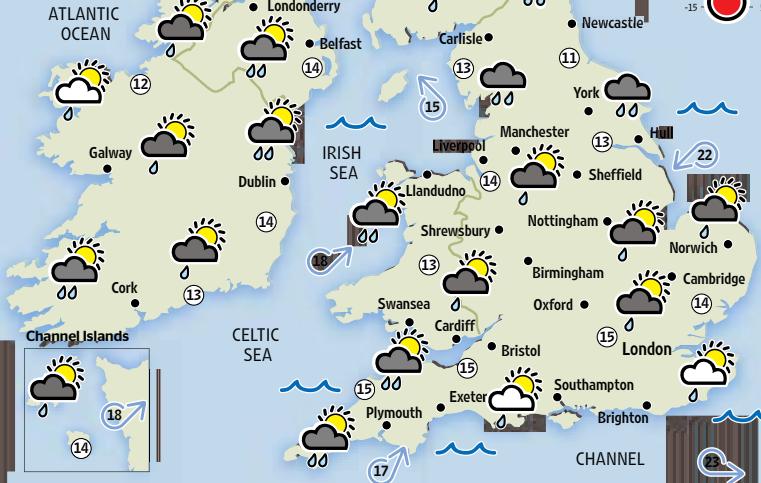
Heavy rain in England and Wales followed by spreading northwards. Showers or longer spells of showery rain in Scotland and Ireland. Max 14C, min 2C

The Times weather page  
is provided by



### Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Monday there were 108 flood alerts and 105 warnings in England, two flood alerts and one warning in Wales and no flood alerts or warnings in Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk



**General situation:** Outbreaks of rain in northern England and eastern Scotland.

Sunshine and showers elsewhere. Longer spells of heavy rain in the southwest later in the afternoon.

**London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng:** Sunny spells with the chance of an isolated shower. Moderate westerly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 6C (43F).

**E Anglia, Mids:** A cloudy morning with

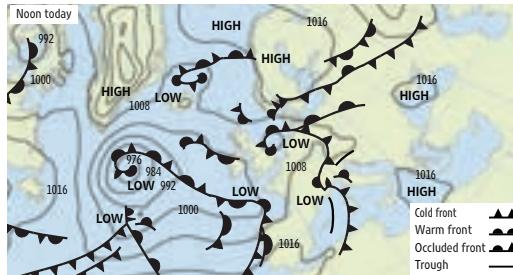
spells of rain, turning brighter in the afternoon with scattered showers.

Gentle to moderate westerly winds. Maximum 15C (59F), minimum 10C (50F).

**E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, NE Eng, Lake District, IoM, SW Scotland, Borders, Glasgow, Cen Highland, Edinburgh and Dundee, Moray Firth, Aberdeen:** Sunshine and showers in northwest England and the Isle of Man. Largely cloudy elsewhere with outbreaks of rain. Gentle to moderate east or northeasterly winds. Maximum 16C (59F), minimum 10C (50F).

**Argyll, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles:** Sunny periods with the chance of a few showers later in the day.

**N Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Wales, SW Eng, Channel Is:** Sunny periods with scattered heavy showers. Showers will merge into longer spells of heavy rain in south Wales and southwest England later. Gentle southeasterly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 10C (50F).



### Synoptic situation

Low pressure situated to the east of England will bring thick cloud and outbreaks of rain to northern England, southern and eastern Scotland. A decaying occlusion across Ireland and Wales will bring the risk of a few showers. A developing low-pressure system will bring spells of heavy rain during the afternoon to south Wales and southwest England.

### Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday  
Warmest: Chivenor, 17.0C  
Coldest: Braemar, -5.2C  
Wettest: St. Marys, Isles of Scilly, 53.6mm  
Sunniest: Tiree, 12.1hrs<sup>+</sup>  
**Sun and moon**  
For Greenwich  
Sun rises: 07:39  
Sun sets: 17:40  
Moon rises: 18:32  
Moon sets: 02:42 Wed  
Full Moon: October 28

### Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	18:13-07:33
Belfast	18:35-07:41
Birmingham	18:24-07:20
Cardiff	18:31-07:23
Exeter	18:34-07:23
Glasgow	18:26-07:38
Liverpool	18:26-07:27
London	18:19-07:11
Manchester	18:23-07:24
Newcastle	18:17-07:25
Norwich	18:11-07:08
Penzance	18:44-07:30
Sheffield	18:20-07:21

## Save up to 25% on airport essentials

Times+ members can take advantage of exclusive savings on airport parking, hotels and lounges with Purple Parking, available at over 25 UK airports.

Visit [mytimesplus.co.uk/travel](http://mytimesplus.co.uk/travel)

T&Cs apply.



**T** **TIMES+** OFFERS | COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

**purpleparking**

**Weather Eye**  
Paul Simons



**H**ardly a day went by without rain, often crashing down in deluges. Bridges collapsed, roads and railways were washed away, houses swamped in seas of floodwater. "No part of the British Isles could be called even moderately dry in October, and rain fell nearly every day," one report recorded.

This was the calamitous weather of 120 years ago. It was the wettest October in records going back to 1834 and the rains were so extraordinary they also broke the rainfall records for any month of any year in England and Wales.

Harvests in northern parts of Britain had not been completed, and many farmers had to leave their crops to rot. "Enormous damage has been done, and it was pitiable to see corn and even hay standing in the sodden fields in the last week of October," reported one weather observer in Symons's Meteorological Magazine. Another report from Suffolk simply said: "A record year for mud."

It was not just the extreme rainfall that caused havoc. Severe wind, hail, thunder and lightning and even tornados tore through much of the country causing even more misery.

"So wet a month has not been seen before in the present generation, and it is doubtful if so remarkable a series of wet months as this year has brought was ever previously experienced in this country," an editorial in Symons's stated.

Extreme weather in modern times can sometimes be linked to the changing climate, and some commentators may ask how the rains of 1903 could happen before climate change was widely recognised. One answer may be the volcano Mount Pelée in Martinique in the Caribbean, which had erupted in spring 1902 in a devastating explosion. The volcano carried on erupting, even in 1903, and the huge eruptions may well explain why the weather in 1903 was dreadful, not just in the UK but in many other parts of the world as well.

**Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675**

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

**WeatherQuest**  
[weatherquest.co.uk](http://weatherquest.co.uk)

# Sport

## Hamilton: I now have car to give Red Bull a fight

**Rebecca Clancy**

Motor Racing Correspondent, Austin

The US Grand Prix was, by far, Lewis Hamilton's most competitive race of the season. The 38-year-old had been openly critical of his Mercedes team and their two years of mediocre performances as the result of choosing the wrong design philosophy for the present set of regulations.

He asked the team to change tack over the winter but they arrived in Bahrain in March having stuck to their guns. Upgrades were brought in to improve performance but Hamilton knew that there was only one solution — tear up all the old designs and start again.

It is, of course, not that straightforward. With the cost cap in place they cannot just throw money at the problem. They also have to turn up at every race and be competitive because they are fighting for millions in prize money, which is determined by their finishing position in the constructors' championship.

Hamilton's disqualification for the floor plank of his car wearing too thin — which meant that his second-place finish was wiped out hours after the race — has allowed Ferrari to narrow the gap to second in the constructors' championship by six points, to only 22 points, with only four races remaining. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was also disqualified from sixth for the same reason but losing Hamilton's big haul of points could prove costly for Mercedes.

Mercedes argued that the solitary hour of practice — a consequence of Saturday's sprint race — had hurt them, but every team was in the same boat.

"In the end, all of that doesn't matter. Others got it right where we got it wrong and there's no wiggle room in the

rules," Toto Wolff, the Mercedes team principal, said. "We need to take it on the chin, do the learning and come back stronger next weekend in Mexico."

Mercedes had brought a major upgrade this weekend after finally changing their design philosophy. The modified floor is all about affecting the airflow around and underneath the car to create more downforce, which will make the car go faster.

They labelled it as a "milestone" in the development of next year's car as they look to take the fight to Red Bull, who have been untouchable this season, winning 17 of the 18 races, with Ferrari the only other team to finish on top of the podium this season thanks to Carlos Sainz in Singapore.

One could argue that bringing such a major upgrade to a race weekend, which has only one hour of practice, was, perhaps, not their best idea, but with no testing away from races anymore, track time is more crucial than it has ever been. George Russell also had the upgrade on his car but his Mercedes was not chosen for inspection so it is not possible to know the state of his floor.

The team estimated that the upgrade was worth somewhere in the region of 0.1 seconds. Not enough to close the gap to Red Bull but a significant step forward and one which made Hamilton very happy. The seven-times world champion was so pleased with the upgrade that he believed that if Mercedes had not made a mistake with their strategy and pitstops he could even have won the race. He described the upgrade as the best in recent years, and one that could deliver victory.

"Yes, definitely," he said when asked if he could win before the end of the year. "The steps that we were able to take has given me a little bit more confidence to throw the car into the corners."

"There are still some fundamental issues that we're having with the car, which won't change until next year. But it was really positive to feel that the decisions we are taking are the right ones."

Despite the disqualification, Mercedes have plenty of positives to take from the weekend. The decision not to stubbornly stick to a design philosophy, which clearly didn't work, is the right one, even if it has taken longer to have an impact than Hamilton wanted.

The upgrade has worked and there are more to come. The most important thing for Mercedes and all the F1 fans who are desperate for a title fight is that they now appear to be moving in the right direction. With no major regulation changes over the winter, these cars are the basis of next year's challengers and the reason Mercedes were desperate to get the upgrade on the car.

The next four races will be crucial in the development contest but on first look Mercedes have thrown their hat in the ring to be a title contender in 2024.



Hamilton may have been disqualified after finishing second but he still showed Verstappen he can be competitive again

## Q&A

### Why were only four cars chosen for inspection?

The cars were picked at random, not because they were the top four finishers. It is not always four cars inspected, either, and is at the discretion of the FIA.

### What was discovered?

There is a plank, known as a skid block, under the floor of the car which wears away as it comes into contact with the track. It is measured after the race and it can only wear down by a maximum of 1mm across the weekend. Any more and punishment is disqualification.

### How did Mercedes and Ferrari get it wrong?

Cars cannot be touched once they have entered what is known as the *parc fermé*. That happens after the practice sessions, so at that stage there can be no changes to the set-up.

With the weekend in Austin including a sprint race, teams only had one hour to perfect their set-up on Friday, which would then serve them for the rest of the weekend. The Circuit of the Americas is a very

### Skid blocks

#### What is the purpose of the skid block?

All F1 cars run narrow wooden planks mounted underneath their floors to prevent the cars from running too low to the ground, which could cause them to suddenly lose all their downforce — potentially leading to a crash.

#### Thickness

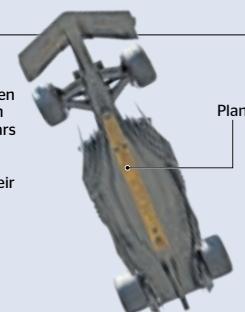
#### 10mm ± 0.2mm

According to F1 regulations, the thickness of the plank should be 10mm (plus or minus 0.2mm) when new.

#### Accepted wear

#### 1mm

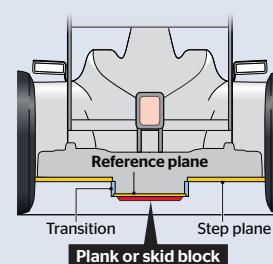
If the plank wears down by more than 1mm during the race weekend, the car will be in breach of the technical regulations



so the car rises, which creates bouncing. The FIA imposed a limit on the vertical oscillations for the safety of the drivers.

### Why not inspect more cars?

As the dust settled, questions were asked why the other 13 finishers weren't also looked at. Simply put, there is not enough time. The mechanics need the cars back to dismantle them and get them shipped to the next race. The checks are random and act as a deterrent.



**Can it be appealed?**  
In theory, yes. Both teams have that option available but neither seem inclined to appeal. In this case it is black and white in the regulations and the only outcome is disqualification.

**Was the new upgrade for Mercedes at fault?**  
It's a difficult one to determine. It could be that the new floor affected the set-up. Having never used it before they weren't 100 per cent certain how it would run but, in reality, it is unlikely that this was the issue. Ferrari did not bring upgrades and they suffered the same fate with Leclerc's car.

### Result after Hamilton DQ

1, M Verstappen (Neth, Red Bull)	1:35.21
2, L Norris (GB, McLaren)	+1sec
3, C Sainz (Sp, Ferrari)	+15sec
4, S Perez (Mex, Red Bull)	+18sec
5, G Russell (GB, Mercedes)	+25sec
6, P Gasly (Fr, Alpine)	+48sec
7, L Stroll (Can, Aston Martin)	+49sec
8, Y Tsunoda (Japan, AlphaTauri)	+14sec
9, A Albon (Tha, Williams)	+127sec
10, L Sargeant (US, Williams)	+1:28sec

**Driver standings** 1, Verstappen 466pts; 2, Perez 240; 3 Hamilton 201; 4, Alonso 183; 5, Sainz 171; 6, Norris 159; 7, Leclerc 151; 8, Russell 143; 9, Piastrini 83; 10, Gasly 56.

**Constructor standings** 1, Red Bull 706pts; 2, Mercedes 334; 3, Ferrari 322; 4, McLaren 242; 5, Aston Martin 236; 6, Alpine 100; 7, Williams 26; 8, Alfa Romeo 16; 9, Haas 12; 10, AlphaTauri 10.

**Exeter****Rob Wright**

**2.00 Cawthorne Cracker 4.00 Goshawposh (naph)**  
 2.30 Stroll On By 4.30 Petticoat Lucy  
 3.00 Lounge Lizard 5.05 Dodger Long

Going: good  
 Racing TV

**2.00 Amateur Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle**

(E3.725; 2m 2f 11ydf) (18)

1	64-03 COLLEGE OAK	42 (D) J Smedley	8-12-0 Mr Johnathan Rees
2	3/10 WOLFSKIN	493 (P) D Murphy	7-12-0 Mr Oliver Boyden
3	2045 SAM'S AMOUR	208 K Burke	6-11-2 Miss A Proper
4	P33-0 NO REMATCH	143 E Williams	9-11-1 Miss Imogen Mathias
5	P12-6 STANLEY PINCOMBE	159 (D) C Gordon	6-11-1 Miss My Landau
6	4-152 LADY GENW	120 (P) K Bailey	5-11-1 Miss L Keen-hawkins
7	-1066 SUFI	13 (P,D) M Harris	9-11-1 Mr Bly Broomfield
8	311/91 SASSIFIED	18 (P,D) P Hobbs & J White	5-11-1 Mr Callum Pritchard
9	2-653 THE PUNT	93 (A) Jones	5-11-1 Miss N Parker
10	1536 MOONLIGHT ARTIST	183 Joe Tizzard	5-11-1 Mr L Trotz
11	12223 PITTSBURG	12 (B,D) R Potter	7-11-1 Miss E McCarthy-Jones
12	40-59 THISTLEBUFFS	12 (B,D) Mr M McIntyre	7-11-1 Mr Edward Vaughan
13	44-31 WEAVER'S ANSWER	16 T Vaughan	5-10-10 Mr Edward Vaughan
14	/346 CYLLEN	298 K Woolcott	8-10-9 Mr J Herbin
15	50/97 MERRY MONTY	589 C Down	6-10-9 Mr J King
16	4PP-5 WILDERNESS	F19 (B,F,C) Seamus Mullins	8-10-7 Miss Helen Palin
17	12U3 WATCHOUTITSCOOKIE	17 (H,B,F) S Mullins	8-10-7 Miss E Herbin
18	P5-21 CAWTHORNE CRACKER	12 (T,O) G O'Neill	5-10-8 Mr P O'Brien
19	9-2 Satisfied	13-2 Weaver's Answer	7-12-1 Cawthorne Cracker, 15-2 Lady Gwen, 8-1 Pittsburg, 10-1 Wofspark, Watchoutitscookie, 12-1 Stanley Pincombe, Rob Wright's choice: Cawthorne Cracker should relish this step up in trip
20	Dangers Watchoutitscookie	Pittsburgh	Dangers Watchoutitscookie, Dangers

**2.30 Novices' Handicap Chase**

(E4.753; 2m 2f 10ydf) (10)

1	0-114 SHERBORNE	22 (T) Joe Tizzard	7-12-0 F Gingell
2	425-4 STROLL ON BY	29 (D) C Longdon	6-12-0 Paul O'Brien
3	-0003 NEIGH BOTHA	13 (T) O Greenall & J Guerrier	6-11-1 Craig Nichol
4	32425 BERLIET EXPRESS	39 (T) J Coulson	7-11-1 M Doherty
5	4-065 POLYROMLYMPY	41 (P) A West	6-11-1 L Edwards
6	04506 DECORATION OF WAR	14 (P) M Young	8-10-12 C Hammond
7	21522 FAMOSO	15 (D) M Sheppard	7-10-10 T Bellamy
8	0-946 NOAH'S LIGHT	82 Mrs R Ford	6-10-5 R McElroy
9	00496 KEY FACTOR	192 (P) Henry Oliver	5-10-3 D Noonan
10	43403 SOLID FUEL	17 Joanne Thompson-Murphy	5-10-2 C Leonard
11	2-181 BARTON TANGO	17 (T) Lavelle	8-11-4 T Bellamy
12	4-021 P-OBRY'S RIVER	17 S Allwood	5-10-4 R T Dunne
13	2-1000 BUCKLE	20 (P) F O'Brien	7-12-0 4-Favour And Fortune, 2-1 Flight Of Freedom, 3-1 All The Glory, 14-1 others.
14	Wright choice: Stroll On By showed well when fourth on his chasing debut at Warwick Dangers Berliet Express, Farnoso		

Wright choice: Stroll On By showed well when fourth on his chasing debut at Warwick Dangers Berliet Express, Farnoso

Wright choice: Cawthorne Cracker was third in a better race at Aintree; unexposed Dangers Northern Poet, I See You Well

Wright choice: Lounge Lizard was third in a better race at Aintree; unexposed Dangers Northern Poet, I See You Well

**3.00 Handicap Chase**

(E13.202; 3m) (11)

1 31PP BACK ON THE LASH 192 (D) M Keighley | 9-12-2 S Bowen |

2 23151 ANY NEWS 6 (P,D) T O'Neill | 8-11-9 R Exton |

3 112P MANNEPOLETHREE 185 (D) F O'Brien | 8-11-7 C Brace |

4 311-3 LOUNGE LIZARD 158 (D) J Dally | 6-11-6 H Cobden |

5 42P-2 BARTON TANGO 17 (T) Lavelle | 8-11-4 T Bellamy |

6 440-2 SEE YOU WELL 153 (D) Sennells | 11-11-3 D Jacob |

7 4111-1 NORTHERN POET 180 (D) N Gifford | 6-11-3 James Davies |

8 56-22 COPPERHEAD 18 (P,D) Joe Tizzard | 9-10-13 B J Powell |

9 105-1 SNUFFIN 21 (D) S Dutton | 8-11-1 H Skepton |

10 70-4 PONTRESINA 159 (B) L Dumbrell | 10-10-10 L Williams |

11 5216-2 BERTIE 199 (P) H Pobbs & White | 6-10-7 M G Nolan |

12 5-2 SNUFFIN 159 (B) F O'Brien | 6-10-7 D Noonan |

13 BIG STAR 7655 (J) Tieke | 4-10-9 Bryony Frost |

14 Go To War, 5-1 Westernimpark, 6-1 King Of The Lake, 7-1 Mirkimoto, American Land, 15-2 Big Fish, 10-1 Bromhill Road, 12-1 Captain's Pick.

Wright choice: Go To War was not disgraced in a grade two bumper at Aintree; Dangers Westernimpark, Big Fish

Wright choice: Lounge Lizard was third in a better race at Aintree; unexposed Dangers Northern Poet, I See You Well

**3.30 Maiden Hurdle**

(E4.084; 2m 2f 11ydf) (13)

1 323-2 LAND 342 Joe Tizzard 5-11-4 B J Powe |

2 25-2 BIG FISH 233 E Levelle | 5-11-4 T Bellamy |

3 5-25 CAPTAIN'S PICK 63 Christian Williams | 5-11-4 J Tudor |

4 10-60 TO WAR 192 F O'Brien | 5-11-4 P Brennan |

5 643-0 HOBS YOUTH 155 (N) Mullinabull | 6-11-4 B Carter |

6 2-2 KING OF THE LAKE 160 (D) Scott | 5-11-4 R Dingle |

7 0231-3 SCORESBY 213 Ben Clarke | 6-11-4 B. R. Jones |

8 505-0 STARVIDOV 176 (T) J Scott | 5-11-4 L Williams |

9 2210-6 WESTERNIMPIARK 192 (T,D) M Hearn | 5-11-4 H Reed |

10 2-4 BROMHILL ROAD 166 A King | 4-11-2 H Cobden |

11 1-2 MIKIMOTO 20 M Kashibay | 5-11-2 S Bowen |

12 10-2 ASIAN SPICE 18 J Frost | 5-10-11 Bryony Frost |

13 BIG STAR 7655 J Tieke | 4-10-9 Bryony Frost |

14 Go To War, 5-1 Westernimpark, 6-1 King Of The Lake, 7-1 Mirkimoto, American Land, 15-2 Big Fish, 10-1 Bromhill Road, 12-1 Captain's Pick.

Wright choice: Go To War was not disgraced in a grade two bumper at Aintree; Dangers Westernimpark, Big Fish

Wright choice: Lounge Lizard was third in a better race at Aintree; unexposed Dangers Northern Poet, I See You Well

Wright choice: Mirkimoto looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshawposh looks well treated on his handicap debut Dangers Gentleman Valley, Moka De Vassy

Wright choice: Goshaw

# Ticket farce, terror memorials and the ceaseless worship of Gavaskar

**Tour Diary**  
**Mike Atherton**

Chief Cricket Correspondent



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13**

To the historic Chepauk ground in Chennai. I first came here in 1993 and it has changed significantly since then. The updating of facilities has been one of the benefits of Indian Premier League money and Chepauk has been modernised since I watched Sachin Tendulkar score his first Test hundred on home soil and Mike Gatting drop the easiest catch I've ever seen in any form of cricket.

The stadium now gives decent shade to the spectators, a necessity in Chennai. New Zealand beat Bangladesh — three from three for them — and Trent Boult becomes the third-fastest bowler to take 200 ODI wickets. He gets there with a knuckle ball and he tells me it took him 2½ years' practice before he was confident enough to bowl it in a match.

Devon Conway and Mitchell Santner enjoy coming "home" to where their IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings play. Given the number of players in this tournament with long-standing IPL experience, and therefore knowledge of Indian conditions, I wonder whether the home advantage India enjoyed in 2011 has diminished somewhat.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

The country has been getting itself into a lather over the India v Pakistan game and, after feverish anticipation, the day finally arrives. *The Economic Times* reports that more than 150 private jets have been booked to ferry the VVVIPs and ultra-high net worth individuals to and from Ahmedabad and that the airport has run out of parking slots. Approval has been granted for some, while others are being asked to park at Mumbai.

More than 100,000 spectators at the Narendra Modi Stadium, hundreds of millions watching on television and online and many, bar the 22 players, unable to recognise that it is only a cricket match. Under intense scrutiny, the two teams conduct themselves admirably as usual, which is more than can be said for sections of the crowd. Some of those who were there described it as an unsatisfactory experience despite the huge crowd, given the absence of Pakistan supporters. It was reported that the Pakistan captain, Babar Azam, was booted when speaking at the toss, a sad state of affairs.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

To the Feroz Kotla in Delhi to watch Afghanistan humiliate England. There is a lone English presence in the Afghan dressing room in the shape of Jonathan Trott, who has coached the team since July 2022. Coaching Afghanistan has been an eye-opening experience for him, as it is for many who go from the comfort of the English system to elsewhere.

Afghanistan are a nomad side for obvious reasons, and their players earn a fraction of what others do. Sport is the great equaliser, though, and they outplay England on the night. I call the winning moment, write my report and, as usual after a late finish, I have trouble sleeping. So I watch the epic rugby quarter-final between South Africa and France, grab two hours' sleep and head off to the airport again.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

An email arrives from an England supporter who was in Chennai the previous weekend for the New Zealand v Bangladesh game. They write: "We made it into the stadium midway



Pakistan's captain Babar Azam walks off in front of a sea of Indian fans, many of whom still hold Gavaskar, left, in the highest esteem

through the Bangladesh innings. The ticketing process is a farce. We bought our tickets on day one of sale and awaited the instructions as to where to collect them (why not the option of e-tickets, in a technically savvy country?).

"Instructions came there none. So we assumed that there'd be an office to collect the tickets at the ground. No. We were sent to an Adidas shop in a mall two miles away. It is so disappointing to see the ground about 40 per cent full and if you want to buy tickets at the last minute — you can't. It seems as if the organisers are putting every hurdle to stop people attending the matches here."

Stories like this abound, sadly. One of the consequences of cricket shifting to a game geared for television is the disregard for the paying spectator. It happens the world over and it's not good enough.

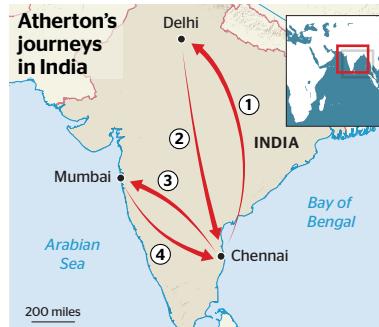
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17**

Dinesh Karthik, the former India wicketkeeper/batsman and now commentator, is a resident of Chennai and a great foodie, and he recommends a restaurant called Savya Rasa. After a ride in a tuk-tuk, we enjoy the most delicious meal. I'm no expert, but the dishes in south India seem lighter and more flavoursome than their northern counterparts.

Karthik, meanwhile, is in Dharamshala along with Shaun Pollock, who was quick to contact me after the Afghanistan game. Their flight north was cancelled, so they end up taking a flight to Chandigarh where they overnight, before a six-hour drive at 5am gets them to Dharamshala for the game. It's a long, arduous way to go to watch your team get beaten by the Netherlands, something I am not slow to remind Pollock about.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**

I do a commentary stint at Chepauk (New Zealand v Afghanistan) with Sunil Gavaskar



who, 52 years after making his Test debut, remains an icon in India. We take our places in the commentary box, which has a glass frontage looking out on the crowd. As soon as spectators become aware that Gavaskar is in the box, they turn their backs to the action, wave, shout and take photos of Gavaskar instead.

This hero worship sometimes goes to extreme lengths; once, when I was sitting with him waiting for a taxi home in the bowels of the Chinnaswamy stadium, Bangalore, some spectators ran in and kissed his feet, something that I once saw happen to MS Dhoni when he walked to the middle for Chennai Super Kings.

Gavaskar's legend lives on, I think, not only because he was a great player, but because he was a cricketer who stood up for India — on and off the field — long before it enjoyed the controlling power it now has. At one point during our commentary stint, Gavaskar leaned forward and put his right hand to the window. At once, the crowd leaned forward to try to place their hands on his — no matter that the glass lay in between.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

To Mumbai for England's vital game against

South Africa. Our hotel, the Trident on Marine Drive, has a rather moving memorial at pool level to the victims of the terrorist attack in 2008. There were numerous attacks along this coastline, and at this particular hotel 30 guests and staff were killed during a three-day siege. It's a long time ago, but the care over security remains: our taxi is checked over for explosive devices before entrance to the driveway is allowed, and our bags must go through security scanners at the lobby entrance.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

At breakfast, a young Indian commentator comes over to say hello. He is preparing to broadcast the England v South Africa match in one of the eight local languages that the host broadcaster, Star Sports, puts out for its audience. As well as English language, there are commentaries in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati and Marathi. This year the IPL broke records for its numbers of viewers watching the Hindi broadcast.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**

Bump into an England supporter in Mumbai airport, early in the morning after England's defeat. He had flown with his 12-year-old son from Buckinghamshire to watch some cricket during half-term. They purchased tickets online, got a barcode and, in the absence of further instruction, assumed that was the ticket for entry.

No. He was told to go to the ticket office, although it wasn't immediately obvious where that was — until, of course, he saw the large queue. Having queued and got the said tickets, he then had his sunscreen confiscated at the entry point.

By the time they got in to the ground, the first innings was 30 overs old and it was, to search optimistically for something good to say, a little cooler, and the sunscreen was not necessary. A sport that treats its paying customers so complacently is asking for trouble.

# Root: Ditch Blast for 50-over focus or format will become irrelevant

**Simon Wilde** Bangalore

Joe Root has said that England are not playing enough one-day international cricket to continue competing at World Cups and suggested that staging more 50-over county matches at the expense of the Vitality Blast could help to develop a new generation of talent.

He would prefer to see the Blast cut back rather than the Hundred — an idea that may be unpopular with many counties who view the Blast as a contributor towards their financial health, though they receive an annual distribution from the city-based Hundred as well — but he accepts there is also a debate about the very future of the 50-over game itself owing to the global rise in T20 leagues.

Matthew Mott, the England white-ball coach, said after the crushing World Cup loss to South Africa at the weekend that when it came to selection, England had found it hard to assess players when there had been so little 50-over cricket and Root echoed his sentiments.

"When you're not playing the format, it's hard to know who the best players are," Root said. "That being said, I don't think we've got the wrong squad here. I just don't think we've performed."

"It doesn't make me change my mind about the Hundred. It makes me question whether we should be playing more 50-over cricket instead of T20...instead of the Blast, maybe."

"There's talk of whether this format is relevant any more anyway in international cricket. Whether that gets changed, I don't know. Who knows how things will move in the future? Whether it's domestically or internationally, I don't think we play enough of it if we're going to continue to look to compete in World Cups."

"It [the ODI game] has got a huge amount of history and it brings a lot to cricket. It will always hold a special part of my heart for what it's given me. If [its future] shouldn't be down to, 'Is it bring-



Root feels that England players are not exposed to enough 50-over cricket

ing the most money for the sport?' It should be down to what people want to watch and what's going to engage the next generation of players. In the long term, that's going to be most beneficial for cricket all-round."

The World Cup is in its third week, but attendances have been disappointing, except for at India's games. Root agreed that the grounds had not been as full as expected, but high afternoon temperatures have made watching — let alone playing — something of a challenge. Nothing indicates that the ODI format is booming.

Root was one of ten players in England's original 15-man squad for the World Cup aged 32 or over, so, regardless of how well the team performed, this tournament was likely to be the last global ODI event for a number of them. With the way England's results have gone, with three defeats in four games to date, an injection of new talent looks likely to come sooner rather than later once the World Cup is over.

Root spoke eloquently at the team hotel on a day off for the players before two days of training to prepare for the Sri Lanka match on Thursday. He was

supportive of Jos Buttler, the captain, and his team-mates, who he insisted had not become bad players because of a few below-par performances.

He was doing his bit to show that the team remained united in their mission despite their troubles on the field, but his comments on county cricket were interesting nonetheless. There has long been speculation that the Blast will be the long-term casualty of the Hundred's entrance two years ago, but at present the Metro Bank One-Day Cup is the one that suffers most and is squeezed to the margins of the summer.

Root's view that he would rather see the Blast sacrificed ahead of the Hundred should, however, not be a great surprise given that he is an allocated England red-ball contracted player to Trent Rockets. He turned out for them six times last season, while he has not featured for Yorkshire in the Blast since May last year.

As expected, England have called up Brydon Carse as replacement for the injured Reece Topley. With them struggling for wickets in the middle phase of the innings, Carse, who has played 12 ODIs, could be an asset with his style of bowling, but he is unlikely to be ready to feature against Sri Lanka.

Of Carse, Root said: "Brydon is a brilliant all-round package. He scores handy runs, is dynamic in the field and has got a unique wicket-taking ability.

"He's got that element to him where you sometimes feel like nothing is happening and then he'll pick up wickets in a [Liam] Plunkett kind of way. He's a big personality and a great character to have around. He's a good addition."

**BISHAN BEDI 1946-2023**  
Artful Indian spinner with outspoken views who bamboozled batsmen  
**Obituaries, page 46**



Shahid Afridi lets out a jubilant roar after steering his side to a memorable victory

## Afghanistan produce a second giant killing

Afghanistan pulled off their second giant-killing act of the World Cup with an eight-wicket victory against Pakistan.

Afghanistan's top three batsmen hit fifties and the captain, Hashmatullah Shahidi, made an unbeaten 48 at No 4 in their successful pursuit of a target of 283.

It was Afghanistan's first ODI victory against Pakistan in eight attempts and leaves England, the defending champions,

at the bottom of the points table.

"This win tastes nice," Shahidi said. "The way we chased today was very professional."

"That really hurt us," Babar Azam, the Pakistan captain, said after a third defeat in five matches left their semi-final hopes in the balance.

Scoreboard, page 56

# WE'RE IN ANOTHER LEAGUE

LISTEN TO LIVE COVERAGE AND ANALYSIS OF THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLASHES

**SEVILLA v ARSENAL**  
TONIGHT 20:00 K.O talkSPORT

**YOUNG BOYS v MAN CITY**  
TOMORROW 20:00 K.O talkSPORT

**PSG v MILAN**  
TOMORROW 20:00 K.O talkSPORT

**BRING IT ON**

**talkSPORT**

ON RADIO ONLINE ON THE APP

## Sport Champions League

# Reunion is chance for Hojlund to prove he belongs at United

**Charlotte Duncker, Molly Hudson**

Rasmus Hojlund first came on to Manchester United's radar in 2021 when he was playing for Copenhagen. Tonight he faces his former side with plenty to prove.

He is still waiting to get off the mark in the Premier League but has not had the same problems in Europe, scoring three goals in United's first two Champions League games. But both ended in defeat, meaning the match at Old Trafford comes with added pressure.

The Denmark striker, 20, was brought in to help take United to the next level. But he has shown only glimpses of the talent that took him to Atalanta, via Sturm Graz — and then convinced United to add him to a list of targets that included Harry Kane, Victor Osimhen and Randal Kolo Muani.

Kane went to Bayern Munich, Osimhen stayed at Napoli and Paris Saint-Germain acquired Muani. But United believed Hojlund was the right fit and signed him in August for £72 million.

In fact, when he moved to Serie A in August 2022, United were made aware that an offer of £12 million was likely to be enough but that money was earmarked for other business, with the club bringing in Antony, Casemiro, Lisandro Martínez and Tyrell Malacia. United weren't willing to take a punt on a 19-year-old who did not have much first-team experience.

But having watched all of his Atalanta games and also noting his character and personality, something that is important to the United manager Erik ten Hag, they knew he was a standout option and hiked up their interest last Christmas.

Four months of talks between the clubs led to a 12-hour negotiation between United's football director John Murtough and his Italian counterparts.

Atalanta wanted £90 million and United said no. Yet in a meeting room at Atalanta's Bortolotti training ground, with the clock showing 3.30am, there was a breakthrough and United got



**Man United v Copenhagen**  
Champions League, group A, Old Trafford  
Kick-off: 8pm  
TV: TNT Sports 2

Hojlund trains with United before tonight's game against his former club and potentially his brothers, inset, who may feature for Copenhagen at Old Trafford

their man for £72 million plus add-ons. Despite the high price, there is still a feeling that he is not the finished article and must improve his link-up play.

A back injury delayed the start to Hojlund's United career and with the club struggling for goals there was a clamour to get him involved. But after five league starts and no goals the pressure is mounting. Ten Hag will be hoping that Hojlund can rise to the challenge against his former club.

"It is a special game for him," Ten Hag said. "He grew up there at this club and you know he will be highly motivated. That's for me, for the team, but especially

of course for him to send that in the right direction, the right balance."

"Against Galatasaray he scored two brilliant goals as well as the one in Munich — he is always in scoring positions in our team, I am sure [goals will come]. When we as a team do what we have to do as a team, always he gets in scoring positions and then it is about finishing."

While Hojlund will be hoping to be the hero at Old Trafford it could be a special night for his family as the twin brothers Oscar and Emil, aged 18, are part of the Copenhagen squad.

If all three brothers appear this even-

ing, they would be the first such trio to play in the same Champions League game.

For now, it is Rasmus who dominates the spotlight but the twins also aim to progress through European football. United will be hoping that they took a chance on the right Hojlund brother.

**Man Utd** (probable, 4-2-3-1): A Onana – D Dalot, R Varane, H Maguire, S Reguilón – S McTominay, S Mbirabat – Antony, B Fernandes, M Rashford – R Hojlund.

**Copenhagen** (probable, 4-3-3): K Grabara – E Jelet, D Vavro, K Diks, C Sorensen – L Lerager, R Falk, V Claesson – E Achouri, J Larsson, M Elyounoussi.

**Referee** M Guida (Italy).

## Ten Hag: Sir Bobby will inspire us

**Ian Whittell**

Erik ten Hag, the Manchester United manager, has challenged his players to evoke the spirit of Sir Bobby Charlton and use the memory of the late club legend in tonight's Champions League group meeting with Copenhagen.

United will stage a pre-match tribute and "solemn minute's silence" before the game. There will also be a minute of celebratory applause before the Manchester derby, United's next Premier League fixture, on Sunday. Both matches take place at Old Trafford.

Defeat against Copenhagen would leave United on the brink of elimination from the Champions League, having lost their opening two group games. The match takes place three days after the death of Charlton, 86, who was arguably the greatest player in the club's history and whose reputation was built, at least in part, upon his heroic European Cup performances.

Charlton scored twice in the 1968 final at Wembley, as United defeated Benfica to become the first English side to win the competition, two years after he had claimed the coveted Ballon d'Or for his efforts in leading England to World Cup glory. Charlton, plus his United team-mates Denis Law and George Best, are commemorated with a statue outside Old Trafford and Ten Hag hopes his memory will inspire.

"He is in front of Old Trafford, with Denis Law and George Best, he is always with us and they are a huge inspiration for us in every game," Ten Hag said. "In moments of adversity the fans are still with us and we are fighting together. So definitely, after the passing of Sir Bobby Charlton, there will be more emotion [tonight]."

Only hours after Charlton's death was announced on Saturday, his former club claimed a hard-earned 2-1 victory away to Sheffield United, after a spectacular winner from Diogo Dalot. The defender was humbled that his goal drew comparisons with Charlton.

"It is a big privilege when you combine Sir Bobby's goals and they relate to one of your own," Dalot said. "I was fortunate to get to know him — since I arrived [in 2018] he was always there after the game for us, win or lose. We have to look back. If legends got this club to win the best titles scoring the best goals, we should follow the steps."

# Arsenal must show biggest European stages hold no fear

**Gary Jacob**

So far Arsenal's season falls into the category of good rather than convincing, and that has been reflected in David Raya's jitters.

In the past three matches Raya has not looked like the goalkeeper who was signed for his confidence and distribution. Against Chelsea and Manchester City he nearly conceded when caught in possession, and it was his skewed pass that led to Lens equalising as the French side beat Arsenal 2-1 in the Champions League.

Although Raya is expected to start against Sevilla tonight, in a late change Aaron Ramsdale travelled with the squad to Spain, having initially planned to stay in London after the birth of his first child. Mikel Arteta, the Arsenal manager, dismissed the suggestion that Raya has been affected by being in the spotlight, adding that it was not realistic to pander to calls for change.

"I'm sure that I will not take a decision based on a single action in a game,"

Arteta said. "Errors are part of football and mistakes happen, from defenders, strikers and goalkeepers. That's the pressure of playing in big clubs where you have to be at your best and have someone pushing you."

Arsenal have had decent results without being as exciting going forward as last season and appear to have sacrificed goals for greater control in matches. Arteta said this has had much to do with how opponents have been sitting deep against them this term. But it is also apparent that his team have shown they can cope only with one or two of their most influential players being off the boil — any more and they have struggled. Martin Odegaard and Oleksandr Zinchenko, who help make Arsenal tick, either passed poorly or were denied space in Lens and for a large part of Saturday's 2-2 draw with Chelsea.

It may be a sign of their resilience that Arsenal found a way to come back from 2-0 down at Stamford Bridge and substitutes have earned them eight points in the Premier League. But the team

**Sevilla v Arsenal**  
Champions League group B, Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium Kick-off 8pm  
TV TNT Sports 1, Radio talkSPORT



have created fewer big chances and had fewer shots from open play, on average, compared with last season.

In Europe they have struggled to negotiate away matches when playing among the elite. The performance in Lens was reminiscent of some of the dismal away defeats in the competition towards the end of Arsène Wenger's tenure. Arsenal will play at the noisy Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium, where Sevilla have been refreshed by a new coach and have told fans to replicate the hostility the club believe helped them to beat Manchester United and Juventus in the Europa League last season.

Arsenal have lost five of their past nine away matches in the Champions League, going back to 2015-16. Their record is particularly bad in Spain, where they have lost 11 and drawn three of 17 games in European competitions.

Arteta put it down to a mix of better opponents and dealing with the atmosphere. "Some margins become critical," he said. "The mindset, the emotional

state of the team to go through difficult moments is absolutely key."

Jorginho, the Arsenal midfielder who has vast experience with Chelsea and Italy, added: "We are a young team and it will be a good test for us and our emotional control; the atmosphere is going to be hot. It's a competition that will make us grow."

Silva has the oldest squad in the Champions League; it includes the 37-year-old Sergio Ramos, the former Real Madrid star. Sevilla played on the front foot in a 1-1 draw against Real Madrid on Saturday in Diego Alonso's first match in charge since taking over from José Luis Mendilibar. They will be led up front by Youssef En-Nesyri, who has been a transfer target for West Ham United and has scored nine goals in 16 appearances in the Champions League.

"We will have to fight and be at the limit of our possibilities," Alonso said. "I am an optimist. Where many people see an obstacle, I see an opportunity. The Real match has helped us to know the level the team can achieve."

# Henry Winter

Football writer of the year



# Statue will let Charlton values live on

**B**efore most England games at Wembley, I meet friends for a quick catch-up on the concourse where the giant statue of Bobby Moore stands guard over the stadium. It's a perfect congregation point, easily accessible with a vista down Olympic Way and an opportunity to pay a respectful nod to the great man.

The royal sculptor, Philip Jackson, did him proud. He recalls Moore's wife Stephanie bursting into tears when seeing the statue for the first time. There are emotional edifices, especially when moulded by such empathetic hands as Jackson's.

Wembley now needs a similar bronze figure for Sir Bobby Charlton, who won the European Cup as well as the World Cup there. It would be inspirational. Sir Alf Ramsey is immortalised by Jackson in the tunnel at Wembley, a nudge to players as they emerge from the England dressing room to reach for the stars.

Statues are special, a celebration of magical moments and giants of the game. Many grace English stadiums — too many to mention — but a very subjective personal top ten based partly on dramatic impact would be: the epic "United Trinity" of George Best, Denis Law and Charlton outside Old Trafford; West Ham United's "The Champions" of Moore, Sir Geoff Hurst, Martin Peters and Ray Wilson near Upton Park; Billy Bremner, arms aloft, rallying the faithful outside Elland Road; the joyful Bob Stokoe celebrating Sunderland's FA Cup victory of 1973 with the words "The Man, The Messiah, The Moment" engraved; "The Golden Boy" Wilf Mannion in the act of shooting outside Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium; Billy Wright running, ball in hand, outside the stand that bears his name at Molineux; Johnny Haynes, hands on hips, right foot on ball, at Craven Cottage (and thank heavens the off-the-wall idea of the Michael Jackson statue has been removed); the powerful Dixie Dean outside Goodison Park; Dennis Bergkamp's balletic control of a dropping ball outside the Emirates; and my absolute, non-negotiable favourite: Sir Tom Finney's "The Splash" outside Deepdale, which embodies his balance, determination and movement as well as the Preston Plumber's ability to deal with water.

All of these are listed with apologies to two more Jackson creations that celebrate Sir Matt Busby and Peter Osgood. Other honourable mentions include the Bill Shankly "he made the people happy" sculpture, as well as statues of William McGregor, Alan Shearer and Sir Stanley Matthews in twisting, triplicate form and the "Legends of the Lane", Jimmy Sirrel and Jack Wheeler. Further north, Jock Stein and John Greig make distinguished sentries outside Celtic Park and Ibrox respectively.

Statues are not simply about looking back. They represent values needed now and in the future. Seeing a statue of Charlton at Wembley would be a reminder of his principles, as a



Vladimir Coufal, left, and Ollie Watkins' shirts attest that football is wedded to the betting industry

## Educate stars better over gambling perils

**S**andro Tonali faces the inevitable lengthy ban for betting on football but there is a wider point here about the game needing to address the problem among some young players.

The majority of footballers are largely good role models and it's only a minority generating negative headlines, but certainly more education is required over gambling, not least the warning that in the 21st century "you will get caught". Tonali's name cropped up when an Italian state tax investigation began probing illegal betting syndicates.

Only Tonali knows exactly how his addiction developed. What can be said generally about the issue in football is that players have to ensure they have right-minded people around them, those they can trust and especially those who will give good advice and steer them away from betting. An old school-

mate receiving a screenshot of a desired bet should be a truer friend and outline the risks of being asked to place the bet. A truer friend would not take the bet but would take the player to a gambling addiction clinic.

Football, too, has to confront its own addiction to the betting industry's money, however difficult that may be for clubs trying to balance the books post-lockdown (although steps are being made). The prevalence of betting advertising must make footballers feel it is acceptable, even when they know it is banned.

As innately competitive creatures, who back themselves to beat the bookie and crave adrenalin rushes, especially during the quiet periods between games, footballers will be lured to betting. They have the money and they have the access — either themselves as it is so simple online, or through

"friends". They are not involved in match-fixing, simply compulsion-feeding. If their dependence were on alcohol, albeit more visible than gambling, then friends, family and club might be quicker to intervene. The same response needs encouraging with gambling. The game has to educate young pros even more that they are role models, they have responsibilities, that gambling wrecks form and can destroy careers, families and friendships.

They should look around at what some of their professional peers are up to. More than 100 players, including Ilkay Gundogan, Yoane Wissa, Ben Davies and Tim Krul and the newly retired Phil Jones have already registered for the university-accredited Professional Footballers' Association Business School. Better to hit the books than the bookies.

football deity and human being, that should be cherished. Imagine a bronze "Bobby belting the ball", to borrow from Skinner and Baddiel, capturing the power and glory of his football traits. Many of these attributes were paraded inside Wembley, particularly in the World Cup semi-final against Portugal in 1966 and the European Cup final against Benfica two years later.

The Moore statue has become not simply a meeting point or selfie site. It's become a talking point. Last week, before the Italy international, I got chatting to a father who was explaining to his son all about Moore's achievements as a leader and composure as a defender. The father cannot have seen Moore play but he knew what made him great. One generation passes down knowledge to another.

A statue of Sir Bobby at Wembley would allow even more discourse of his many qualities as a man: polite, humble, uncomplaining, compassionate. Charlton played the game the right way and lived his life the right way. Imagine schools or grassroots clubs touring Wembley and then returning to the classroom or dressing room with chatter flowing about Sir Bobby, his goals and values.

They could talk about his loyalty to Sir Matt, to Sir Alex Ferguson, to his club. They could marvel at his strength in adversity, and how he somehow played on after the Munich air disaster. They could appreciate his sportsmanship, being booked only twice in 809 games for United and England. They could discuss respect for opponents and how Sir Matt, Charlton and the United team made sure that every club they beat on the way to Wembley in 1968 received two tickets to the final.

They could debate how rivals could also be friends, and the connection between a United legend and Manchester City players that lasted a lifetime. They could reflect on what a team player Charlton was, even going in goal in training to allow others shooting practice. They could speak about his compassion for the disadvantaged and the vital work the Bobby Charlton Foundation does clearing mines in war zones.

They could deliberate on his quiet, strong patriotism and how even with 21 senior international appearances to his name, Charlton willingly reported for England Under-23 duty, winning even more respect for a particularly committed performance on a quagmire of a St James' Park pitch against Gianni Rivera, Giovanni Trapattoni and "Young Italy" in 1960.

At 1-1, after a couple of mid-match pitch invasions that included photographers and in a continued downpour, Charlton "still tried desperately to get the English attack moving", The Daily Mirror reported. He never gave up. The values Sir Bobby Charlton embodied and the memories he bequeathed a grateful nation and admiring world need honouring by the FA with a statue at Wembley.

## City elect to train on artificial pitch

Paul Hirst

Manchester City have altered their Champions League plans this week so they can get used to the artificial surface they will be playing on in their group-stage match away to Young Boys.

The day before every Champions League match, Uefa offers each away team the opportunity to train at the stadium where they will be playing.

City usually turn down that chance

because Pep Guardiola prefers to prepare at his club's own training centre in Manchester. On this occasion, however, he has decided that his players need to have a training session at the Wankdorf Stadium in Bern, Switzerland, this evening so they can become accustomed to the synthetic turf on which they will be playing the match tomorrow night.

On their past two visits to the 32,000-capacity stadium Manchester United have complained about the pitch,

primarily due to concerns that it could cause injuries.

Two years ago, after United's 2-1 group-stage defeat by the Swiss side, the left back Luke Shaw labelled the pitch "dangerous".

"It's hard to turn on," he said. "These pitches, they shouldn't be possible in the Champions League."

City's next match after their game in Switzerland is the Manchester derby against United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

## Ex-footballer who inspired dementia campaign dies

The former Middlesbrough player Bill Gates, who inspired a campaign to highlight links between football and dementia, has died aged 79.

Gates died at the weekend after suffering from a progressive brain disease. He spent his entire career at Middlesbrough, playing in more than 330 games between 1961 and 1973.

His illness inspired his wife, Dr Judith Gates, to co-found the Head For Change charity focusing on research linking neurodegenerative disease to sport-related brain injuries.

## Leeds fined £20,000 over supporter's abuse of Howe

Leeds United have been fined £20,000 after a spectator physically and verbally abused Eddie Howe, the Newcastle United head coach, during a Premier League match at Elland Road last season.

The spectator, David Derbyshire, was sentenced to three months in jail in September and handed a six-year football banning order after he confronted Howe on May 13.

The Yorkshire club had a further £20,000 fine suspended until the end of next season.

## Sport Premier League

# Top spot just not enough for record-breaker Postecoglou

**Tottenham**

Son 36, Maddison 54

**2**

**Fulham**

**0**

**Alyson Rudd**

Tottenham Hotspur lead the Premier League table thanks to a combination of nerve-free, energetic football and some daft errors from their opponents. Ange Postecoglou has, for now at least, eradicated the flimsiness that so often beset Spurs whenever glory beckoned. Tottenham's manager has taken 23 points from his first nine games in charge, a Premier League record.

His team survived a spirited finale but that, too, seems to be a Postecoglou trademark. Where once Spurs would wobble, they are, at present, immune to self-doubt. We wait for the bubble to burst but it is by no means clear what it is that will puncture the club's imperious flamboyance and right now the

compliments about his impressive start to life in charge of Spurs and instead gave a darned good impression of a coach far from content with what he had just witnessed. "We've got a long way to go," the Australian said. "We have to improve and that puts the responsibility on me to make sure we do."

We have come to expect a frenetic start from Postecoglou's side and sure enough they ran at Fulham with a sense of urgency. Monday night football, according to Postecoglou, means that he and his team have "to sit around all weekend" and they certainly began as if they had been cooped up and forced to watch repeats of *Home and Away*. All Fulham could do was track, block and foul.

Marco Silva's side won a corner from their first counterattack which brought a fine, stretching save from Guglielmo Vicario as he reached João Palhinha's strong header. It was a sobering downer for the home team, who calmed down as a consequence, while it allowed Fulham to grow in confidence.

Willian was relentlessly jeered by the Spurs supporters for the fact that he very nearly signed for the north London club in 2013 only to join Chelsea instead at the 11th hour, but it served merely to ensure he was inspired to be heavily involved in most of what was incisive for the away team.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg started in place of the suspended Yves Bissouma and had a chance to give Spurs the lead but his long-range strike was simple enough for Bernd Leno to gather. After Antoné Robinson wasted a promising Fulham foray, Spurs broke at pace only for Richarlison to miss the target. Silva's side had begun to look, if anything, too comfortable and sure enough, a poor clearance by Calvin Bassey was intercepted by Micky van de Ven. He fed Richarlison, who in turn found Son for his highly composed seventh goal of the campaign.

Silva made two changes at the interval, bringing on Raúl Jiménez and Alex Iwobi. A single lapse in concentration had marred a commendable first-half display and the Fulham head coach, having masterminded a victory over



Maddison puts last night's London derby beyond Fulham's reach from a move that stemmed from Hojbjerg's interception

## Premier League table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	pts
Tottenham	9	7	2	0	20	8	12	23
Man City	9	7	0	2	19	7	12	21
Arsenal	9	6	3	0	18	8	10	20
Liverpool	9	6	2	1	20	9	11	20
Aston Villa	9	6	1	2	23	13	10	19
Newcastle	9	5	1	3	24	9	15	16
Brighton	9	5	1	3	22	18	4	16
Man United	9	5	0	4	11	13	-2	15
West Ham	9	4	2	3	16	16	0	14
Chelsea	9	3	3	3	13	9	4	12
Crystal Palace	9	3	3	3	7	11	-4	9
Wolves	9	3	2	4	11	15	-4	11
Fulham	9	3	2	4	8	15	-7	11
Brentford	9	2	4	3	14	12	-2	10
N Forest	9	2	4	3	10	12	-2	10
Everton	9	2	1	6	9	14	-5	7
Luton	9	1	2	6	8	17	-9	5
Burnley	9	1	1	7	7	23	-16	4
Bournemouth	9	0	3	6	6	20	-14	3
Sheffield Utd	9	0	1	8	7	24	-17	1

team have to be considered title contenders. This could have been a season full of chatter about how much they miss Harry Kane and instead the conversation is all about the style and efficiency of Son Heung-min and James Maddison, last night's goalscorers.

Postecoglou resolutely ignored

## Spurs fans' support for Israel



A number of Tottenham Hotspur fans flouted the club's ban by displaying Israeli flags last night.

After the final whistle at least a dozen flags bearing the Star of David motif were on show around the stadium.

The club, who have a longstanding association with the Jewish community, had emailed supporters to make it clear that flags or banners in support of Israel or Palestine would not be allowed in the stadium.

Ange Postecoglou, the Spurs head coach, refused to criticise those who broke the rules. "I have said countless times I'm not going to tell people what to feel and tell people what to do," he said. "We move on."

Spurs in the EFL Cup in August, was keen to maintain a sense of optimism. Yet this proved practically impossible given that Bassey made a second gaffe just as the mood around the stadium was beginning to turn impatient.

The Nigeria defender once again gave Spurs a helping hand, this time passing out from the back so that Hojbjerg was able all too easily to intercept. The Dane almost casually passed to Son, who set up Maddison for a simple finish. For Silva it was an unpleasant instance of *déjà vu*. His team were compact and reasonably inventive but prone to very costly

errors. The mistakes, gobbled up by Tottenham, gave the home side a touch of arrogant freedom. Maddison embarked on a sashaying run through the middle and tried to end it with an audacious pass out wide to Richarlison which was, in the end, overcooked, but the self-belief within the team grew with each passing minute. A slick Maddison free kick was met by Son but the ball skidded beyond the far post.

Bassey made yet another error,

allowing Maddison to nick the ball off him, but this time Tim Ream was able to clear after a slight mix-up between Maddison and Son ensured the resulting strike was hesitant.

Silva explained that one mitigating factor was that the left-footed Bassey was deployed on the right-hand side. Jiménez had the best chance as Fulham tried to claw their way back but, once again, Vicario was agile.

That his goalkeeper had been integral to the victory only underlined for Postecoglou that his team had not exerted the level of control he wanted to see. This, then, is how Spurs top the pile. Their manager, somewhat relentlessly, demands much more.

**Tottenham** (4-2-3-1): G Vicario 8 – P Porro 7, C Romero 7, M van de Ven 7, D Udogie 6 (E Royal 56min, 6) – P Sarr 7 (O Skipp 62, 6), P Hojbjerg 7 – D Kulusevski 7, J Maddison 8 (A Véliz 81), Richardson 7 (B Johnson 80) – Son Heung-min 9 (G Lo Celso 81). **Booked**: Hojbjerg, Vicario.  
**Fulham** (4-3-3): B Leno 6 – T Castagne 6, C Bassey 4, T Ream 6, A Robinson 5 – S Lukic 5 (H Reed 72), J Palhinha 7 (T Cairney 82), A Pereira 6 (A Iwobi 46, 6) – B DeCordova-Reid 7 (H Wilson 62, 6), C Vinicius 6 (R Jiménez 46, 6), Willian 7. **Referee**: A Taylor.

Attendance 85,000.

## Results

### Football

**Vanarama National League South** Chelmsford 3 Dover 3

### Cricket

#### World Cup

Pakistan v Afghanistan

Chennai (Pakistan won toss): Afghanistan (2pts) beat Pakistan (0) by eight wickets

**Pakistan** (balls)

Abdullah Shafiq lbw b Lakhanvalia 8 (75)

Imam-ul-Haq c Murid b Omarzai 10 (27)

"Baraz Aziz c Nabi b Lakhanvalia 7 (22)

Mohammad Rizwan c Nabi b Lakhanvalia 10 (27)

C Rahaman lbw b Lakhanvalia 8

Saud Shakeel c Khan b Nabi 25 (34)

Shadab Khan lbw b Murid 40 (38)

Itikbar Ahmed c Omarzai b Murid 40 (27)

Shahseen Shah Afridi not out 3 (3)

Extras (4 w, 1 nb, 10 nb) 17

Total (7 wkts, 50 overs) 282

Usman Mir, Hasan Ali and Haris Rauf did not bat.

**Fall of wickets** 1-56, 2-110, 3-120, 4-163, 5-206, 6-279, 7-282.

**Bowling** Murid 7-0-52-2; Ur Rahman 8-0-55-0; Nabi 10-0-31-1; Omarzai 5-0-

50-1: Khan 10-0-41-0; Lakhanvalia 10-0-49-3.

**Afghanistan** (balls)

Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Mir b Afridi 65 (53)

Ibrahim Zadrani c Rizwan b Ali 87 (113)

Rahmat Shah not out 77 (84)

"Hashmatullah Shahidi not out 48 (45)

Extras (8 w, nb 1) 9

Total (2 wkts, 49 overs) 286

Azmatullah Omarzai, Iram Alkilhi 1, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq, Noor Ahmad did not bat.

**Fall of wickets** 1-130, 2-190.

**Bowling** Afridi 10-0-58-1; Ali 10-1-44-1;

Rauf 10-0-53-1; Mir 8-0-35-0; Khan 8-0-

49-0; Ahmed 5-0-27-0.

**How they stand**

P W L D Pts NRR

India 5 5 0 0 10 1.35

New Zealand 5 4 1 0 8 1.48

South Africa 5 3 1 0 7 1.00

Australia 4 2 2 0 4 0.19

Pakistan 5 2 3 0 4 0.40

Afghanistan 5 2 3 0 4 0.97

Bangladesh 4 1 3 0 2 0.78

Netherlands 4 1 3 0 2 0.79

Sri Lanka 4 1 3 0 2 1.05

England 4 1 3 0 2 1.25

### Tennis

**ATP Swiss Indoors**

**Basel:** First round A Murray (GB) bt Y Hanfmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-4; J-L Struff (Ger) bt C Eubanks (US) 7-6 (9-7), 6-4; S Baez (Arg) bt C O'Connell (Aus) 6-3 (7-3), 6-4, 6-3; B van de Zandschulp (Neth) bt R Bautista (Sp) 7-5, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2.

**ATP Erste Bank Open**

**Viena:** First round C Norrie (GB) bt F Misolic (Austria) 7-6 (9-7), 4-6, 6-3;

A Zverev (Ger) bt S Orlfer (Austria) 6-4,

6-1; J Lehecka (Cz) bt JJ Wolf (US) 6-4,

6-4; M Arnaldi (It) bt A Ramos (Sp) 7-6

(7-6), 7-6 (7-2); W Kachanov (Russ) bt R Safiullin (Russ) 6-4, 6-4; TM Etcheverry (Arg) bt S Korda (US) 6-3, 1-6, 3-6.

**Champions League** (8.0pm unless stated): Group A Galatasaray 6 (Vassilis 27), Manchester United 6 (Munich 5.45); Manchester United v Copenhagen; Lens v Psv Eindhoven; Sevilla v Arsenal. Group C

**Scottish Premiership** Dundee v Ross County (7.45).

Braga v Real Madrid; Union Berlin v Napoli. Group D Inter Milan v RB Salzburg (5.45); Benfica v Real Sociedad.

**Sky Bet Championship** (7.45 unless stated): Huddersfield v Cardiff; Millwall v Blackburn; Norwich v Middlesbrough; Leicester v Sunderland (8.0); Swansea v Watford; West Brom v QPR (8.0).

**League One** (7.45 unless stated): Barnsley v Shrewsbury; Blackpool v Cheltenham; Bristol Rovers v Stevenage; Cambridge v Portsmouth; Carlisle v Burton; Derby v Exeter; Lincoln v Charlton; Northampton v Leyton Orient; Port Vale v Peterborough; Wigan v Oxford; Wycombe v Bolton; Reading v Fleetwood (8.0).

**League Two** (7.45): AFC Wimbledon v Merton; Crewe v Stockport; Doncaster v Salford; Forest Green Rovers v Grimsby; v Colchester; Hartlepool v Mansfield; MK Dons v Bradford; Morecambe v Tramore; Notts County v Newport; Swindon v Gillingsham; Walsall v Crawley; Wrexham v Sutton.

**Scottish Premiership** Dundee v Ross County (7.45).

Ajax have parted company with their coach Maurice Steijn only four months into his tenure as the former European heavyweights endure their worst start to a league season.

Steijn was sacked after their latest league defeat, their fourth in a row, left them second from bottom in the Eredivisie after seven games.

Such is the sense of crisis at the Dutch club that they brought back their former head coach, Louis van Gaal, in an advisory role at the start of the month. The 72-year-old former Holland and Manchester United manager, who has been recovering from prostate cancer, led Ajax to a Champions League title in 1995.

Before this year Ajax had never had fewer than seven points after six games of an Eredivisie campaign — if all seasons are adjusted so that a win

is worth three points. After losing 4-3 away to FC Utrecht on Sunday the four-times European champions have five points from seven matches. They face Brighton & Hove Albion in the Europa League on Thursday.

Ajax's fortunes have flagged since the departure of the head coach Erik ten Hag to United in May 2022. They sacked their director of football, Sven Mislintat, last month, while Pier Eringa, the chairman of their supervisory board, resigned.

Among Ajax's losses under Steijn was a 4-0 rout by their fierce rivals Feyenoord last month. The match was abandoned ten minutes into the second half as Ajax fans lobbed flares on to the pitch, fought mounted police and smashed the entrance to their own stadium. The match was completed later behind closed doors.

is worth three points. After losing 4-3

away to FC Utrecht on Sunday the four-times European champions have five points from seven matches. They face Brighton & Hove Albion in the

Europa League on Thursday.

Ajax's fortunes have flagged since the departure of the head coach Erik

ten Hag to United in May 2022. They

sacked their director of football, Sven

Mislintat, last month, while Pier

Eringa, the chairman of their

supervisory board, resigned.

Among Ajax's losses under Steijn

was a 4-0 rout by their fierce rivals

Feyenoord last month. The match

was abandoned ten minutes into the

second half as Ajax fans lobbed flares

on to the pitch, fought mounted

police and smashed the entrance to

their own stadium. The match was

completed later behind closed doors.

# Wasps want to build indoor stadium

CONTINUED FROM BACK

actually owns little more than the name and the brand, yet he is confident that he can have a team in place for next season. "The team is not a problem," he told The Times. "There are literally so many players out there and so many Wasps players who want to come back."

He said that recruiting a director of rugby would not be an issue either.

"It's a position that people have been in contact about," Holland said. "I've got a load of people who are interested. However, I'm not going to offer anyone a job until I know we've got enough money to pay them for two years."

Holland has been working closely with two former Wasps players in parti-



## Where they are located

The teams in the top two divisions

- Premiership
- Championship
- Proposed



cular: Kenny Logan, the former Scotland international, and Peter Scrivener, the former club captain.

Their intention has been to avoid the well-established financial pitfalls of the rugby business and to build a club who rely neither on income driven by the rugby itself nor the backing of a single high-net-worth individual. The past 13 months have been calamitous for club rugby in England, with Wasps and Worcester Warriors both going out of business last year. They were followed by London Irish at the end of the season and then Jersey Reds last month, and the game is full of talk of other clubs who may go the same way.

The first part of the comeback solution for Wasps is the proposed new indoor 28,000-seat stadium, "The Wasps Nest", which will derive most of its income from concerts, exhibitions, conferences and an on-site hotel. Comparisons have been made to the O2 arena.

The proposed site for the new stadium is Pedham Place golf course, just outside Swanley, on the intersection of



Wasps have not played since the home defeat by Northampton Saints in October 2022, top, but are hopeful of reigniting their fanbase, above, through relocation

the M25 and the M20. Holland initially looked at Oxford as Wasps' potential new home but then identified the advantages of Kent, a rugby-rich county where there is also a gap in the market because there is no professional club in the top three divisions.

Wasps released a statement last week clarifying the three requirements for their return: a stadium, sustainable finance and a competition to play in. All three are interlinked. Efforts by Wasps and Worcester Warriors to return to the professional game have thus far been stymied because potential investors could see no guarantee of a proper return from the rugby business, especially if they have to come back into the Championship, or what will soon be rebranded as Prem2. Wasps' solution is the stadium, which will be the magnet for investors who are believed to be standing by.

Wasps have confirmed that even though they may become temporary lodgers at Sixways, they would do so "without in any way replacing Worces-

ter Warriors RFC" and that they were also "committed to assisting their return to competitive rugby".

In a statement yesterday afternoon, Sevenoaks district council confirmed its interest in bringing Wasps to Kent. It said: "As a former top-tier club, with an international profile, we firmly believe this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Wasps would bring unparalleled economic, sports development, health, education and skills benefits to the district and we are keen to explore how that could be achieved."

"However, the public, partners and other stakeholders will all need to have their say on the proposals before they could be considered for inclusion in the new local plan."

Sevenoaks district council also said that a new transport infrastructure would be considered as part of the proposal.

Logan told The Times: "It could be amazing. I'm hugely excited but there's a lot of work still to be done. This is part of the journey."

# Murray on course for Davis Cup showdown with Djokovic

## Tennis

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

The chances of Andy Murray being called into Davis Cup action against Novak Djokovic next month increased a little yesterday after the three-times grand-slam champion battled his way to victory in the first round of the Swiss Indoors.

Only a few hours after his place in the Great Britain squad was confirmed for the upcoming finals in Malaga, Spain, from November 21-26, Murray ended a three-match losing streak with a hard-fought 7-5, 6-4 win against Yannick Hanfmann, the world No 51 from Germany, in Basel.

This was a welcome boost for the

British captain, Leon Smith, who is considering the various options he has for his team's quarter-final against Serbia. During the recent Asia swing his top three players — Murray, Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans — had all struggled for form, winning only three of a combined 13 matches.

Norrie has struggled in particular, losing seven of his past nine matches. The British No 1 claimed a much-needed win last night in the first round of the Vienna Open, but his display was far from convincing in a long and drawn-out 7-6 (9-7), 4-6, 6-3 triumph over Filip Misolic, an Austrian qualifier ranked No 169 in the world.

Although Norrie is likely still to be the country's top-ranked singles player

— he remains in the top 20 at No 18 despite his recent woes — by the time of the tie against Serbia on November 23, one option Smith has is to replace him with Murray or Evans.

Whichever man is higher ranked that week would then face Djokovic, the world No 1, in the second singles match, with the other likely taking on the world No 36 Laslo Djere in the first. It is a near-certainty Evans and Neal Skupski will play

Murray ended his three-match losing streak with a hard-fought victory

doubles against Djokovic and Miomir Kecmanovic should the tie come down to a decider. If Murray, ranked No 40, is to play his old rival Djokovic for the first time since the Qatar Open final in January 2017, he must move above Evans, ranked No 35.

This could happen as soon as next Monday if he were to reach the semi-finals in Basel this week, with Evans facing a tough opener in Vienna today against Frances Tiafoe.

As was the case for the group stage in

Manchester last month, Jack Draper has also been called up to give Smith another option. The 21-year-old is in good form after winning eight of his past 11 matches, although most of these have come on the Challenger circuit.

"We are going with the same five-man team as Manchester," Smith said. "The guys did such a great job that week and we will go to Malaga with confidence and the belief that we can be successful."

The Great Britain United Cup squad yesterday discovered their opponents for January's competition in Australia. Katie Boulter and boyfriend Alex de Minaur will be on opposing teams after Britain and Australia were drawn in group C, along with the United States.



## Sport Rugby World Cup

# World Cup 2027: How England's team can evolve

**Alex Lowe** and **Will Kelleher** run the rule over contenders for the Six Nations next year — and for the World Cup in Australia in four years

### BACK THREE

Gloucester's Jonny May has said he thinks that this has been his last tour with England, so he needs to be replaced on the wing. Anthony Watson, when fit, will surely do that. He's still only 29, so has much left to give. Saracens' Elliot Daly, at 31, has time on the clock still. Freddie Steward, the Leicester Tiger, will be around for a decade, you suspect, so the full back position is safe, but he needs to find ways of becoming a better second playmaker. Max Malins, who has moved from Saracens to Bristol Bears, found himself on the fringes of the World Cup squad but will have more chances to impress in the Gallagher Premiership — as will Ollie Hassell-Collins, now at Leicester after London Irish folded. Cadan Murley, from Harlequins, and Joe Cokanasiga at Bath. Cassius Cleaves, the Quins 20-year-old, is admired as a raw talent. Joe Carpenter and Tom Roebuck are good young talents at Sale Sharks too.

Henry Arundell is eligible for the Six Nations next year but not beyond that because he has joined a French club. Arundell is only 20.

### CENTRES

It will be all change in midfield soon. Manu Tuilagi, of Sale, has not made his future intentions clear, but you cannot see him trucking on until 2027, or even making the 2025 British & Irish Lions tour to Australia aged 34. There is no direct replacement in the system, so England will have to change the way they play.

Joe Marchant will become ineligible and stay in Paris as he joins Stade Français. You suspect Dan Kelly from Leicester could team up well with Bath's Ollie Lawrence. Will Joseph, the 21-year-old brother of Jonathan, now at Harlequins after the demise of London Irish, is one to monitor closely too.

Tommy Freeman, the Northampton Saints wing, could be converted to a big 6ft 2in, 16st outside centre, but fans of more free-flowing rugby would put forward his team-mate Fraser Dingwall. Is he physical enough for Test rugby, though? Henry Slade was the big omission from this World Cup squad. It would not be a surprise if he returned, but he may choose to play one more year at Exeter Chiefs then take a fat contract in France. Daly can also play outside centre.

### FLY HALVES

Not much needs to, or will, change here. Owen Farrell, now 32, will not be going anywhere, and nor will George Ford, who is still only 30. Expect the Saracen to stay as England captain. Ford, now at Sale, is such a good player and will hit 100 caps in ten Tests, but you still feel he will always play second fiddle to Farrell.

Marcus Smith is an interesting case-study for the incoming hybrid contracts. Smith was convinced to stay at Harlequins by Steve Borthwick, who told him he would not be frozen out of the team. That was true, as Smith discovered in his new full back role, but

### How new England could look

Two writers have picked their teams for the Six Nations next year and the World Cup in 2027

#### Alex Lowe's team for 2024 Six Nations

1	Genge	2	George	3	Stuart
4	Itoje	5	Martin	6	Curry
6	Chessum	7	Earl	8	Farrell
9	Mitchell	10	Lawrence	11	Daly
12	Arundell	13	Steward	14	Watson

#### Will Kelleher's team for 2024 Six Nations

1	Genge	2	Cowan-Dickie	3	Sinckler
4	Itoje	5	Chessum	6	Martin
7	Earl	8	Curry	9	Mitchell
10	Farrell	11	Arundell	12	Steward
13	Lawrence	14	Daly	15	Watson

#### Alex Lowe's team for 2027 World Cup

1	Haffar	2	Dan	3	Fasogbon
4	Itoje	5	Martin	6	Chessum
6	Chessum	7	Curry	8	Earl
9	Quirke	10	Smith	11	Arundell
12	Lawrence	13	Joseph	14	Cleaves

#### Will Kelleher's team for 2027 World Cup

1	Genge	2	Dan	3	Sinckler
4	Itoje	5	Chessum	6	Martin
7	Earl	8	Curry	9	Quirke
10	Smith	11	Arundell	12	Steward
13	Lawrence	14	Watson	15	Joseph

how long he remains there is interesting. Fin Smith, of Northampton, is admired but far back in the pecking order.

### SCRUM HALVES

England need to find two new No 9s. Ben Youngs is 34 and has not found a way into the team during this World Cup. He and the 36-year-old Danny Care must be moved on.

The good news for Borthwick is that he has ready-made options in the form of Jack van Poortvliet, who would have made this World Cup had he not injured his ankle, and Raffi Quirke of Sale. Quirke needs to get back into the starting line-up at his club, but can grow into a quick, dynamic replacement for Care, with Van Poortvliet more in the Youngs mould. Those two plus Alex Mitchell, the Northampton Saints scrum half who went from outside the squad to starting, should make a fine trio for many years.

### FRONT ROW

Kyle Sinckler (Bristol), Will Stuart (Bath) and Joe Heyes (Leicester) are likely to be the Six Nations tight-heads; Ellis Genge (Bristol), Bevan Rodd (Sale) and perhaps Val Rapava-Ruskin (Gloucester) the loose-heads. Behind them is a gap in the depth chart.

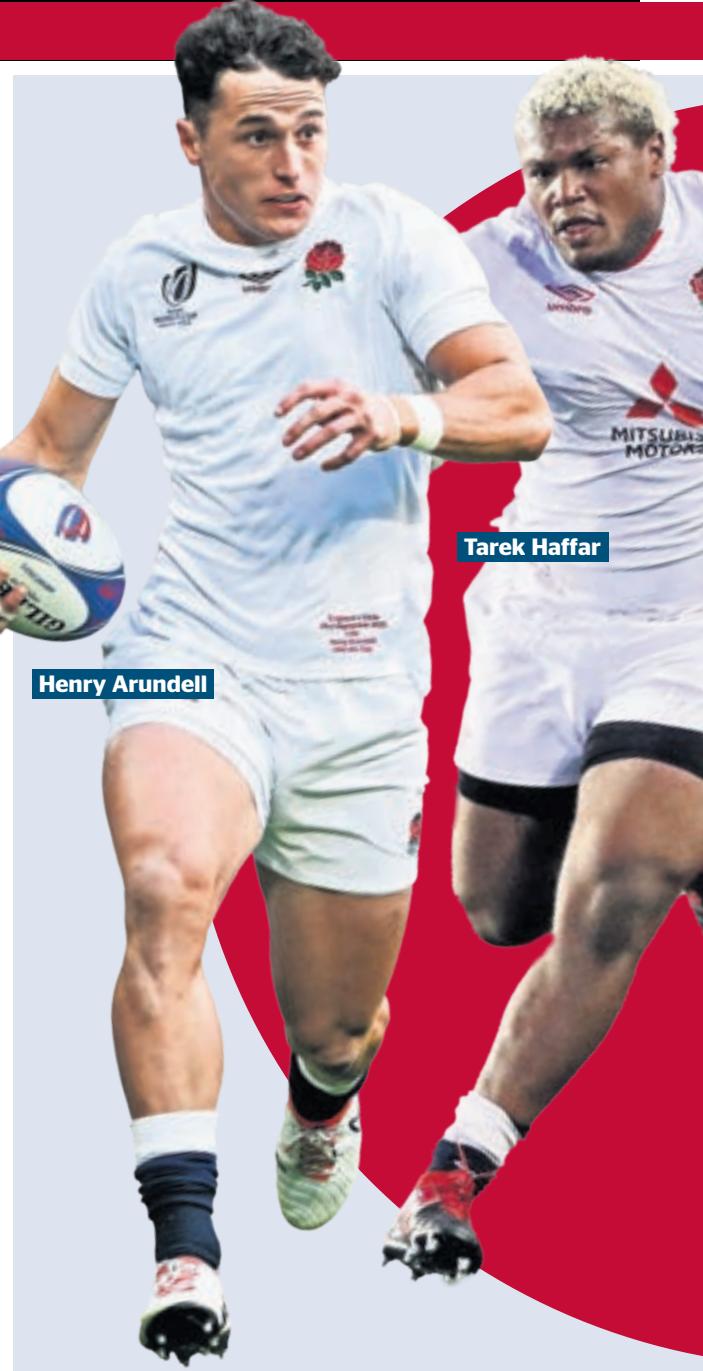
Tarek Haffar is a loose-head who was

snapped up by Northampton Saints when London Irish went bust. He has been likened in the academy world to Ox Nché, but is faster and more dynamic. Also on the loose-head side, we have seen Fin Baxter make an impact for Harlequins. On the tight-head side, Gloucester's Afolabi Fasogbon is 6ft 3in and rated as a major prospect. Leicesters' Tim Hoyt and Asher Opoku-Fordjour, of Sale, are also highly regarded.

Theo Dan needs to develop his set piece to inherit the hooker's jersey from Saracens team-mate Jamie George and Sale's Luke Cowan-Dickie but he has all the other qualities required to make it. Sam Riley, at Harlequins, is coming through and on the wider radar is Kepu Tuipulotu, a Harrow schoolboy.

### SECOND ROW

England will lose David Ribbins to Toulon but otherwise their immediate options in the second row remain strong, with Leicester's George Martin having announced himself in the World Cup semi-final. Sale's Jonny Hill will come back into contention. Longer term, there is the prospect of a Chessum double act. Ollie Chessum has established himself rapidly in the squad while his young brother, Lewis, recently captained England Under-20 and is even taller at 6ft 7in and 19st. He



**Tarek Haffar**

**Henry Arundell**

was joined in the squad last season by Robert Carmichael, who is bigger still. All three are on the books at Leicester.

### BACK ROW

Harlequins' Chandler Cunningham-South played in the second row for England Under-20 but he is a No 8 with a future, potentially as a long-term replacement for Saracens' Billy Vunipola. England are well placed for loose forwards, with Tom Willis, of Saracens, and Tom Pearson, of Northampton, having missed out on World Cup selection. Saracens' Ben Earl has been one of their best players in France. Martin and Ollie Chessum can both play blind-side flanker or lock. Alfie Barbeary is back

playing for Bath again after a run of injuries and he will catch the eye if he can stay fit. Guy Pepper has played for Newcastle Falcons as a teenager and is rock hard, strong and physical.

### COACHES

There are suggestions that the defence coach Kevin Sinfield may move back to rugby league. The arrival of Irishman Felix Jones, who could be a double World Cup winner by the time he comes from the Springboks in January, will soften that blow. Richard Wigglesworth, the attack coach, and Tom Harrison, the scrum coach, should stay.

### CONTINUED FROM BACK

Slur claim jeopardises Boks' plans

must not verbally abuse anyone". The recommended entry point is six games.

Mbonambi, who finished the game as South Africa captain, appeared to refuse to shake Curry's hand after his side had snatched a 16-15 victory.

While the Springboks would not comment on the allegation while the investigation is ongoing, they also did not deny it outright. "It is being dealt with by World Rugby and SA Rugby at the moment so from my side I can't really comment on that. I focus on the scrums," South Africa's scrum coach Daan Human said.

Human did speak glowingly about Mbonambi's character. "He had perfect training this afternoon," Human said. "Bongi has been part of this group for the past six years, he started in the last World Cup and he started in the semi-final, so he is very important, like all the other players in our group."

"He is one of the leaders in our group and a great, great guy. He is very humble, very down to earth like the other players and they should be if they want to play for the Springboks. He is a very calm guy, well-spoken."

The All Blacks defence coach Scott McLeod said if Mbonambi is banned it



George Martin

Will Joseph

would have a big effect on South Africa. "It would be a massive dent for them. He is a leader of their team," McLeod said. "When Siya [Kolisi] goes off, he becomes the captain so I imagine it would impact them."

The Springboks are set to name their team for the final on Thursday, with Mbonambi the only full-time hooker in the squad. Malcolm Marx started their first game of the tournament, against Scotland, at No 2 but was injured in that match and the management team chose not to call up a specialist replacement. Deon Fourie was picked by the Springboks as a utility forward, having started his career as a hooker before switching to flanker, and has been used off the bench in both roles. Their third hooking option is Marco van Staden, who is even more of a part-timer in the position. Teams are not allowed to replace players in the squad who are banned.

World Rugby's regulations outlaw abuse that includes, but is not limited to, comments regarding "religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation".

In South Africa it has been speculated that Mbonambi may have said "wit kant" or "white kant" (Afrikaans for "white side") to identify the English team by their jersey colour.

## May: Borthwick is like Turing

Will Kelleher

Jonny May thinks Steve Borthwick is rugby's Alan Turing and that the England head coach will crack the sport's Enigma code.

While May, 33, has not officially retired from Test rugby, he is not likely to play for England again after this World Cup. Despite England's semi-final defeat by South Africa on Saturday, the wing envisages a bright future for the team under Borthwick, having seen how the side have grown in France.

May spoke glowingly about Borthwick's meticulous coaching style, which he said reminded him of the Star Trek character Spock — a highly intelligent logical thinker.

"We're starting to see what a genius Steve is, in how he's starting to get this team going," May said. "You won't find a harder working man and his approach to the game is a little bit like Alan Turing [the computer scientist who broke the Nazi Enigma code during the Second World War]. If anybody is going to crack the code to rugby, it will be Steve, and good luck to him."

"He's getting closer each week. He's got an analytical brain [and an

evidence-based, scientific, Spock-like approach to the game. I've learnt a lot from him. I've been very grateful for all the coaches I've had throughout my career and I feel like I've absorbed everything I possibly can. But Steve, he's on to something. He's a young coach and he's unique."

"If anybody is going to crack it — not something I'm interested in doing, as it gets more complicated each week, this game — [it's him]. So hats off to him."

May was not in the original squad for the World Cup, but he replaced Anthony Watson when the wing injured his calf in August. May started all the big games at the tournament, including the quarter-final win over Fiji and the semi-final against the Springboks.

"For me, no regrets, what a journey — I wasn't even going to be on the plane at one point," May said. "But I stuck in there and that's the attitude across the team we've had pretty much everything thrown at us, but we're starting to find ourselves, learn, improve and set a culture as to where this team's going to go. I'm grateful to have been a part of that, although it probably won't continue after this World Cup, [and] I feel like I'm connected to this team."

# Barnes finally gets the moment his career merits

Stephen Jones



**A**s the England vs South Africa semi-final reached its dramatic conclusion with less than three minutes remaining, England still holding a two-point lead and the crowd noise ever rising, one keenly interested observer was sitting alone in his hotel room, impossibly conflicted.

Wayne Barnes has refereed way more internationals than anyone else and for many of us is not only the best referee in history, but better than anyone has a right to expect given the intensity and ludicrous complexity of international rugby.

You want a context across sports? Try Don Bradman, Tiger Woods, Pelé. I am deadly serious. That will give them something to talk about next time he returns to the bar in his native Forest of Dean for celebrations.

Back to the semi-final. Barnes had been there before. In 2019 he was already at his fourth World Cup and was clearly favourite to take charge of his first final. The only thing that could stop him was if England, the underdogs against New Zealand, were to make that final, as you are not allowed to referee your own country.

It is part of history and legend now that not only did England crush the All Blacks with one of the great performances in their history, but ruled out the English referee.

To lose one crowning moment in your career in that fashion is bad enough, but to come within three minutes of losing it again must have been agony. Then came the fateful scrum, with Ben O'Keeffe, the New Zealander who is highly rated by Barnes, officiating. As the scrum broke up and shredded and wheeled, with so many potential offences apparently occurring, O'Keeffe — with some justification — gave South Africa a penalty from which Handré Pollard, with a cannon of a kick, sent South Africa through, England out, and Barnes in.

His appointment was announced yesterday by World Rugby. England are providing the whole refereeing team with Karl Dickson and Matthew Carley as assistant referees and Tom Foley as television match official (TMO) and it is richly appropriate that Barnes will top his career in this grand manner. He reached 100 Tests last season and has been the leading figure in driving standards way up from what was once a sorry base. This has been easily the best-refereed World Cup, even if it did sag in the middle.

So he will take charge of New Zealand vs South Africa. Rassie

Erasmus, the Springboks' director of rugby, was disciplined by World Rugby for a shocking campaign against Barnes's decisions after France had beaten South Africa in Paris last year. It spilled over into abuse that no doubt affected Barnes and his family — but Erasmus can count on a match officiated with the utmost fairness and skill on Saturday.

Barnes has been the leading figure in a group of English referees which — together with the Twickenham refereeing controllers and his mentor, the outstanding former referee Chris White — have put the old country at the top of the pile in refereeing standards. It has been nothing less than a revolution. Four English officials have refereed at France 2023; no other nation had more than two.

The Gallagher Premiership in England is the hardest league to referee in because of its internece sporting warfare and the familiarity between the teams. In the Barnes era, the officials have proved that it can be done. You feel, seriously, that every rising referee in the world should have a season in the Premiership, and some have asked for it.

Barnes has been a spokesman for referees and their interests, especially those under pressure after alleged errors. He is also endlessly willing to explain the calls and to explain them to the players as they are all running across the field.

He has helped the development of the TMOs and his barrister's mind leads to clarity and consistency. Rugby had become almost impossible to referee, yet Barnes has proved that it can be done.

Occasionally, I felt that he was not sharp enough on rear feet offside. I don't think many

referees are. He told me that, actually, the players these days are so disciplined that they take it to the offside line but no further. He told me that if I had time, he'd show me videos to prove it. I didn't bother, because I knew he'd be right.

This is his fifth World Cup. He had been savaged over the years by New Zealand fans and even coaches after they blamed him for a quarter-final defeat against France in 2007, even though their own performance was wretched. But these days, respect is universal.

When he was reflecting on his career after his 100th international, he had just refereed New Zealand who had lost. "I went up to Steve Hansen [the New Zealand coach] afterwards and he said, 'Mate, I thought you were good today. I'll give you nine out of ten,'" Barnes said. "He told me the reason why he didn't give me the extra mark. But then he said, 'Maybe you should f\*\*\* off and retire because I've got a 97 per cent win ratio with the All Blacks and with you, it's 60 per cent.'" From the losing coach, that was an observation that showed a great deal of respect.

**Barnes, inset, will lead an all-English officiating team in the World Cup final**



# Sport

## Son leads Spurs back to the top

Son Heung-min scored Tottenham's first as they cruised to a comfortable 2-0 home win over Fulham and returned to the top of the Premier League, page 56



## World Rugby acts on race slur

Alex Lowe, Will Kelleher

World Rugby has responded to a complaint from the RFU and launched an investigation into allegations that Bongi Mbonambi called Tom Curry a "white c\*\*\*" in England's World Cup semi-final defeat by South Africa.

The Springboks, who play New Zealand in Saturday's World Cup final in Paris, have not issued a denial of the allegation. They are cooperating with World Rugby's investigations, via their

legal team out in France. Mbonambi, meanwhile, remains in full training with the team.

"World Rugby takes all allegations of discriminatory behaviour extremely seriously," the governing body said in a statement. "We can confirm that we are formally reviewing the allegation made by England's Tom Curry's in relation to the use of discriminatory language during the England versus South Africa Rugby World Cup 2023 semi-final last Saturday." The review was an-

nounced after the window for the independent citing commissioner to bring any disciplinary charges from the game expired yesterday morning.

After 23 minutes of Saturday's game Curry, the England flanker, approached the referee, Ben O'Keeffe, and said: "Sir, if their hooker calls me a white c\*\*\*, what do I do?"

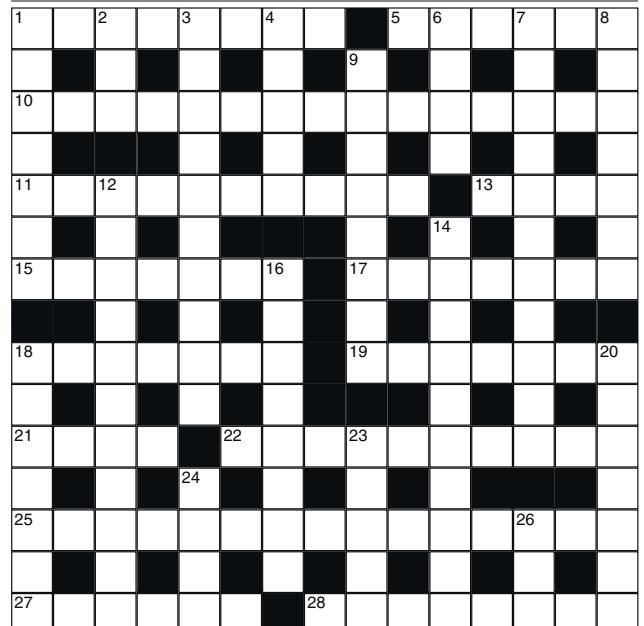
The referee replied: "Nothing, please." After a pause, he said: "I'll be on it," although it is unclear whether that was a comment to Curry or a reply to an

off-mic inquiry from another player. World Rugby is at the evidence-gathering stage and would hope to have the process dealt with in the next 24 hours and certainly before the final.

If no evidence is found to support the allegation, then the review could be a relatively quick process. But the issue has the potential to derail South Africa's planning. If the incident leads to disciplinary action, Mbonambi would be in danger of a ban under law 9.12: "a player

Continued on page 58

## Times Crossword 28,742



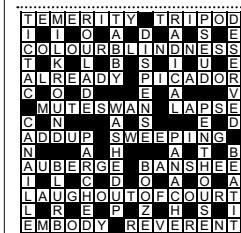
### ACROSS

- 1 Poet's wife, poetically, is blessed with technique (8)
- 5 Host in fluster finally donning skimpy outfit (6)
- 10 Ten visiting Bucharets go twice around a house (4-6-5)
- 11 Quest to find page in issue among the archives? (10)
- 13 Something on bottom of boot in farm (4)
- 15 Party without bottles? Don't ask me! (2,3,2)
- 17 Indefinite number populating a northern Spanish city and northern French city (7)
- 18 Down in time, best coming earlier (7)
- 19 Singers in empty theatre, it needing audio equipment brought in (7)
- 21 One removed from main cooker? (4)
- 22 Shift gear, car failing to start — one probably not flying? (10)
- 25 Novel lament of Venus de Milo? (1,8,2,4)
- 27 Dead bird and mummy found in African capital (6)
- 28 Today's pie virtually ruined — miserable state (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Hotel worker maybe interrupting while new person washed up (3-4)
- 2 Formal garment with pleats, reportedly? (3)
- 3 Chance one of those written on manuscript paper (10)
- 4 Old comedian almost getting head in order (5)
- 6 Almighty squeeze on income, ultimately (4)
- 7 Exceptional — as work in relief? (11)
- 8 Continue through valley, please (7)
- 9 Orang-utan briefly wrestled with legendary adventurer (8)
- 12 For example, king or queen in movie, original (7,4)
- 14 Fizzy tonic water warmer when it's cold? (6,4)
- 16 Awfully unsettled after vacation and ever so tired (8)
- 18 Bird feeding fish to number of whales (7)
- 20 Big area has a little grandeur, as I anticipated (7)
- 23 Artificial channel in position on the field (5)
- 24 Broadcast live in the morning (4)
- 26 Wife neglecting sandwich getting blame (3)

### Yesterday's solution 28,741



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

### Newspapers support recycling

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%



## Hamilton happy at last

Former champion finally has car to compete with Verstappen

Page 50



## World Cup tour diary

Gavaskar still worshipped but fans treated shamefully

Mike Atherton, page 52



## Wasps plan to return in Kent

Owen Slot Chief Sports Writer

A year after going out of business Wasps intend to return to top-level competition in a new indoor stadium in Kent.

Wasps have been in negotiations with Sevenoaks district council, which has described this as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity".

Wasps hope to return to professional rugby as soon as possible, with next season the target. The new stadium has yet to even receive planning permission so a temporary home will be required. Wasps are hoping to find one in Kent, so that they can start to build a new fanbase. However, Chris Holland, the Wasps owner, also owns the leasehold to Sixways, the Worcester Warriors stadium, and would consider using that as a temporary home.

As the "owner" of Wasps, Holland Continued on page 57

## Root: Lack of ODIs hurting

Simon Wilde

England will not be able to compete at World Cups if they do not play more 50-over cricket, according to Joe Root.

The former Test captain has suggested that counties should play more one-day games at the expense of the T20 Vitality Blast, rather than cutting the Hundred.

England have lost three of the first four games in the defence of their World Cup title and Matthew Mott, the white-ball coach, said after the loss to South Africa on Saturday that it was hard to decide who to pick when they played so little 50-over cricket.

"It doesn't make me change my mind about the Hundred," Root said. "It makes me question whether we should be playing more 50-over cricket instead of T20...instead of the Blast, maybe."

Full story, page 53



# TIMES 2

October 24 | 2023



I'd never have Botox

I don't remember  
sleeping with him

My sunglasses?  
I've had them for years

Your new friends  
seem nice

## The lies women tell

From sex to shopping, Shane Watson reveals all

# Why I'm writing a Dear Winter letter — and you should too

## Robert Crampton

**A**s the nights close in, the mercury plummets and half the country finds itself under water, researchers at the University of Glasgow have come up with an innovative way of dealing with the gloom: we should all write a letter. A letter to whom, you ask? To winter. The cold season. The one between autumn and spring. The three months covering December, January and February. We should tell winter how it makes us feel, and perhaps this full and frank confession will help alleviate the coming sadness.

Except what if, like me, you prefer winter to summer? Especially these days, when summers are no longer pleasantly warm but frazzlingly hot? In that case, I suggest, we can still write to winter not to whinge, but to welcome. To greet, not groan. Celebrate, not sigh, squeal and sob. To send the written equivalent of "Come on in, mate!" rather than "Oh no, not you again." So ...

Dear Mr Winter (because surely he is a bloke, a grumpy old bloke, not like perky Miss Spring or solid, reliable, middle-aged Mr and Mrs Autumn),

I know most people have got this massive downer on you and specifically the, ahem, inclement meteorological conditions (coldness, sleet, hail, wind) and semi-permanent darkness you tend to usher in. I know that you get it in the neck for bringing hunger, hardship, disease, depression, treacherous travelling conditions and sometimes — well, sorry to be blunt — freezing old people to death. And what's more, I know the moaning has started early this year as it's only mid-autumn, the clocks haven't gone back yet and already you're getting a kicking.

But for myself, Mr Winter (I'll keep it formal and, besides, I don't know your first name, although most

people seem to think it's an expletive), I've always reckoned you're misunderstood. As with Quasimodo or Shrek, or indeed the monsters in most fairytales, everyone instinctively shrinks in your presence, running indoors screaming when if they could only see the good in you they'd realise you're a pretty sweet guy.

I mean, c'mon: log fires; increased economic productivity due to an absence of bank holidays; woolly jumpers, blankets, scarves, gloves, battenning down the hatches — in a word, cosiness; better telly; early nights; floodlit sports events; panto; a light dusting of snow; rowdy youngsters scoured from the streets by a vicious gale ... what's not to like? And that's without even mentioning Christmas.

What else? Better views on account of the lack of leaves on trees — that's another one. Although admittedly I am

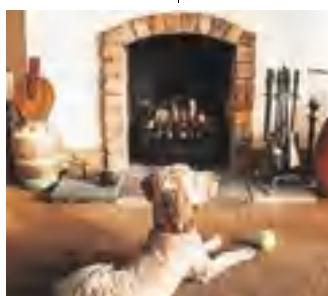
scraping the barrel here. More time for renewal, reflection, reinvention? I like to think so, yes. On a personal note, for some bizarre reason my local lido unaccountably empties out about now so that by 8pm on a filthy freezing evening I pretty much have it to myself. Silver linings, eh? Also, while appropriate clothing will always guard you against the cold, in the summer, when it's 30C in the city and you're stuck on the bus, you could be naked but you'd still be all hot and bothered. Not to mention liable to imminent arrest.

Besides, variety is the spice of life. Endless summer would be dull. Seasonal change is good for the soul. Humans must have shade, or else how would we appreciate light? Life is about taking the rough with the smooth and you, Mr Winter, do an excellent job, if I may say so, of supplying the rough.

Yours, etc

Late breaking news: I've had a reply! "Crampton," it says here. "I detest suck-ups. Be warned. Winter."

Ah well, worth a try. Miserable git.



## Ghosts were 'real', remember?

**T**wo plays are being staged about the so-called Enfield poltergeist, which obviously (because poltergeists do not exist) did not haunt a north London house between 1977 and 1979. This news takes me back. I was a teenager in the late Seventies, so I remember the story, along with many others about ancient curses, ghosts, sixth senses, spoon-bending, seances and similar made-up absurdities. There was a lot of it about.

Yet here's the thing: at the time, many people, me included, did not wholly believe this stuff was twaddle. Which is to say, as I recall it, in the 1970s it was a live debate among apparently intelligent people as to whether these scientifically inexplicable phenomena might really exist. Both viewpoints, for and against, were accorded some credibility. That is no longer the case. I like to cite this change when pessimists complain that in recent decades society has gone entirely backwards.

# They don't kiss

**R**ebecca Loos is back in the news. It's a reminder not just of how the media operated in the Noughties, but also of the 17th century. By Helen Rumbelow

The Beckhams probably thought they could breathe easy, their history nicely and safely re-told by the victors in their fawning new Netflix documentary. But instead their careful stage-management, with David self-pityingly referring to "some horrible stories" without mentioning any infidelity, provoked the re-emergence of Rebecca Loos.

Suddenly it has been like a supergroup from yesteryear reforming: wife, faithless husband and wronged mistress — even that "mistress" word sounds pruriently archaic. We have been flung back into the era of "kiss and tell" that reigned supreme from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, with the Loos-Beckhams forming a classic of the genre. Yes the main players here are now all in their late forties, but the riffs still sound the same as ever: hypocrisy, sex, lies. For kids too young to remember how "kiss and tell" goes, here is a primer: a powerful man flanked by two humiliated women, wife and "other", singing a song of shame before a wildly entertained tabloid audience. Typically the "other woman", after her turn in the spotlight, is ushered off into the darkness.

Not quite this time. Yes, the kiss and tell as we knew it has gone. For anyone of a certain age or older, kiss and tells were the news big hits so memorable to anyone living in the UK during that time that you only need to mention David Mellor, Conservative minister, to conjure up the lurid — and as it turned out fictitious — images of Mellor in "Chelsea strip" with Antonia de Sancha, a detail unashamedly fabricated by the prime kiss-and-tell agent Max Clifford. Or Sven-Goran Eriksson, with his quiet authority as England football manager, suddenly and distractingly recast as "a master of the art of love-making" by Faria Alam, his secretary at the Football Association. These were figures at the heart of the establishment of British sport or politics meeting at a particular midpoint in the evolution of feminism, and the law. Both have changed. We do scandal entirely differently now.

Up until this point, Loos could hardly have been less of a threat to the Beckhams, having retreated to a remote mountain village in Norway with her husband and children. Twenty years have passed. Yet that Netflix documentary, heavily controlled to flatter the Beckhams, presented David as the victim of events in 2003, when he was playing for Real Madrid and Loos was his personal assistant. The era of "kiss and tell" had many, many problems: the punitive and sexualised shaming of the "mistress"; invasion of privacy; the

financial rewards of entrapment; the truth manipulated, not least by the powerful agent Clifford; real emotional pain monetised for comedic effect. The return of Loos, defending herself yet again against a far more powerful and wealthier man like David Beckham, gives us a nostalgic rush of the "kiss and tell's" one unequivocal glory: a lowly and lone young woman puncturing the narrative, if not harpooning the reputation, of the prestigious man.

"He is making himself look like the victim, and me look like the liar," Loos said this week, neatly summing up the "kiss-and-tell" tug of war between victim and liar: is it her, is it him? Choose your fighter! Had Beckham chosen to tell his story with more remorse, Loos said, she would have not returned to this particular battleground. "I want [my sons] to know that their mother was brave enough to stand up against them and to stand up for the truth."

Loos knows things have changed in the past 20 years, and changed in her favour. Hard as it is to date the funeral of the "kiss-and-tell" story era, for me it was the Edinburgh international television festival in 2004. There on stage was Monica Lewinsky, who is now 50, but was once the 21-year-old plaything of President Clinton. Lewinsky is both the most initially reluctant and most famous example of the era. Her story was denied with weasel-words by President Clinton, at the time the scandal emerged in 1997, and again in his autobiography, *My Life*, published in 2004. Lewinsky said of Clinton, "he is a revisionist of history".

Lewinsky was on stage in a panel with Max Clifford in Edinburgh. She spoke eloquently about the shift in power away from newspapers and towards those telling their own stories in their own way.

"Before, the media made a lot of money from people's stories," Lewinsky said. She had incurred both substantial legal debts and was the butt of both jokes and slut-shaming from which it took her years to recover.

"Now people make money from their own stories. I don't see anything wrong with that."

A pause, and Clifford interjected, viciously. He had after all made millions off women like her: "Did it help you get up off your knees?"

Clifford's power was waning. He died in prison in 2017, where he was serving his sentence for many counts of indecent assault against children and young women.

"Kiss and tell" as phrase was first recorded in a 1695 play *Love for Love* by William Congreve, in which Miss Prue is being seduced by a man called "Tattle" (the comedy is broad). Miss Prue is boasting about how Tattle has given her "this ring for a kiss", Tattle

## What a Bobby dazzler

I once had the pleasure of sharing a lunch table with Bobby Charlton and his wife, Norma. It

was in the director's box at Hull City when Manchester United came to town on Boxing Day ten years ago. The mighty Tigers went 2-0 up ... and then lost 3-2. Wayne Rooney was outstanding. But I wasn't too bothered about the result, having met one of the

most revered Englishmen of my lifetime.

Sir Bobby and Lady Norma were already seated when my wife and I arrived. "Hello," I said, introducing us. "This is my wife, Norma," Charlton replied, shaking my hand, "and I'm Bobby Charlton." I had to restrain myself from shouting, "I KNOW YOU ARE! EVERYONE DOES!"

Imagine being so humble that, even though the entire world knows your face and name, you retain such impeccable modesty. What an absolute gent.

# and tell like they did (back in 1695)

Rebecca Loos.  
Right: David  
and Victoria  
Beckham



reprimands her "you must not kiss and tell". For centuries the usage was often "a gentleman never kisses and tells" (George Bernard Shaw said this exact phrase in a letter), as a shorthand for romantic discretion. By the late 20th century in Fleet Street, "kiss and tell" had become a euphemism for "kiss and sell". It was so part of cultural life that Bryan Ferry wrote *Kiss & Tell*, a 1987 song. His video featured Christine Keeler, who brought down the war minister John Profumo. "Why give 'em more?" went the song. "When it's only love for sale?"

First, the market forces were right. Tabloids and to some extent television — *Tonight with Trevor McDonald* paid an estimated £100,000 for the interview with Faria Alam — had during the 1980s and 1990s ever better finances to outbid each other for flashy exclusives. Into this came the public perception of "the other woman". Almost invariably the famous person was male, and public sympathy would naturally fall to their wronged wives. This was never more so than in the libel trial of Jeffrey Archer in 1987, with testimony from the young prostitute Monica Coghlan, who sold her story to the press for a few thousand pounds. The judge called Archer's wife, Mary, "fragrant"

and Coghlan "pitiful".

"Jeffrey Archer took everything away from me," Coghlan would later say. She didn't live to see Archer convicted of perjury. "I lost my home, my dignity, my self-respect, and any hope of a future."

The "mistress" was stuck in a historical era in transition. She was emboldened to speak truth to power. But she was also, like Keeler, tarred with the shame of the affair, instead of the red letter A for adulteress emblazoned on her chest, as in *The Scarlet Letter*, she would be forever a creature of the red-tops. The media had to pay enough to compensate for lifetime repercussions, and increasingly, they did.

But soon, the bubble burst. Steve



John Major and  
Edwina Currie.  
Right: Bill Clinton  
and Monica  
Lewinsky



never was. Women wanted more control of their stories. Tracey Temple, the secretary and mistress for two years of the former deputy labour leader John Prescott, told her story directly to the press. So did Helen Wood, a 19-year-old single mother and prostitute whose customer was Wayne Rooney, the married footballer. But other women were increasingly writing their own.

Edwina Currie wrote a book to drop rather unwelcome details about her four year affair with the "sexy beast" John Major (Major then described it as the event of his life of which he was "most ashamed"). The balance had well and truly swung when Suleika Dawson, the mistress of David Cornwell (aka John Le Carré), wrote a tell-all book of their affair, including the detail of the Cold War novelist squatting by the fridge naked, when she came up behind the author and "put an ice cube on his scrutum". This ungainly detail no doubt has a chilling effect on anyone considering making poor romantic choices.

But it is also the new template. Lily Allen, the singer, wrote *My Thoughts Exactly*, her painfully frank autobiography in 2018, to "set the record straight" on rumours swirling in the press. It includes both her sexual encounter with Liam Gallagher, whom she did not know was married, and her sexual exploitation and assault by music business executives. It

**“Even that ‘mistress’ word seems pruriently archaic**

earned plaudits for exposing a seedy industry that felt unsafe for a young woman.

Meanwhile Jada Pinkett Smith, the actress, hosted a talk show, *Red Table Talk*, on Facebook Watch, and in 2020 chose this forum to reveal that she had a relationship with August Alsina, a man 20 years her junior. Pinkett Smith's co-host in this discussion? Her husband, the Hollywood mega-star Will Smith.

So the Beckhams may, with this sanitised Netflix documentary, have misread the mood. The public are now sympathetic to moral and marital failures, if handled with maturity. Maybe they sought to emulate the Netflix documentary series *Harry & Meghan*, made by and about Prince Harry and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex. Yet that emerged just weeks before the publication of *Spare*, Prince Harry's autobiography, earlier this year. In it, the Duke of Sussex employed the modern tactic as proved by Lily Allen: flooding the media market with his own revelations that no potential "kiss and tell" could touch. Who needs to find the woman who had sex with a teenage Harry behind a pub, let alone buy her story, when Prince Harry himself details the "quick ride, after which she smacked my rump". Then, as sang Bryan Ferry, "there's no secret you can steal".

**times2**

# This top? It's from Zara — and

**Men, as one of our writers admitted yesterday, are masters of self-deception — but women fib for different reasons.**  
**Shane Watson confesses all (and everything she says is true!)**

**F**irstly, it's important to know that women take lying very seriously. We will not tolerate being lied to and that's not what we do. What we're up to, on a daily basis, is keeping all the balls in the air, and if that involves a little misremembering or failing to point out the bald facts to save someone's feelings (often ours), then so be it. Still, in the interests of brevity, we'll call them lies here, but let's be clear — the "lies" we tell are different.

## 'Making us look better' lies

### I was there

Women are not alone in viewing the past through rose-tinted specs or remembering events we weren't at (see Tony Blair's football match) but we definitely like to rewrite history with us in the right places at the right time. We are liable to tell you we were at the Hacienda, Blitz or Live Aid (backstage), which really means "I should have been".

More common, though, are the random "make me cool" lies. I had a Vivienne Westwood full pirate outfit, including boots. I was a backing singer for Squeeze. Seal once bought me a drink (by the way I did see Seal in a

bar once and he smiled at me, and if that happened to you and you were a woman, you might well find that the story turned into "Hey, mind if I join you, pretty lady?").

Likewise we all definitely had Monty Don earrings and Katharine Hamnett political T-shirts, and we were 100 per cent tuned in to what Princess Diana was wearing at the time and we all cottoned on to Amy Winehouse first and could have gone out with one of the guys in Tears for Fears.

### I don't do Botox

Some women favour fillers, but fewer than 2 per cent of those will volunteer that information, and then there will come a day when it doesn't go according to plan and they will tell their husband "I've been stung by a wasp, my face has blown up ... I can't go to the party" and the husband will innocently pass on this excuse and wonder why all the women present find it so funny.

### Exercise

We're talking about cold water swimming in the non-summer months. This lot are prone to chronic exaggeration: they're in the sea most mornings (twice in October); it's an amazing start to the day (a long start after spending hours trying to find a gap in the jellyfish). Women are quite untruthful about their early morning routines in general. Is Kate Moss really getting up every day and meditating in her wildflower meadow? Or did she do that a few times back in August?

### Taking the credit

"Delicious curry!" they say, to which

the answer might be "oh, thank you!" not "yes, isn't it? I bought it from the deli".

"Oh, look. Did you know we have those exact same chairs?" they say. "Hmmm, I don't think so," you reply, despite knowing full well because you are taste-stalking these people, and you copied the chairs and the cushions, and you may even have taken a picture of their bedroom rug on your phone.

### I took a stand

I told them to get off the train. I said, "I think you owe her an apology!" I jabbed him in the back and said, "If you think it's OK urinating on that baby seal, you'll have to deal with me." And often there is an element of truth to this. You backed up the ticket inspector, or you gave the rude man your withering stare as you rapidly exited the carriage.

### Spending lies

There is a long list of things no self-respecting woman will admit to spending money on, even when she definitely is, namely:

**Help in the garden** — Who can't manage a flowerbed or two other than a hopeless slattern?

**Fancy Little Greene paint** — The builder will shame you until you end up saying it was a present/you won it in a raffle so they don't give you the "oh dear, they saw her coming again" look.

**A private exercise class/boxing instructor** — We wish we could nip off for a bit of five-a-side/a jog around the park but we are wired differently and therefore need structure and machinery and ideally a teacher of

COVER: MARIA KORNEEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK, BELOW: TOM PILSTON FOR THE TIMES

**“I liked him, I just wasn't sure he was right for you**



Shane Watson

**“Of course I don't mind you asking the Whatsits and not us**

## T TIMES Travel Offers

EIGHT DAYS FROM  
£3,245\*  
per person



## Northern Lights Holiday IN FINLAND

Departures | January to March 2024

**Marvel at the magic of the Northern Lights, be whisked away on a thrilling husky safari, visit a reindeer farm and try your hand at snowmobiling, all on this seven-night spectacular winter holiday in Finnish Lapland.**

The Aurora Borealis is a remarkable natural phenomenon which should be seen at least once in a lifetime, so we've teamed up with Northern Lights holiday experts The Aurora Zone, to design a tour which maximises your Aurora viewing opportunities.

Combining two of the most popular destinations in Finnish Lapland, this seven-night holiday is the perfect way to experience the best of what the region has to offer.

From dog sledding over the unspoiled

frozen landscapes, to dedicated hunts for the Northern Lights and sleeping in your very own glass roofed Aurora Cabin, this week-long break completely immerses you in the magic of the Arctic wilderness.

With a blanket of crisp, white snow stretching far beyond the horizon and the mystical Northern Lights dancing above, seeing this winter wonderland first-hand really does feel like you have been granted exclusive access to a well-guarded secret.

\*Based on two sharing a Wilderness Plus room at Harriniva Wilderness Hotel and an Aurora Cabin at Levi Northern Lights Village. Single supplement applies at £645pp. Times subscribers should visit [mytimesplus.co.uk/TET](http://mytimesplus.co.uk/TET) to redeem their discount code. Subject to availability. Itinerary details are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone Studio 207-208, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Walker Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865, ABTA Y6261. Photography credit: Robert Corkill.



Our Trusted Partner



### Price Includes

Return flights from London to Ivalo and airport transfers (via Helsinki)

Four nights' full-board standard hotel room accommodation at Wilderness Hotel Inari

Three nights' full-board accommodation in an Aurora Cabin at the Northern Lights Village

Nine guided activities



CALL TODAY ON  
**0808 258 3847**  
[thetimes.co.uk/finland](http://thetimes.co.uk/finland)  
**QUOTE TIMES-ON**

# other lies women tell

some sort spurring us on. Still, if asked we'll deny it's one-on-one.

**Purchasing something unnecessary and not cheap** — If caught out doing this you have to nip it in the bud before you lose all credibility: "Buy a dog's bed at the Pampered Pooch and Mummy Boutique? Ha ha! As if ... I got it on eBay."

## Superwoman lying

In the era of *I Don't Know How She Does It* it's surprising that no one ever said, "Well, let me explain ... sometimes she doesn't do it. Someone else does."

Thinking of the bought fish pies rearranged in the dish to look like one home-made pie. Thinking of the marmalade: now you have to freeze Seville oranges and then buy a special pan and make marmalade ... or, alternatively, simply let people think you made it when you watched your friend do it and then brought some home.

Thinking of the chair that looks like you painted it and the little curtain under the sink and the dried flowers and the patched jacket — all the work of someone else but, when you're complimented on it, you say, "Hmmm". (By the way, it's not a lie if you skirt over it and simply do not confirm. That's what we would call avoiding unnecessary fuss/damage to your reputation.)

## The survival lies

### Weight loss denial

"Ooh, have you lost weight?"

(Slightly affronted) "What? No! I don't think so. It might be these jeans."

(Furrowed brow) "You have — you're tiny."

"I am not. Honestly, I can't get my arms in any of my jackets."

Yes, this is the "lost weight? Not me!" conversation women have been having for as long as anyone can remember, and we continue to have it, body positivity or not. Should you lose weight, by design or because you've had a stomach bug, all women will automatically deny it. Again, this is not a lie, it's more of a "don't make Janet feel like I'm deserting her" thing, with a dash of "I'm not trying to look better than other women!" (what we call fear of prodding the lady beast). You could be sucking down Ozempic and WFH on a treadmill with a weighted vest, and still you will Deny Deny Deny.

### Dieting denial

OK, so you're avoiding carbs and you never eat breakfast, which could be construed as fasting, but should anyone ask if you're on a diet, you will say no because you're not consciously dieting, just not eating much, and because when has anyone ever admitted they're on a diet? No good comes of it: everyone instantly resents you or thinks you're No Fun (See: lies women tell men). Big difference between the sexes here: a man would just say: "It's the 5:2! Cheers!"

### Age

Women have a tendency to not volunteer their age unless they have

to. Even then, there is in some quarters a policy of keeping it vague/encouraging inaccuracy (though obviously everyone who matters will know the truth. Maybe not your boss). Will you *lie* about your age? Certainly not, but you might deflect. Or shave off two or three years — especially if

**I love how close you are to your gorgeous friend Jennifer**

that brings it down to just below a big number.

That said, the big lie many female celebrities are guilty of is answering the question "why do you look so fabulous for your age?" with details of their beauty regimen, serums, compresses and anti-puffiness diets when the truth is it's all the work of Dr Injectables-Facelift and they look the way they do because they pay him a hell of a lot of money and then get the film/photos retouched.

### Oh, this old thing

You get no credit with other women for turning up looking good in the expensive new thing so you may hint that "this old thing" is not only old (points for timeless style) but Zara (on a budget). If challenged, you might say, "Oh, I think it might have been Zara" or "I can't remember where I got it."

Note to men: if a woman says, "I can't remember where it came from" you should know that's highly suspicious. "I can't remember where I got this fluffy Beni Ourain rug ... because if you were to look it up online you would see that it cost more than the kitchen refit."

Note to women: other women will make a mental note that you are not sisterly or to be trusted if you do the "can't remember" thing on them (see: lies women don't like).

### Where we are

This is an odd one and it creeps up on you as your friends disperse across the country and you see each other less and less frequently. So if you happen to be in East Anglia and you don't tell the Suffolk one you're in East Anglia, staying only 40 miles away, you'll never hear the end of it. "But you practically drove past our front door!" they'll say. So naturally you have to lie about your geographical whereabouts. You are not there.

## Lies women tell men

"I can't see it." Visible bald patch.

"I don't dye it ..." ("Or I don't mention I dye it.")

"I'd never have Botox." Some have had plenty already.

### Pre-commitment:

"I don't want to settle down."

### Early days:

"If you want a number, it's four or three or maybe five ... can't remember."

"I did not sleep with him."

"I don't remember sleeping with him."

**"I love how close you are to your gorgeous friend Jennifer."**

"Love jazz. Also hiking. Very much an early riser. Love my food, mainly French bread and cheese."

"I think your best friend Bunga is hilarious."

## Lies women tell women

**"No one noticed you fell off the chair."**

"Your teeth aren't too white."

**"Your dog is a character."**

"This stew is good."

**"Your new friends seem nice."**

"You didn't upset Geoff and Jennifer."

**"You didn't waste ten years with him."**

"I liked him, I just wasn't sure he was right for you."

**"Your haircut is really not that bad."**

"I couldn't find the red tights so I got you black."

**"Of course I don't mind that you asked the Whatsits and not us."**

## Classic everyday lies that no one minds

**"I came straight from work"** — I'm self-conscious about how boring and grubby I look.

"I've got the beginnings of a cold" — I've got a hangover.

**"I'm really menopausal"** — I've got a hangover.

"I'm pretty sure that I'm allergic to garlic" — I've got a hangover.

**"I've got a big meeting tomorrow"** — I don't want to drink too much.

"I've got to get back for the dog" — I don't want to spend £60 on supper.

**"We had a big tidy-up"** — The cleaner had a big tidy-up.

"I don't know how the car got that dent" — I do know.

**"I got the other one half-price"** — I didn't.

"We're having a last-minute thing" — Well, we're adding you in at the last minute.

**"I'm not buying any new clothes"** — I've bought new clothes and I feel bad.

"I won't, thanks, I had a huge breakfast" — I don't want a slice of your birthday cake.

**"Oh, I didn't realise he was away"** — I'm asking because he's away.

"Sorry you have to cancel" — Not. Always pleased to get the last-minute unexpected reprieve unless have shelled out for a blow-dry.

**"I've got a sore throat"** — I've got a lot on this week and I'm anxious I won't get through it.

"I didn't see your message" — I didn't look ... it was one less thing to do.

**"Of course I know where Ramallah is"** — Please don't ask me.

## Lies women don't like

**"I was out of range."**

"I didn't realise he was your husband."

**"I thought you were busy."**

"I thought you'd find it boring."

**"I never voted for them."**

"I've no idea what I'm wearing (to the wedding tomorrow)"

**"We had nothing to do with Ludo's job."**

"We're seriously broke."

**"I don't remember where I got it."**

# Yoga beats depression: I know why

Anna Murphy

I couldn't be less surprised by new findings published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry. According to a study led by Dr Maren Nyer from Harvard Medical School, one or two sessions of hot yoga a week can have a notable impact on depression.

I am not a depressive, but as a longstanding yoga practitioner I regularly give thanks for the positive impact my attempts at pretzeling have on my mental health. I felt the gift of yoga most powerfully during the lockdowns. There was often nothing changing in my life day-to-day, but I was having to navigate that maelstrom of uncertainty in which we all resided. What did I do? I bent. I breathed. Whatever happened, my mat was waiting for me. I would go as far as to say that yoga, more than anything, saw me through.

That's why the results of this eight-week trial of 80 adults make complete sense to me. By the end of the trial 59 per cent of the yoga practitioners had experienced a decrease in their symptoms of depression of 50 per cent or more, compared with 6 per cent of the control group. What's more, 44 per cent of the new-found yogis achieved such low scores that their depression was considered to be in remission. Nyer concluded that "yoga and heat-based interventions could potentially change the course for treatment for patients with depression".

What is going on? First, whatever is happening in your head and/or in the world, to show up on a yoga mat, and to keep showing up, is an act of constancy. Surprisingly quickly your mat becomes a place of calm, a refuge even. It's somewhere you can feel grounded. Second, in what may seem to be a contradiction, your yoga mat becomes a place of change, of personal development. Whatever your age, whatever your physical condition, your body starts to shift. You become more flexible. You become — if you practise a more dynamic, challenging form, such as hot yoga — stronger. In time the sense of openness you experience in your body starts to alter how you feel in your head, how you think.

Third, yoga shifts your approach to success and failure, to comfort and discomfort. You learn not to stress about what your body can't do. (Most of the time!) You learn to accept your limitations but also to be unbound by them, to work patiently towards changing them. You learn to embrace discomfort in certain poses, observing any tension rather than inhabiting it; breathing into the places in which it resides and even breathing it away.

If you have never done yoga, this may all sound ludicrous. That would have been my view once upon a time. But it isn't ludicrous. And what better mind-body training, what better tool for living, than to learn not to mind so much; to learn to be; and to come to understand that there is potential change, potential newness, always just a few breaths away.

**It's not Botox. I've been stung by a wasp**

## health

# Desperate to avoid ending up in a care home? There's a DIY option

Dr Mark Porter

I have just come back from a holiday with a group of friends where there was much debate about the cost of care homes. We are all in our sixties and some have parents in residential or nursing care — and older relatives aside, it won't be that long before we might need a bit of help ourselves.

Nearly half a million people in the UK are in some form of care home and, according to a recent survey by wealth manager Abrdn, they are paying an average of £928 per week for residential care and £1,025 a week for a nursing home. And those residents are likely to be in for the long haul: for 2-3 years on average if you enter a home at the age of 90, rising to 6-7 years for those in their late sixties. Which got us all thinking about how we would spend that £50,000 or so a year if or when our time comes.

Yes, there are homes with lower fees than these, but there are also many that charge much more. And while I am sure there are some large chains and homeowners enjoying huge profits, this isn't the impression I get from the ones I visit in Gloucestershire. Some local homes have closed and others seem to be struggling to fill their rooms. Staff are poorly paid, and recruitment and retention is a huge issue. Put it this way: despite the best efforts of all those involved, your £50,000 a year isn't likely to be funding a Bentley for the owner and a five-star experience for you. So what are the alternatives?

When my family moved into our home 30 years ago I joked that once our daughters had left, and my wife Ros and I were getting older, I would rename it Bedside Manor and invite like-minded dependent friends to join us and share the costs of live-in carers. It was naive, not least because your peers never age at the same rate as you, but there is a kernel of realism in my dream. Given the considerable costs of residential and

nursing care, why not spend a similar sum on staying in the comfort of your own home?

As a doctor I understand better than most that this will never be an option for everyone, but it could work for you. Costs vary depending on where you live and whether you go through an agency (which takes a cut) or employ someone directly, but expect to pay at least £20 an hour for a visiting carer, and anywhere from £800 to £1,600-plus a week for someone who lives in. Their role will vary too, but might include getting you up in the morning, bathing, preparing meals, shopping and helping with medication.

Over the years I have seen a range of options, from carers who visit three times a day to help people who are housebound to a team of two live-in

**Nearly half a million people in the UK are in a care home**

nurses from South Africa who provide round-the-clock care to someone who is bed-bound. What unified all those patients is that they were where they wanted to be: in their own home.

However, it requires some forward planning, and not just from a financial perspective. Your home may need adapting, with common alterations including changes to bathrooms, installing stair lifts and moving a bedroom to the ground floor. There are myriad aids available too, from wheeled walkers, grab handles and seats in the shower to electric armchairs that help you stand and hospital-type pneumatic beds.

Depending on your age, health and financial situation, you may be entitled to some form of help with the costs of care or adaptations (see below), but even if you are not it is worth talking to your GP surgery. We have a dedicated frailty team at my practice who spend much of their time helping and supporting people who want to stay in their own homes, backed up by occupational therapists and physiotherapists where required. Not all practices will be able to offer this service but it has become increasingly widespread in recent years.

I hope I won't be opening Bedside Manor for at least another 20 years, but once I do I will try my utmost to stay here until the very end.



## The cost of care

- Financial help for long-term care is means-tested. You will have to meet the full cost of a residential or nursing home if you have capital of more than £23,250 (£32,750 in Scotland and £50,000 in Wales).

- Your home will not be included in the means testing if your partner still lives there (and in some circumstances, other relatives too). For more details visit [ageuk.org.uk](http://ageuk.org.uk)
- In exceptional circumstances the NHS may pay for your care in a nursing home under the NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHS) scheme. For more details see [ageuk.org.uk](http://ageuk.org.uk)

- If staying in your own home you may be eligible for attendance or carer's allowance. For more details visit [nhs.uk](http://nhs.uk)

## QA

**What is the most effective dose of iron? I have been put on supplements for anaemia resulting from blood loss sustained from a fractured pelvis (I fell off a ladder). I feel washed out but the hospital has put me on just one iron tablet a day when the leaflet in the box says you can take up to three. Would a higher dose help my blood count rise back to normal more quickly?**

**Probably not. Iron is very toxic so the body regulates absorption to prevent overload. Put simply, if you take a high dose it shuts absorption down temporarily. This is only a relatively recent discovery and the leaflet may include old dosing which, for the most common ferrous sulfate supplements, was one 200mg tablet three times a day.**

**However, the latest guidelines advocate just one tablet a day. Less can indeed be more when it comes to iron. And as well as optimising absorption it should reduce unwanted side effects such as an upset stomach. One tip: try taking it with a glass of orange juice as vitamin C can boost uptake too.**

**I hope you make a speedy recovery.**

# Don't track your sleep, but do track your daylight exposure

**Just because we can get data on almost everything from rest to gut health, it doesn't mean we should. Peta Bee asks the experts what is worth monitoring**

**C**ounting steps and plotting sleep were once the main attraction of a fitness tracker. But the latest devices will tell you so much more than how hungry, tired or inactive you are, providing data about irregular heart rhythms, menstrual cycles, gut health and the hours we spend in natural daylight. There is no limit to what we can track with smartwatches and apps, but do we really need to keep such close tabs on every aspect of our health?

Trackers can be "powerful and informative tools" but just because we can track almost everything it doesn't mean we should, a review published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found. Researchers from Daemen University in New York and the University of Ottawa looked at the pros and cons of health trackers and concluded that while they can be useful, the information they provide can be misleading and inaccurate. "Technology is continuously improving," Jennifer Scheid, an associate professor of physical therapy at Daemen University and lead author of the paper, says. "But there is a lot of variation in the reliability and validity of different devices and the different components of health that they measure."

Sleep tracking is notorious in creating unhealthy obsessions with poor sleep quality in those who already struggle with insomnia. As one sleep scientist told me, you don't need a tracker if you regularly get seven to nine hours a night because you know you are well rested, so it tends to be poor sleepers who fixate on the figures they provide. Scheid's team are planning a study on the impact of

sleep tracking and her team highlighted the association of obsessive diet and activity tracking with the development of disordered eating and exercise addiction in vulnerable people.

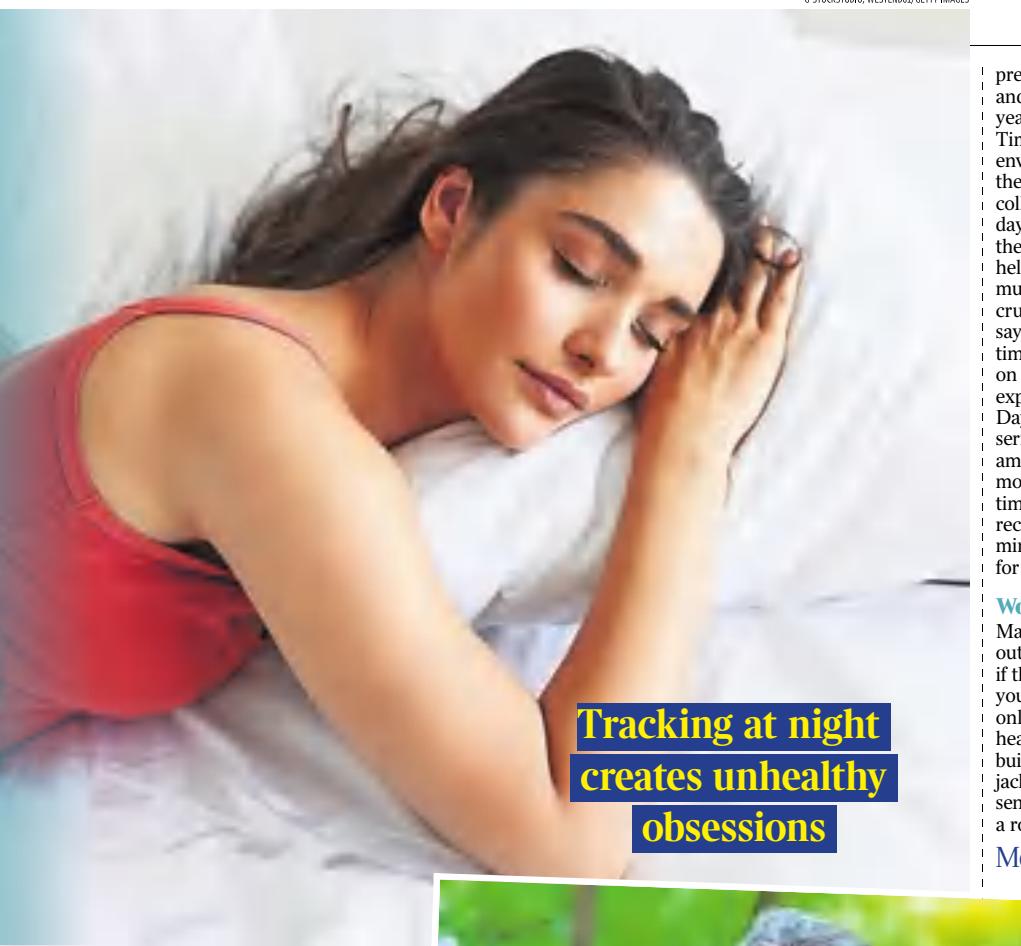
Dr Nicola Guess, an academic dietician and researcher at the University of Oxford's Nuffield department of primary care and health sciences, says that some of the latest data we are becoming fixated with is meaningless anyway. "Patients I see are becoming increasingly anxious and are worrying about things they don't need to worry about at all," Guess says. "I see people getting worked up about what their blood glucose, for example, is doing at 2am or 3pm without any clear evidence that the data is helpful to them, and I can't see that producing a beneficial clinical or mental health outcome."

Your best bet, Scheid says, is to use information from trackers as a "guide to help monitor positive behaviour change" without becoming over-reliant on the results. "Taking one to two days off tracking per week may be a good idea for some people," she says. "If not meeting a daily goal set by a watch or app creates anxiety, then that may be a sign that perhaps some time off is needed from using the device or requires the re-evaluation of how the device can be a helpful not hindering health practice." But beyond steps, heart rate and exercise minutes, is there anything from the new array of data that is worth logging? We ask the experts:

### Blood sugar

#### Why you might want to

Continuous glucose monitors (CGM) were developed as a medical aid to track the blood sugar of people with diabetes but are now being used by anyone wanting to pay a premium for real-time feedback on blood sugar



## Tracking at night creates unhealthy obsessions

responses to food, exercise, stress and sleep. A small sensor attached underneath the skin of the upper arm (or stomach) measures how much sugar is in the fluid surrounding your cells every few minutes with data sent to an app on your phone. It's not cheap. The sensors need replacing after 7-14 days (if they don't fall off before that as they did when I tried them) and cost upwards of £50 each, although you need to subscribe to a plan to get the full track service. A bright yellow CGM comes as part of the Zoe Nutrition introductory test package (£299.99, zoe.com) and on top of that is the £24.99 a month membership fee. When you first sign up for Levels, another company offering CGM, the cost is £334, which includes the first month of monitors at £129 and the annual membership fee of £205. CGM should be available through the NHS to anyone with type 1 diabetes for whom the measurements are essential.

### Worth doing?

Claims are that by better understanding your blood sugar responses you will learn which foods help to maintain an even keel of energy levels and wave goodbye to bad eating habits and extra pounds. "With diabetes your blood sugar does get to a level where it can cause harm and it is essential to track it so that you can adjust insulin doses," Guess says. "And CGM can be useful for elite athletes planning their energy requirements around performance." But she says there is no evidence that tracking blood glucose peaks and troughs is beneficial for most people, and that the pancreas does a great job of regulating the release of sugar in the body to keep it within normal levels. "The idea that people are paying a lot of money to track something that is very likely not



## A smartwatch can spot heart issues

causing them any harm worries me a lot and I can't see any good coming from this trend," she says. "There's no evidence that anyone with normal glucose tolerance, that is people who do not have diabetes, need to be concerned about glucose spikes after food or a meal, which are totally normal as long as they come back down again."

### Daylight

#### Why you might want to

We all know exposure to natural daylight boosts the body's production of vitamin D, but there are other proven health benefits to getting outside. It is known to lift the mood through the release of serotonin, a mood-boosting chemical, in the brain, with Harvard researchers showing it has a powerful effect on emotional and physical wellbeing. A review of 13 studies involving 15,081 children in the Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that 120 minutes of daylight exposure helps to

**“Your best bet is to use apps without becoming over-reliant on results”**

prevent myopia (short-sightedness) and improve healthy vision. Last year a study in PLOS Biology by Timothy Brown, a professor at the environmental research institute at the University of Manchester, and his colleagues outlined the benefits of daylight exposure for synchronising the body's internal clock. "That also helps to control function and timing of multiple biological processes that are crucial for our wellbeing," Brown says. Light outside is often 10 to 100 times brighter than indoors, even on a dull day, and now you can track exposure to it with the Time in Daylight feature on Apple Watch series six or later. It uses the device's ambient light sensor, GPS and motion sensors to detect how much time you spend outside, with Apple recommending a minimum of 20 minutes of daylight exposure each day for adults.

### Worth doing?

Many of us don't spend enough time outdoors to benefit our health and if this prompts you to get up from your desk or sofa more often, it can only be a good thing. Be aware that heavy cloud, shade from trees and buildings, and even a long-sleeve jacket that covers the watch and sensors might affect results, so it's only a rough guide.

### Menstrual cycle

#### Why you might want to

Dozens of apps, such as the popular Flo Period and Ovulation Tracker and Clue Period, promise to track a woman's menstrual cycle and help with everything from planning conception to monitoring pregnancy. Some, such as FitWoman, NikeSync and CycleMapping, claim to help women sync their workouts and exercise recovery with the hormonal phases of their monthly cycle for better results.

### Worth doing?

In a review of nearly 300 studies of 73 different apps, researchers reporting in the journal Human Fertility found that of the 73 per cent of fertility apps offering ovulation predictions, just over 20 per cent were accurate, with the researchers noting "severe limitations when it comes to recording menstrual cycle variability and accurate fertility prediction".

A study by Kirsty Elliott-Sale, a professor of female endocrinology and exercise physiology at Manchester Metropolitan University, found no evidence that adapting workouts to menstrual cycles using an app makes any difference. "A lot of these cycle-tracking apps are not based on sound scientific evidence and don't track things you don't tell them," Elliott-Sale says. "They often base their advice purely on the dates of your period and no hormones or blood levels are involved, so the data means nothing."

### Gut health

#### Why you might want to

If you don't know by now that your microbiome, the vast community of micro-organisms including fungi, bacteria and viruses that exist in the gut, plays an important role in wellbeing, where have you been? Researchers have identified "good" and "bad" bacteria that help or hinder

our health, and an imbalance of gut bacteria has been associated with a range of digestion, skin and stomach issues, tiredness, weight gain and mood swings. Some apps, such as mySymptoms and Bowelle, offer advice based on symptoms and food intake data provided by the user; others, such as Zoe and Atlas (atlasbiomed.co.uk), offer personalised advice based on results of stool samples submitted and tested in a lab for results of your gut bacteria.

### Worth doing?

According to the digestive disease charity Guts UK, you cannot determine "how healthy your gut is from the bacteria found in your poo". Usually, one faecal sample is taken and the charity says that bacteria from the same person can be different one day to the next. Even if levels of different types of bacteria associated with some diseases show up, they do not necessarily indicate you are at a higher risk of getting that disease. And while the gut microbiome undoubtedly acts like an important organ in the body, Guess says we don't yet know if tiny modifications to this complex ecosystem of bacteria through diet achieve anything meaningful. "There is no standard microbiome composition to compare against," she says. "We don't know the cause and effect of good and bad bugs on weight and health and much less do we know about whether modifying the gut microbiome is going to have any effect on someone's weight or predisposition to a condition like type 2 diabetes." Results of a study Guess is preparing to publish provide another blow to gut tracking. "There's no evidence at all that personalising your diet according to your microbiome does anything to improve blood sugar control," she says. "In fact we are not yet at the stage to prescribe any specific interventions that will cause long-term changes to gut bacteria composition."

### Heart arrhythmia

#### Why you might want to

Fitbits and Apple Watches track irregular heart rhythms. Atrial fibrillation (AF) occurs when electrical impulses that trigger muscle contractions of the heart misfire chaotically. It affects more than 40 million people worldwide and at least 1.5 million people have been diagnosed with the condition in the UK but in about one third of patients there are no symptoms. Left undiagnosed or untreated, it raises the risk for stroke and heart failure.

### Worth doing?

"The only part of any fitness tracker that has been approved as a medical device in some watches, for example the Apple Watch series four or later, is the photoplethysmography technology that is used to screen for AF," Scheid says. However, AF is not the only irregular heart rhythm that exists — others include atrial flutter, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation — yet it is the only arrhythmia for which existing technology monitors. Even accurate devices do not continuously monitor for AF and measurements are taken intermittently, which means it could still be missed. "Overall, though, the consensus is that a tracker might detect AF in someone who is otherwise unaware of it and is therefore worthwhile," Scheid says.

## arts

Jenny Boyd and I have just sat down outside a café by the Brunswick Centre in Bloomsbury, central London, to discuss her time with the Beatles, marrying Mick Fleetwood (twice) and her part in the Sixties at its most swinging when a group of excited schoolgirls start shrieking at the table next to us. I almost march up to them and say, "Do you mind? This is the woman Donovan wrote *Jenifer Juniper* about!" but I fear the reference may be lost on them. Instead Boyd, 75, tells them with polite authority that we are doing an interview, the girls apologise to the nice lady, and we get on with the story of someone who first came to fame playing, appropriately enough, a schoolgirl in the Beatles film *A Hard Day's Night*.

"I never felt I was creative," says Boyd, who is slight and well spoken, with big eyes, an oval face and straight blonde hair with a fringe that evokes her Sixties model days. "Then, in 1984, on holiday in Maui with my second husband, the drummer Ian Wallace, we all had magic mushrooms. I went swimming and thought I could breathe underwater because I was one with the universe. Needless to say I started sputtering and panicking, got back to the shore, and Bonnie [of the rock-soul duo Delaney & Bonnie] gave me some Bach remedy. At that point I thought: I'm ready to get back into the world."

Boyd is using a roundabout way of explaining how she came to write *Icons of Rock*, a collection of interviews with everyone from George Harrison (who was married to Boyd's sister, Pattie) to Eric Clapton (who was married to Pattie too) and the 29-year-old multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier (who wasn't married to Pattie). The original version was published in 2013, but Boyd has updated the book to include interviews with a new generation of musicians. She does not take herself too seriously. Recounting one story, she asks herself: "Now, which husband was it?" (There have been three including her present one, the architect David Levitt. Or four, if you count Fleetwood twice.)

Perhaps because the interviews were not initially intended for publication but as research for a PhD, perhaps because she was already friendly with so many of the people involved, the results are remarkably unguarded. Joni Mitchell argues for the creative benefits of depression. Harrison admits that he spent an undue amount of time in front of the mirror asking: "Who am I?"

"It was Eric [Clapton] who said: 'We never talk about this stuff,'" Boyd says on her delving into the psychological urge to make music and get on stage. "But they all experienced similar things, like hearing songs in their sleep. They all had an encouraging parent or teacher, someone to inspire them early on. And they all liked talking about it."

The only one who said no was Bob Dylan. "Then my second husband, Ian, was playing a concert with him in Maui. Bob saw a copy of the book and took it away with him, and when he returned it the next day, loads of the pages had the corners folded. It proved he was interested."

Boyd entered this world at the age of 16, when she went to Holland Park School in London (after years of being holed up in a series of convents) and met Fleetwood at a Notting Hill coffee



Jenny Boyd in 1966 and, above right, with Donovan in 1967. Below: with Mick Fleetwood in 2014



had to do was go back and meditate. The following morning the doctor came and told me I had dysentery."

Plenty of songs emerged from the period. John Lennon wrote *Dear Prudence* after Mia Farrow's sister went into a meditative trance and couldn't get out. Paul McCartney came up with the old-time pastiche *Rocky Raccoon*, and Donovan fashioned *Hurdy Gurdy Man* as an encapsulation of the Maharishi's teachings. Donovan also wrote *Jenifer Juniper*, a ballad of courtly love for Boyd, shortly before leaving for India.

"Donovan said to me, 'Let's get married,' but that wasn't the plan at all," she says of being proposed to by the folky troubadour. "The thing is, I didn't find him terribly attractive. He was like a child from the time of King Arthur."

A less spiritual period came a few years later, when Boyd was with her husband Fleetwood as he led his band Fleetwood Mac through the chaotic, fractious sessions for their 1977 classic *Rumours*. "Stevie [Nicks] and Lindsey [Buckingham] came to our house, I really liked them, and as soon as they joined it was obvious: this was going to be huge. At the same time cocaine was everywhere. With Mick it was all about Fleetwood Mac. I was the only one with kids so it wasn't easy. It was a rebirth for the band, but where is the father for our children? I went down to Sausalito, where they were recording, and Stevie was singing songs about Lindsey, Christine [McVie] was singing songs about John [McVie], someone was sobbing, someone was storming out, and it was like that all the time: intense but beautiful."

After Boyd separated from Fleetwood she left Los Angeles and moved into a little cottage in Cranleigh, Surrey, with her two daughters, around the corner from her sister Pattie and her husband of the time, Clapton. "He was like an annoying older brother," she says of the guitarist. "He would goad me and I would end up crying, but it was alcoholic behaviour."

Why did she marry Fleetwood twice? Wasn't once enough? "Well, one reason was me saying 'I'm going to make this work,'" she replies. "It wasn't easy, because there was so much coke around. The other reason was the band was taking off, and we needed green cards, so we needed to be married."

That answer helps to explain why all these musicians must have opened up to her. Bar the odd magic mushroom-inspired revelation, Jenny Boyd was the most sensible person at the rock'n'roll table.

# Clapton, Dylan, Joni, Donovan and me

**Sixties It girl Jenny Boyd tells Will Hodgkinson about marrying Mick Fleetwood twice, going on retreat with the Beatles and coaxing rock stars to confess all**

shop in 1964. "At the time a friend of mine had a crush on him, so when I felt his foot go onto my foot I would be going: 'Move it to the left!' But we started going out, and by the time Pattie was with George [Harrison] we would go to the Scotch of St James and hang out with the Beatles, Keith Moon ... all of them."

The artist John Dunbar once said of the Scotch, a Mayfair club beloved of rock stars, that unless you were very rich, very famous or wearing a very short miniskirt you were not getting in. "But it wasn't 'we're famous,'" Boyd says of the scene. "It was 'we're cool'."

Boyd became a model for the designers Foale and Tuffin, for which she was taken out to New York for a catwalk show that almost ended in disaster. "I was so short-sighted that I couldn't see the end of the runway and was very worried about falling off the end of it. As it happened, this great Motown music was playing, so I just danced about."

What followed was a front row seat at Sixties rock'n'roll life: arriving in San Francisco in 1967 just as the Summer of Love was flowering, witnessing Ravi Shankar blow a few thousand hippies

**Icons of Rock by Dr Jenny Boyd (John Blake £22) is out on Thursday. To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk. Special discount available for Times+ members**



minds at the Monterey International Pop Festival, accompanying the Beatles to Rishikesh for their immersion in transcendental meditation. She remembers San Francisco as a short-lived utopia lasting only a few months before it all fell apart.

"I told George and Pattie that it was amazing and they had to come out. But they didn't get there until August, by which point all the good hippies had left and the place was filled with people who had been told to turn on, tune in and drop out," Boyd says. "We took acid, walked down Haight-Ashbury, and everyone started crowding around George. They were going: 'Show us some chords, George!' So he sat down on the pavement and played C, G and A on a guitar — the most basic ones. They thought they had been duped by their hero."

As for the Rishikesh trip, Boyd says she loved the meditation the Maharishi espoused. It was the man himself she wasn't so sure about. She was feeling extremely sick one morning and went to the Maharishi for help. "He said I was getting an 'iceberg', which is when you come out of meditation and still have unresolved karma. All I

# 'Even if you have a child, you still grieve for the one you've lost'

**Rebecca Adlington, mother of two, has talked about her miscarriage. It will help others like her, says Claire Cohen**

**I** don't have the strength or words right now and don't feel ready to share this news. However, I can't pretend to be OK or fake a smile," read the Instagram post shared by Rebecca Adlington on Sunday. The former Olympic swimmer told her 117,000 followers that she had tragically lost her baby daughter, Harper, at 20 weeks after a routine scan failed to detect a heartbeat and she gave birth to her on Friday.

Anyone who has been through the desperately sad experience of losing a child will empathise with the grief Adlington, 34, must be feeling. It's a subject that we've historically found difficult to talk about, with hit-and-miss support available from medical professionals and men often left out of the conversation. With about one in five pregnancies in the UK ending in miscarriage, that's slowly changing. But, says Zoe Clark-Coates, the founder of baby and child loss charity the Mariposa Trust (also known as Saying Goodbye), we often struggle when there are existing children in the picture — as is the case for Adlington, who has a daughter, Summer, eight, and a son, Albie, two.

"In that situation people often say 'at least you've got one child' or 'at least you're a mother already,'" she explains. "But you can hold two truths in one hand: that you're absolutely devastated for the baby you've lost and also know how blessed you are to have children to raise. Having children doesn't replace the child you've lost. You're still going to equally grieve."

She speaks from experience. In her thirties Clark-Coates, from Devon, had three miscarriages before giving birth to her daughter, Esme, in 2009. She and her husband had wanted to give Esme a sibling and became pregnant again.

Clark-Coates says that, having had a healthy baby, she had felt as though her days of having miscarriages were over. "We were just having a routine scan when our consultant's face suddenly fell. He said: 'I don't know how to tell you this, but there's no heartbeat any more,'" she recalls. "I couldn't even speak. We were heartbroken — and our daughter was in the room with us too."

"I'd felt that I wouldn't go through any loss again, and then you go back through that horrible door," she says.



DAVID FISHER/SHUTTERSTOCK



**Rebecca Adlington with her husband, Andy, and, above, with her children Albie and Summer**

**People say  
'at least  
you're a  
mother  
already'**

"Then, when the world tells you that you shouldn't be grieving because you've got living children, it makes you feel ashamed and you want to keep your grief hidden."

While other famous women have publicly shared their miscarriage experiences in recent years, the number who've spoken about the emotional impact of baby loss when they're already a parent is much smaller. Zara Tindall revealed in 2018 that she'd experienced two miscarriages between having her eldest daughter, Mia, and her youngest, Lena. The Duchess of Sussex wrote in The New York Times in 2020: "I knew, as I clutched my firstborn child, that I was losing my second."

Perhaps the BBC broadcaster Emma Barnett, 38, put it most straightforwardly in an article for The Times Magazine last year about her secondary infertility after having a son — including failed IVF and a miscarriage. "I know there will be people reading this, women and men, who will be thinking: you have a child, what more do you want?"

Julia Bueno, a psychotherapist and the author of *The Brink of Being*, cautions against anyone making assumptions about other people's grief. "Miscarriage is rarely a 'medical event', nor do those of us who have suffered one — or more — 'get over' the experience in time," she says. "It has the potential to have a deep and lasting impact emotionally and physically, with a grief that can last a lifetime. Suffering a miscarriage also

runs the risk of leading to clinically recognisable anxiety, depression and PTSD." One of the things that all the women I speak to tell me about losing a child in this way is that the pain is still raw — it's just that the goalposts have moved.

"I guess the difference is that you know what you're missing out on," explains Erica, 40, from London, who miscarried at 11 weeks, when her first daughter was 18 months old. "You know how they can enrich your life and you picture what having two is going to be like."

"It wasn't the same as my first miscarriage, when I didn't have any children, because that felt make or break — either I'm having a family or I'm not," says Charli, 40, from Maidstone, who experienced a miscarriage after having IVF, when she already had a three-year-old daughter.

Clark-Coates would go on to become pregnant with twins but sadly lose one, giving birth to her second daughter, Bronte, in 2011. "I wasn't grieving the fact I wouldn't have a child to raise because I did have a daughter at home, but I was grieving the fact that she might not ever have a brother or sister to play with. I was grieving the fact that she wasn't ever going to get the chance to meet the child that I had been carrying. The grief does change but it's not less. It's just different," she says.

Clark-Coates and her husband, Andy, founded their charity after being told by their doctor "not to go looking

for support because it wasn't very good. That's what led us to know that we needed to do something to change the fact that there's no aftercare offered for many people."

They recommend that parents tell their other children what has happened and include them in the grieving process. "It's actually a really healthy way for them to learn about loss — in Britain we try to prevent children from seeing death and keep them away from it, then when they become adults wonder why they're so ill equipped to cope," she says.

"They don't need to see Mummy and Daddy crying all the time, and we had family members who would take Esme to the park so we could mourn as a couple. But there's a middle ground that involves making them aware of what's happened so they're never shocked by it."

Clark-Coates has recently co-chaired the government's review into baby loss, which this summer had its 73 recommendations accepted. These were around improved support for grieving parents and official certificates of recognition for anyone who has experienced loss before 24 weeks, and should come in this year.

She has advice for the family and friends of anyone going through something like Adlington. "Show up practically — bring food, offer to clean their house, entertain their other children. Don't pretend you know how they feel, instead ask. And don't think you need to fix it, because you can't bring their baby back. But you can hold their hand as they grieve. And you can remember the significant dates and anniversaries — which are often only marked by the couple themselves: it makes a huge difference knowing other people are thinking of them. I know as a bereaved mum myself I want my babies talked about just like I want my living children talked about."

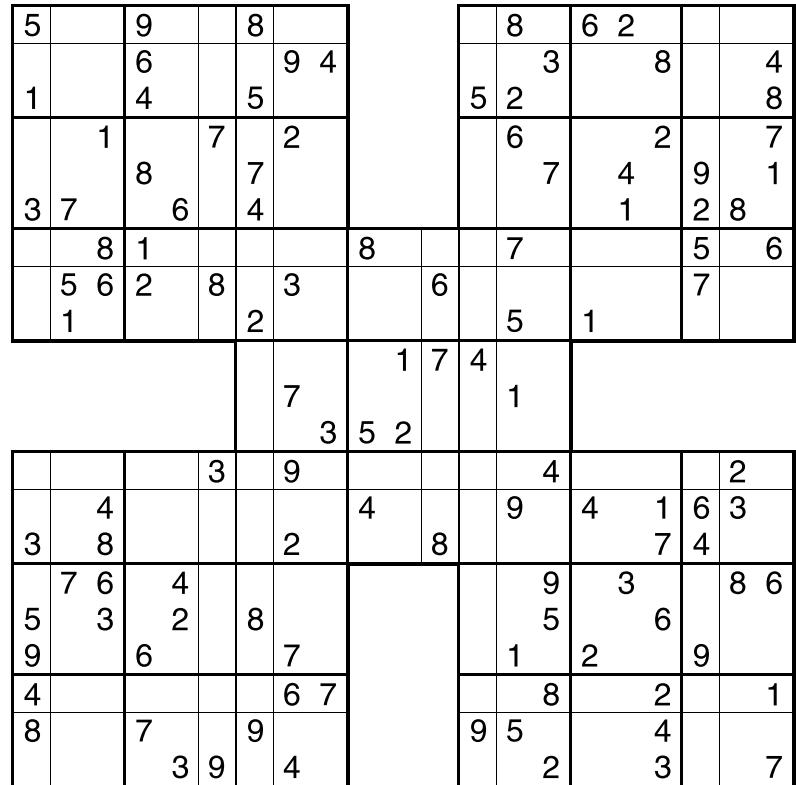
**times2**

# Your weekday brain boost

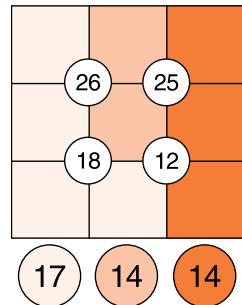
**Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout**

# Samurai medium

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

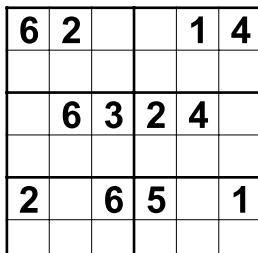


# Suko



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

## Mini Sudoku

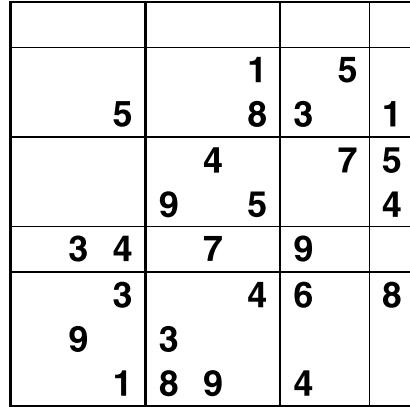


**Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every  $3 \times 2$  box contains the digits 1 to 6**

## Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

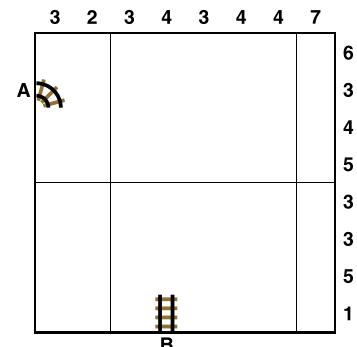
**More  
puzzles**  
**Pages 14-16**

## Sudoku fiendish



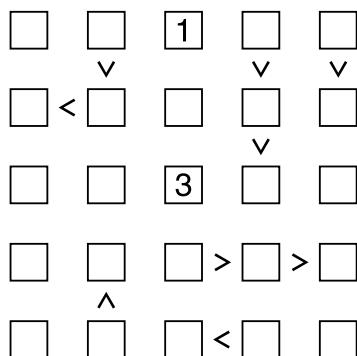
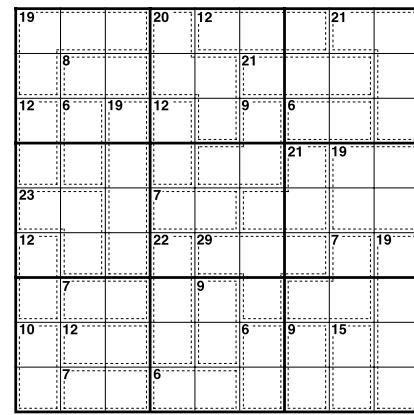
# Train Tracks

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



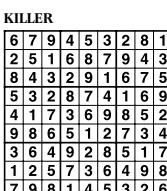
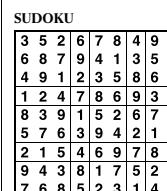
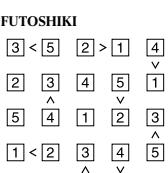
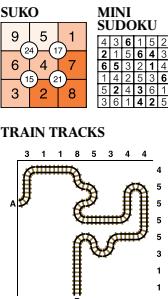
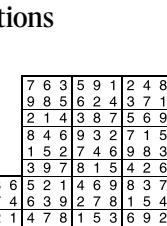
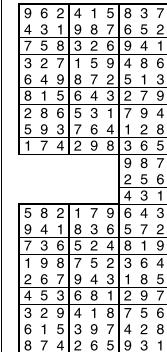
# Futoshiki

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



## Yesterday's solutions

SAMUI



# Empire doc needs more Murray, less Pub Landlord

## Carol Midgley TV review



### Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?

Sky History/Now

★★★★★

### MasterChef: The Professionals

BBC1

★★★★★

**A**l Murray is a clever chap, but he hides it well in *Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?*. It's a good subject for a series, which follows his previous one, *Why Does Everyone Hate the English?*. In it he travels many miles to India, Jamaica, Australia and South Africa to examine why "empire" is a

dirty word", but last night he executed many of the findings like he was putting on a sixth-form revue.

True, for some of the time he is in character as his alter ego the Pub Landlord, with his barrel glass of lager and a huge Union Jack, making jokes about the Brits inventing the lightbulb "to extend drinking beyond daylight hours" and black underpants, which don't have to be washed very often. But if you're going to put jokes in a history documentary, they should at least earn their keep by being funny.

To be fair, Murray had a point with the black underpants. In India, where he was accompanied by the comedian Anuvab Pal, we learnt that when traders from Blighty first arrived they were noticeable because they "stank". Locals, according to Pal, wondered: "How can we do business with a community who don't even wash their bottoms?" Quite so.

When Murray, the Oxford history graduate, was being serious and not dressing up or pulling rickshaws for lols, it was interesting. As he said about the British Empire bringing trains to India (one of the positives amid a general picture of enormous exploitation), boasting that we gave them trains "is a bit like buying someone a lawnmower and expecting them to mow your lawn. And then be grateful." But then came terrible gags, such as saying that India is the land of



Al Murray's history series at times felt like a sixth-form revue

curry and mystery, "though to be honest once you've had a curry what follows isn't really a mystery". Hmm.

I'd have liked to have heard more from the serious, thoughtful Al Murray. There's nothing wrong with a light touch but, like the recent *Sex: A Bonkers History*, it seemed determined not to be taken seriously.

**MasterChef: The Professionals** was, as always, an intense watch with highly driven chefs working amid huge pressure beneath the watchful eye of experts. And Gregg Wallace. So why, in the first skills test, in which they have 20 minutes to create a fine-dining dish and their nerves are in tatters, are the contestants bombarded with questions?

Stop yabbering on! No wonder that pan's boiling over or they've forgotten the seasoning: you keep asking them to give their life stories while filleting a brill. Dara, hands shaking, was so anxious he even said "thank you, chef" to Wallace. The last thing he needed was to be asked to relay how he got into being a chef.

Monica Galetti has returned and showed some fancy bladework with the brill, while Marcus Wareing did the same with a guinea fowl. Wallace watched their expert preparation with the childlike wonder of a creature who had never set eyes on food before.

There are far too many food shows on TV, but this is one of the classier ones.

### Radio choice

Ben Dowell



### In the Studio

World Service, 11.30am

Last month PACNYC, the Perelman Performing Arts Center in New York, opened its doors. It's the final building in the new piazza situated on the site of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, which was destroyed in the September 11 attacks in 2001. The broadcaster Jeff Lunden follows PACNYC's artistic director, Bill Rauch, and his team, including the theatre-maker Bill T Jones and the choreographer Annie-B Parson, above, as they get the flexible theatres ready. The programme also features some of those who lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks and reflects on how this new space could be a site to celebrate life.

## television & radio

### Viewing Guide

Ben Dowell

### The Met

BBC1, 9pm

**Top pick**  
Series four of the documentary series that shows, up close and personal, the work of the Metropolitan Police begins in dramatic fashion: the fatal

stabbing of a 17-year-old in Sydenham, south London, in the middle of the day on a busy road. Eyewitness details are initially sketchy but the victim, Levi Ernest-Morrison, did not stand a chance. We see his mother come to his side, keening in pain. He dies in her arms. The quest for the killers makes for grimly gripping viewing, and

the first piece of evidence is CCTV footage of a car, driven by a woman, and from which the attackers seem to spring and to which they return for their escape. Like many "blue light" fly-on-the-wall series, this has been helped by the fact that so much footage (particularly from bodycams) is available. But it seems clear that

the Met is keen to show the strides it has been making. As we are reminded, it has been beset by terrible stories, including the wicked wrongdoing of its own officers, such as Sarah Everard's killer, Wayne Couzens. The other stories tonight make for compelling viewing, but the subject matter could not be more carefully selected to

show the new Met commissioner Sir Mark Rowley's contention that the organisation is changing. The first is a reported domestic assault in Brixton, south London, and a suspected case of sex trafficking. Balance is achieved by a sequence that shows officers being barracked by a bystander during a routine search.

### Hot Potato: The Story of the Wiggles

Prime Video

If you haven't heard of the Wiggles, arguably bigger Australian stars than Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman, then you probably don't have children. "The Beatles for toddlers", as some call them, with their catchy tunes and

colourful jumpers that make them look a bit like crew members of the Starship Enterprise, they have been going since 1991. This slightly overlong film speaks to key players and charts their highs and lows (including poor "yellow Wiggle" Greg's heart attack) and shows how popular they now are with grown-ups.

### BBC1

**Early**  
6.00am Breakfast 9.15 Morning Live 10.00 Scam Interceptors. A student takes a call from hackers claiming to be a retail giant's fraud team 10.45 Frontline Fightback. A burglar thinks he can outwit the police (AD) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Suffolk, Staffordshire and Bexley 12.15pm Bargain Hunt. Natasha Raskin Sharp hosts from Worcester (r) (AD) 1.00 BBC News at One: Weather 1.30 BBC Regional News: Weather 1.45 Doctors. Eve wants some answers (AD) 2.15 Money for Nothing. Transforming a ratty unit, a monkey puzzle tree stump, and some old golf clubs (r) 3.00 Escape to the Country. Steve Brown helps a woman and her dog find a home in Surrey on a budget of £500,000 (r) 3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers. Will Kirk and Christine Trevanion are in Norfolk to help mother and daughter get rid of their clutter and raise money (r) 4.30 The Repair Shop. Kirsten Ramsay is charmed by a series of handmade pottery vegetable patch signs, Will Kirk fixes a wooden horse and cart toy, and Brenton West works on a 1950s football trophy (r) (AD) 5.15 Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) 6.00 BBC News at Six: Weather 6.30 BBC Regional News: Weather

### BBC2

6.15am Bargain Hunt (r) 7.00 Homes Under the Hammer (r) 8.00 Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (SL) 9.00 Nicky Campbell 10.00 BBC News 12.15pm Politics Live 1.00 Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) 1.45 Unbeatable. General knowledge quiz hosted by Jason Manford (r) 2.15 Wanted Down Under. A Berkshire couple sample life in New Zealand for a week (r) 3.00 Call That Hard Work? An estate agent, a street food vendor and a bee farmer compete to prove their profession is the toughest with each having to spend a day working at the other's jobs (r) 3.45 Wild Cameramen at Work. Doug Allan recalls some of his most hair-raising encounters. Narrated by David Attenborough (r) (AD) 4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life. As the global market for crab grows, Padstow becomes a boom town. But lockdown threatens the gold rush, and concerns start to be raised about overfishing (r) (AD) 5.15 Flog It! Paul Martin presents from Newby Hall, North Yorkshire (r) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games. Larry Dean, Kirsty Gallacher, Sam Quek and Lemn Sissay take part in the general knowledge quiz 6.30 Strictly: It Takes Two. Fleur East dishes up the backstage gossip from the Strictly world

### ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain. Morning magazine 9.00 Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly 10.00 This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather 12.30pm Loose Women. More interviews and topical debate from a female perspective 1.30 ITV News: Weather 1.55 Regional News: Weather 2.00 James Martin's American Adventure. The chef goes on a culinary road trip around the United States, beginning with a visit to the Napa Valley in California — one of his favourite places in America (r) (AD) 3.00 Lingo. Seeking supremacy today are competitive brothers from Manchester, a couple from London, and a word-loving pair from Nantwich (r) 4.00 Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) 5.00 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize (r) 6.00 Regional News: Weather 6.30 ITV News: Weather

### Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) 6.45 Cheers (r) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) 8.25 Frasier (r) (AD) 9.55 Find It, Fix It, Flog It. A mother and son hoping to restore a windmill in Lincolnshire (r) (AD) 10.55 Renovation Nation. Transforming a mansion into a home and wedding business (r) (AD) 11.55 Channel 4 News Summary 12.00 Steph's Packed Lunch 2.10pm Countdown. Mark Watson is in Dictionary Corner 3.00 A Place in the Sun. Jean Johansson helps a pair find a holiday home in the resort of Maspalomas on the island of Gran Canaria on a budget of £150,000 (r) 4.00 The Great House Giveaway. In Aberdare, south Wales, teachers transform an unloved wreck into a dream family home but cracks quickly begin to show 5.00 Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Sussex turn an animal shelter into a cocktail lounge and the owners of a French hamlet host an artisan market 6.00 Four in a Bed. Joss and Natalie host the second visit at their glamping site Dartmoor Reach in Bovey Tracey, Devon. Maxine finds herself wishing for a hotel after an unexpected guest in her tent 6.30 The Simpsons. The townfolk discover Ned and Edna have tied the knot, so Marge throws them a reception to celebrate (r) (AD)

### Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day 11.15 Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories 12.40pm Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them 14.05 News at Luncheon 1.45 Home and Away. Xander decides not to lie for John any longer, forcing him to confess. Marilyn and Alf determine that the source of Roo's frustration is due to Marilyn not visiting her (r) (AD) 2.15 FILM: Reunited at Christmas (PG, TVM, 2018) A novelist with writer's block and her boyfriend gain a new perspective on the Christmas season. Romantic drama starring Nikki Deloach 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. New Benidorm residents have found a home — now they start looking for work, and a woman welcomes a trio of new arrivals to her dog rescue charity (r) 5.00 5 News at 5.00 6.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly. Graeme meets a German Shepherd that barks at anything and anyone, and the constant noise means his owners could be handed an eviction order (r) 6.55 5 News Update



# New series. Still

Giles Coren and Esther Walker are back for Series 11 of their hilarious 'vintage' podcast, *Giles Coren has no idea*. Listen to the couple discuss and dismiss potential ideas for Giles's weekly column, with characteristic passion (anger) and wit, over coffee at the kitchen table.

7PM

7.00 The One Show Presented by Gabby Logan and Jermaine Jenas  
7.30 EastEnders Jay tries to make amends with the family and has an honest conversation with Lexi (AD)

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip *Loose Women* stars Brenda Edwards and Linda Robson go head-to-head in the antiques hunt, searching Hertfordshire with the help of James Braxton and Serhat Ahmet

7.30 Emmerdale Jacob stands in for David, and Victoria is jealous. Meanwhile, Ryan is devastated (AD)

### Channel 4 News

7.55 Nnamdi's Story: Stand Up to Cancer (r) (AD)

8.00 The Great British Bake Off The bakers face new challenges in Pastry Week as they make a savoury picnic pie and tackling a French rough puff pastry before creating a showstopping decorative sweet pie. See Viewing Guide (5/10) (AD)

7.00 Traffic Cops A dangerous drunk, unlicensed and uninsured driver leads officers on a 20-minute chase through busy areas, while a suspected drugged driver runs across a supermarket car park to avoid arrest (3/12) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police 999: Clear & Present Danger New series. With unprecedented access to police body-worn camera footage, this series follows frontline police officers as they risk their lives to keep Britain safe

8PM

8.00 MasterChef: The Professionals In the second heat of the week, four chefs set out to prove themselves to the judges Marcus Wareing, Gregg Wallace and Monica Galetti with their own signature dishes (AD)

8.00 This Farming Life A calf is discovered without a mother on the Isle of Wight, leaving Carianne to locate the missing mother and reunite them. In Inverkip, Rachel and Camy John and Heather help to deliver their beltex lambs (9/12)

8.00 Coronation Street Ronnie forces Ed to admit the extent of his recent gambling, Daisy commands Ryan on coping with his injuries, while Asha senses Adil's unhappiness and attempts to help (AD)

9.00 The Real Crown: Inside the House of Windsor As heir to the throne, life on the frontline is too dangerous for Prince William, who stays home to perform royal duties while brother Harry joins the military (5/5) (AD)

9.00 The Hotel Inspector: Into the Abyss Alex Polizzi travels to historic visitor attraction Stump Cross Caverns deep beneath the Yorkshire Dales, where the family business is facing an uncertain future, and pushing this attraction into profit seems impossible

9PM

9.00 The Met New series. Documentary following officers from Britain's biggest and busiest police force as they deal with life, death, crime and its victims across London. See Viewing Guide (1/6) (AD)

9.00 Britain's Housing Crisis: What Went Wrong? The second of two programmes in which figures from Government, finance and campaigning discuss the UK housing crisis — and the decisions that led us here. See Viewing Guide (2/2)

9.00 The Devil's Confession — The Lost Eichmann Tapes Part one of two. Secret recordings made by Adolf Eichmann in the 1950s (r) 1.40 Sign Zone: Garden Rescue. Designing a cat friendly garden (r) (SL) 2.25 Money for Nothing (r) (SL) 3.10-3.40 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r) (AD, SL)

9.15 Don't Look Down for SU2C The team face the 400-foot Schlegel Dam in Austria but with departures, tears and tantrums getting in their way they need to work as a team to pull focus and conquer their fears (3/5) (AD)

10.00 A&E After Dark A man is brought in after having punched his arm through a pub window, while a matron deals with a flirtatious patient who has cut his head after a night out on the town and is determined to leave the hospital without treatment (1/6) (r)

10PM

10.00 BBC News at Ten  
10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather  
10.40 Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang The story of an entrepreneur whose identity was stolen and used for criminal activities online, leaving him facing messages from people accusing him of conning them (r) (AD)

10.00 Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison Stephen Nolan challenges the prisoner who denies killing his partner (4/6)

10.30 Newsnight Presented by Kirsty Wark

10.00 ITV News at Ten  
10.30 Regional News  
10.45 Pride of Britain: A Windrush Special Marking 75 years since the Empire Windrush ship's arrival at Tilbury Docks, this documentary tells the story of the Windrush generation. Members provide an insight into the experiences of the community of more than 500,000 who arrived in Britain between 1948 and 1971 (r) (AD)

11.40 The Grand Fishing Adventure The final leg of the tour finds Ali and Bobby at Iktus in France (4/4) (r)

10.15 Bangers: Mad For Cars In search of the best sports car, Tinie learns how to drift a Mazda MX5 and meets Ayrton Senna fans driving the racer's Honda NSX. Naomi meets comedian Guz Khan who speaks about his love of big BMWs and Mercedes' (2/4) (AD)

11.20 Gogglebox The armchair critics review *Coronation Street*, *Married at First Sight UK*, *Welcome to Wrexham*, *The Good Ship Murder*, and *Nadiya's Simple Spices* (r) (AD)

11.05 999: Critical Condition When a heavily bandaged man is helicoptered into hospital following an industrial accident, a trauma team leader immediately fears the worst (1/8) (r)

Late

11.40 Michael McIntyre's The Wheel The comedian hosts the Saturday-night game show joined by Chris McCausland, Gabby Logan, GKBerry, Iain Stirling, Liza Tarbuck, Rachel Riley and Trevor Nelson (r)

12.40am The Devil's Confession — The Lost Eichmann Tapes Part one of two. Secret recordings made by Adolf Eichmann in the 1950s (r) 1.40 Sign Zone: Garden Rescue. Designing a cat friendly garden (r) (SL) 2.25 Money for Nothing (r) (SL) 3.10-3.40 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r) (AD, SL)

12.45am-6.00 BBC News

12.25am Gogglebox (r) (AD, SL)  
1.20 Marci's Story: Stand Up to Cancer (r) (AD, SL)  
1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL)  
2.15 FILM Total Recall (12, 2012) Sci-fi thriller remake with Colin Farrell. See Viewing Guide (SL)  
4.15 Grand Designs (r) (AD) 5.10-6.05 Tool Club (r) (AD, SL)

12.05am ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Highlights of South Africa v Bangladesh 1.30 PlayOJO Live Casino Show 3.30 The All-Inclusive: How Do They Do It and Should You? (r) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) 5.05 House Doctor (r) (SL) 5.30 Entertainment News on 5  
5.35 Peppa Pig (r) (SL) 5.45-6.00 Paw Patrol (r)

# television & radio

## The Great British Bake Off

Channel 4, 8pm

After the drama of last week when Tasha fell ill and, to keep things fair, the judges decided that no one left the tent, there are two who will be heading for the exit flap tonight. And it's pastry week, a favourite of self-confessed greedy gits Paul Hollywood

who enjoys the tastings, but a tough one for the bakers. They have to make picnic pies for the signature challenge, and a fiendish "pithivier" for the technical before embarking on a decorative sweet pie showstopper. Some of the bottoms are soggy but at least one happy baker gets a Hollywood handshake.

## Britain's Housing Crisis: What Went Wrong?

BBC2, 9pm

It's the second and final part of this rather bleak look at the state of the British housing market and the action begins with David Cameron's victory in the 2015 election. He started brightly, promising big houses, but his

proposals were derailed by Brexit, which threw him out of office, and the pandemic, which put the kibosh on his successors' plans. It's a well-structured programme with informed talking heads, but is perhaps too focused on complaining about a problem and not enough on coming up with workable solutions.

## The Hidden Children of Ruinerwold Farm

BBC4, 10pm/10.50pm

In 2019 the Dutch village of Ruinerwold hit the headlines when a hidden family was discovered living on a secluded farm. A young man who walked into the village pub asking for help later told police that his father

was a self-proclaimed prophet who had hidden six of his children away, never sending them to school. This series follows the lives of four of the children as they face their new futures, beginning with the important and moving moment one of them is finally given an identity card by the authorities.

## Film Total Recall

Channel 4, 2.15am

Len Wiseman's remake of the 1990 sci-fi classic delivers sordid fun. Colin Farrell is Douglas Quaid, a factory drone who signs up for a fake memory adventure. Kate Beckinsale, in a formidably athletic performance, is Lori, his spouse and potential assassin. (12, 2012)

## Sky Max

**6.00am** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** StarGate SG-1 (r) **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** MacGyver (r) **2.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T. (r) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow. Spooner makes a bet (r) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. The team is captured (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. The team tries to protect a medieval world from the Goa'uld (r) **8.00** Flintoff: Lord of the Fries. Andrew Flintoff sets up a mobile chip shop to tour the UK, beginning in Yorkshire (1/6) (r) **AD** **9.00** The A to Z of Horror Movies. An alphabetical trip through the genre (r) **AD** **10.00** FILM: Saw – The Final Chapter (18, 2010) Survivors of the serial killer's games fall into a trap. Horror sequel with Costas Mandylor **12.00** Brassic (r) **1.00am** The Blacklist (r) **2.00** A League of Their Own. With Gareth Bale and Katherine Ryan **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T. (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

## Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Fish Town (r) **7.55** Six Feet Under (r) **10.05** Ray Donovan (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) **1.20** The Gilded Age (r) **AD** **3.30** Six Feet Under (r) **5.40** Ray Donovan. As the Donovans band together to save one of their own (r) **AD** **6.45** Ray Donovan. As the series concludes, Ray settles his final score (r) **AD** **7.50** Game of Thrones. Daenerys makes an offer to the Lords of Westeros, Tyrion worries about his Queen's behaviour and decisions, and Bran has a vision of the Night King's army (r) **AD** **9.00** Billions. Chuck, Axe and Wendy square off against Prince as the intensity of the campaign increases, while the Prince Cappers' loyalties are tested as the battle comes to a head (11/12) (r) **10.05** The Gilded Age. George fights to protect his public image (6/9) (r) **AD** **11.10** Tin Star. Jack and Angela prepare to face the consequences of their actions (7/9) (r) **AD** **12.15am** Billions (r) **AD** **2.20** Game of Thrones. Daenerys makes an offer (r) **AD** **3.30** In Treatment (r) **4.00** Fish Town (r)

## Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** Inside the Freemasons (r) **7.00** Discovering: Sigourney Weaver (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** Shaq (r) **10.00** Janet Jackson (r) **AD** **10.55** Navajo Police: Class 57 (r) **12.00** The Ibiza Affair: Uncovered (r) **2.00pm** The Insurrection Next Door (r) **3.30** Premier League Legends (r) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Sigourney Weaver. The life and career of the actress (r) **6.00** Shaq. Shaquille signs a contract (r) **AD** **7.00** Janet Jackson (2/4) (r) **AD** **7.55** Navajo Police: Class 57. Behind the scenes at the Navajo Nation's police academy (2/3) **9.00** House of Kardashian (3/3) (r) **10.00** I Am Paul Walker. A profile (r) **11.50** FILM: Dogtown and Z-Boys (15, 2001) Skateboarding documentary **1.40am** FILM: The Day Sports Stood Still (2021) The story of the dramatic sports shutdown (AD) **3.20** The Newspaperman: The Life and Times of Ben Bradlee (r) **5.00** Discovering: Sigourney Weaver (r)

## Sky Arts

**6.00am** Arts Uncovered **6.10** LA Philharmonic Centennial Birthday Gala **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Ian McKellen **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Wonderland: From JM Barrie to JRR Tolkien **3.00** Boswell & Johnson's Scottish Road Trip **4.00** Discovering: Ed Harris. The life and career of the actor **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** The Joy of Painting. A snow-bound cabin **7.30** The Joy of Painting. The Northern Lights **8.00** Cirque du Soleil: Nouvelle Experience **9.30** The Movies. The journey through American cinema continues into the 1980s **10.30** Discovering: Michelle Yeoh **11.30** Joe Cocker: Mad Dogs & Englishmen **1.45am** Phil Collins: Going Back to Detroit **2.35** Video Killed the Radio Star **3.05** Cheltenham Literature Festival **4.05** The South Bank Show **5.00** The Great Songwriters

## Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Live ICC Cricket World Cup: South Africa v Bangladesh. Coverage of the group match from Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai **5.30pm** Sky Sports News at 5 **6.00** Sky Sports News at 6 **7.00** Gillette Labs Soccer Special **7.30** Live EFL: Leicester City v Sunderland (Kick-off 8.00). Coverage of the Championship match from King Power Stadium. The Foxes had made a strong start to the season up to the recent international break, winning 10 of their first 11 Championship matches. The visitors have also made a good start to the season, but were humbled in their last home game, losing 4-0 to local rivals Middlesbrough **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Sky Sports News **2.00** Sky Sports News **3.00** Sky Sports News **4.00** Sky Sports News

T AUDIO

# no idea.

Listen for free via the QR code, on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts

LISTEN NOW



THE TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES  
Know your times

## TalkTV

**6.00am** Talk Today with Jeremy Kyle and Nicola Thorp. Stories from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their unique take on the front pages and the latest news **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host looks through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Julia Hartley-Brewer. The stories you need to know **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The host tackles the big stories of the day **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Political debates **7.00** Prime Time with Rosanna Lockwood. The host brings a wealth of journalistic experience to get inside the stories of the day **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about **10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken. Bringing the very best and latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Julia Hartley-Brewer **3.00** Prime Time with Rosanna Lockwood **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

## BBC4

**7.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo is in the Home Counties and Oxford (AD) **7.30** Climbing Great Buildings. Jonathan Foyle explores Coventry Cathedral (AD) **8.00** Some Mothers Do 'Av 'Em. After several false alarms, Betty finally goes into labour **8.30** Yes Minister. Cabinet reshuffle and possible redundancy rumours anger Jim Hacker **9.00** The Witch Hunts: Lucy Worsley Investigates. The historian examines four dramatic chapters in British history (1/4) (AD) **10.00** The Hidden Children of Ruinerwold Farm. New series. Documentary about a Dutch family help capture by their father for nine years. See Viewing Guide (1/4) **10.50** The Hidden Children of Ruinerwold Farm. Three of the children decide to visit their father. See Viewing Guide (2/4) **11.35** Bernardine Evaristo: Never Give Up – Imagine. Alan Yentob explores the life and work of the author Bernardine Evaristo **12.45am** Toni Morrison Remembers: Imagine **1.50** Great British Railway Journeys (AD) **2.20** Climbing Great Buildings (AD) **2.50-3.50** The Witch Hunts: Lucy Worsley Investigates (AD)

## Talking Pictures

**6.00am** FILM: Where There's a Will (U, 1955) (b/w) **7.30** Sherlock Holmes (b/w) **8.05** FILM: Turned Out Nice Again (U, 1941) (b/w) **9.45** FILM: The Butler's Dilemma (U, 1943) (b/w) **11.15** FILM: Shadows on the Stairs (PG, 1941) (b/w) **12.30pm** FILM: The Leather Boys (PG, 1964) (b/w) **2.35** FILM: Baby Must Fall (PG, 1964) Drama **4.30** FILM: Smokescreen (U, 1964) Detective thriller starring Peter Vaughan (b/w) **6.00** The Black Arrow **7.05** The Four Just Men (b/w) **7.40** Dick Barton – Special Agent **7.55** Thunderbirds **9.00** Cinebox Memories **9.05** Maigret **11.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **11.05** FILM: Night of the Living Dead (1968) Horror (b/w) **12.55am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **1.00** FILM: Happy Birthday To Me (U, 1951) **3.10** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **3.15** FILM: Out of the Dark (18, 1988) **4.55** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **5.00** Stagecoach West (b/w)

## Film4

**11.00am** Distant Drums (U, 1951) Western starring Gary Cooper **1.05pm** The Wrong Box (U, 1966) Black Comedy starring John Mills and Ralph Richardson **3.15** The Mouse That Roared (U, 1959) Comedy starring Peter Sellers **5.00** It Should Happen to You (U, 1954) Comedy starring Judy Holliday (b/w) **6.45** Star Trek: Nemesis (12, 2002) The crew is pitted against Captain Picard's clone, who wants to destroy the Earth. Sci-fi adventure starring Patrick Stewart and Tom Hardy (AD) **9.00** Antwone Fisher (15, 2002) A Navy recruit is sent to a psychiatrist who helps him to come to terms with his past. Fact-based drama directed by and starring Denzel Washington. With Derek Luke and Joy Bryant **11.20** Midsomer (18, 2019) A couple travel to Sweden to visit a rural mid-summer festival organised by a pagan cult. Horror starring Florence Pugh and Will Poulter (AD) **2.15am-4.00** Race with the Devil (15, 1975) Two couples on a road trip witness a human sacrifice and are pursued and attacked by the Satanic cult responsible. Thriller starring Peter Fonda, Warren Oates and Loretta Swit

## More4

**8.55am** Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flot (AD) **11.00pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo. A male red panda is losing weight (AD) **6.55** The Dog House Australia. A Jack Russell could just be what reserved youngster needs **7.55** Grand Designs. A couple present their Devon-based builder with a unique challenge in the form of a timber-clad, plough-shaped home with a working barn and curved roof (7/8) (AD) **9.00** 24 Hours in A&E. Joanna has a spinal fracture after falling from her horse (AD) **10.00** 24 Hour Baby Hospital. A Bulgarian couple come to terms with their past. Fact-based drama directed by and starring Denzel Washington. With Derek Luke and Joy Bryant **11.20** Midsomer (18, 2019) A couple travel to Sweden to visit a rural mid-summer festival organised by a pagan cult. Horror starring Florence Pugh and Will Poulter (AD) **2.15am-4.00** Race with the Devil (15, 1975) Two couples on a road trip witness a human sacrifice and are pursued and attacked by the Satanic cult responsible. Thriller starring Peter Fonda, Warren Oates and Loretta Swit

## Yesterday

**6.00am** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **11.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler (AD) **12.00** Great American Railroad Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash (AD) **4.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler (AD) **5.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Crathes Castle, Aberdeenshire. The actress embarks on a 4,000-mile journey using the Trans-Siberian Railway **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team are on the hunt to restore a Bugatti (AD) **10.00** Bangers & Cash. Derek has three scooters to collect, while also finding room for a Daimler and a teardrop caravan (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. A village ruin that is now pitted and scarred, and a bridge to nowhere hidden in a forest (7/8) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Warbird Workshop **4.00** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**6.00am** Football Rivalries **6.20** Minder (AD, SL) **7.20** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.25** The Saint **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. A village newcomer is found battered to death after announcing her intention to marry a businessman (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. An unpopular farmer is harassed by his neighbours, who want to force him out of business (AD) **8.00** Midsumers Murders. Tragedy strikes at a family friend's wedding and Barnaby is called into action to catch a murderer with an apparent penchant for local brides (AD) **10.00** DI Ray. Rachita and the team race to track down Anjali Kapoor, making more than one discovery in the process (2/4) (AD) **11.05** Innocent. As Sally begins a confident return to work, the police question Anna Stamp as they attempt to uncover what it is she is hiding. Starring Katherine Kelly (2/4) (AD) **12.05am** Where the Heart Is (AD) **2.10** ITV 3.00 Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

## ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** Bless This House **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. A village newcomer is found battered to death after announcing her intention to marry a businessman (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. An unpopular farmer is harassed by his neighbours, who want to force him out of business (AD) **8.00** Midsumers Murders. Tragedy strikes at a family friend's wedding and Barnaby is called into action to catch a murderer with an apparent penchant for local brides (AD) **10.00** DI Ray. Rachita and the team race to track down Anjali Kapoor, making more than one discovery in the process (2/4) (AD) **11.05** Innocent. As Sally begins a confident return to work, the police question Anna Stamp as they attempt to uncover what it is she is hiding. Starring Katherine Kelly (2/4) (AD) **12.05am** Where the Heart Is (AD) **2.10** ITV 3.00 Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

## Variations

### BBC1 Scotland

As BBC1 except: **7.00pm**-**7.30** River City (r) **10.40** Street Gangs (r) **11.10** Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang. An entrepreneur whose identity was stolen and used for criminal activities (r) **AD** **12.10am** The Big Scottish Book Club (r) **1.10** The Edit (r) **2.45** Weather for the Week Ahead **3.10-6.00** BBC News

### BBC1 Wales

As BBC1 except: **10.40pm** Rookie Nurses. A patient confesses he wants to die (r) **11.10** Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang. An entrepreneur whose identity was stolen and used for criminal activities (r) **AD** **12.10am** Michael McIntyre's The Wheel. The Saturday night game show (r) **1.10-6.00** BBC News

### BBC2 Ireland

As BBC2 except: **10.00pm**-**10.30** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. In the Peak District (r) **11.15** The Week That Rocked Irish Dancing (r) **12.05am**-**12.40** Mock the Week (r)

### BBC2 Wales

As BBC2 except: **1.45pm** First Minister's Questions **2.45** Unbeatable (r) **3.15** Wanted Down Under (r) **4.00** Call That Hard Work? (r) **4.45-5.15** Wild Cameraman at Work (r) **AD** **11.15** Beacons: Short Films from Wales **11.35-12.40am** Union with David Olusoga. A look at the events that led to the partition of Ireland. Last in the series (r) **AD**

### ITV1 Wales

As ITV1 except: **10.45pm** Face to Face **11.15** Pride of Britain: A Windrush Special (r) **AD** **12.05am**-**12.30** Wales on TV (r)

### STV

As ITV1 except: **10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Pride of Britain: A Windrush Special (r) **AD** **12.00-12.30am** Sean's Scotland (r) **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

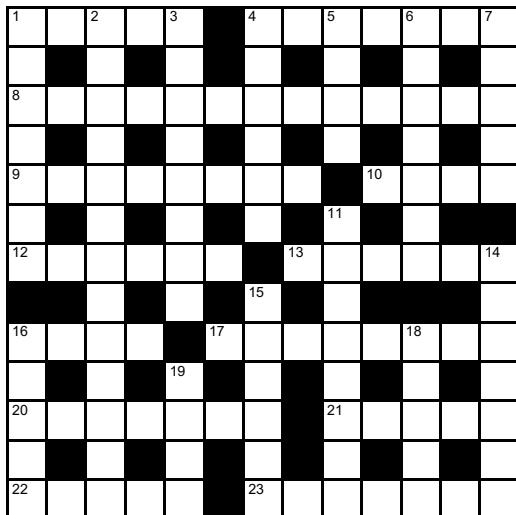
### BBC Scotland

As BBC2 except: **7.00pm** Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs (r) **8.00** Scotland's Sacred Islands with Ben Fogle **9.00** The Nine **10.00** David Wilson's Crime Files: Scams and Scandals **10.30** The Big Scottish Book Club **11.30-12.00** Body on the Beach: What Happened to Annie? (r) **AD**

### BBC Alba

**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** AH-AH-No (r) **5.10** Lon le Linda (r) **5.25** Oscar & Ealaasd (r) **5.40** Shane an Chef (r) **5.50** 'S Easa l Thannam (I'm a Fish) **6.10** Stíofáin (r) **6.30** Stíofáin (r) **7.00** Baileach (r) **7.30** Teallach (r) **8.00** An Saoghal Drolg ail Ploc (r) **8.30** Riaghlaigh (r) **9.00** Baileach (r) **9.30** Teallach (r) **10.00** Baileach (r) **10.30** Riaghlaigh (r) **11.00** Baileach (r) **11.30** Riaghlaigh (r) **12.00** Baileach (r) **1.00** Baileach (r) **2.00** Baileach (r) **3.00** Y Fenywod (r) **4.00** Awfr Fawr: Olobobs (r) **4.05** Pablo (r) **4.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **4.30** Bleroi yn Mydd I Odio (r) **4.45** Awfr Iach (r) **5.00** Stwsh: Mwyo a Stwsh Sadwrn (r) **5.25** Cath-od (r) **5.40** Ar Gol yn Oz (r) **6.00** Adre (r) **6.30** Sgorio (r) **6.57** News 7.00 (r) **7.20** News; Weather **8.00** Pobel y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Round a Round (AD) **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Gwesty Adriadn **10.00** Rocca Schiavone **10.55-11.30** Arfordir Cymru: Môn (r)



**MindGames****times2 Crossword No 9356****Across**

- 1 (Of eggs) go rotten (5)  
 4 Condition affecting one's memory (7)  
 8 Consequences (13)  
 9 Small peach-like fruits (8)  
 10 Parasitic insect (4)  
 12 Neat, smart (6)  
 13 Ice cream dessert (6)

**Solution to Crossword 9355**

**I**N**C**ONSIDERATE  
**N**O **I**N **X** **B** **D**  
**S**HALLIOT **T**HONG  
**T**S E R U E  
**R**AT **C**ONCERTO  
**U**E H D M K  
**C**ORVID L LISBON  
**T**H J T I I  
**A**CCURACY LUG  
**O**L A R I H  
**T**OOTH GUMBOOT  
**I**W U O A U E  
**C**ONTAINERISED

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

**Bridge Andrew Robson**

My friend Richard Cumming Bruce showed me this interesting deal from a rubber at Whites Gentlemen's Club in London. How do you play 6♦ or ♥10 lead?

After winning the queen of hearts, at the table declarer had banged down the ace-king of spades, the odds play to avoid a loser. East had discarded, whereupon declarer had crossed to the ace-king of hearts, shedding a club, and led a diamond to the queen.

"Curses," declarer had exclaimed as West won the king of diamonds. One down.

Let us replay. By all means win the queen of hearts and cash the ace of spades — something interesting may happen (it does not). But now you need to pay more heed to the potential for length winners in clubs.

At tricks three and four, cash the king of clubs and cross to the ace. If West began with a singleton club, he will be ruffing a loser; if East ruffs away dummy's ace, that's disappointing, but you will still succeed if the diamond finesse is onside. Most of the time, however, as here, clubs will split 3-2 and both opponents will follow.

Now cash the ace-king of hearts, shedding a club, and ruff a third club. If this is overruled, you must succeed, for you can now draw trumps without loss (the king will tell the queen) and reach dummy via the third spade to cash a long club, shedding the queen of diamonds.

Say the third club is not overruled by West (best). Now comes the clever bit. Lead a low spade

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: Both

Rubber ♠ J106  
 ♥ AK8  
 ♦ 105  
 ♣ A8762  
 ♠ Q52 N ♠ 0  
 ♥ 10962 W E ♥ J754  
 ♦ K92 87643 ♣ QJ4  
 ♠ 103 ♠ AK8743 ♠ QJ4  
 ♠ Q3 ♠ AQ ♠ K95

S W N E  
 1NT Pass  
 3♠(1) Pass 4♣(2) Pass  
 4♦(3) Pass 4♥(3) Pass  
 6♦ End

(1) Slummy with six spades (other spade hands go via 2♥ transfer).  
 (2) Showing a suitable hand for a spade slam with the ace of clubs.  
 (3) Return control-showing bids.

Contact: 6♦, Opening Lead: ♥10

towards dummy's jack-ten (ie don't cash the king). Let the defence win their queen (or not) for you must soon reach dummy in spades and can then lead a fourth-round club length winner. Away goes your queen of diamonds and that's 12 tricks and slam made.

I think the deal is a good illustration of why you must not get bogged down by apparent dichotomies such the finesse v drop dilemma on today's spades. For the correct line of play is ... neither.

One can translate the principle to other bridge (and non-bridge for that matter) decisions. If you are choosing between A or B, never overlook the possibility of C.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

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

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

**times2 Crossword No 9356**

# MindGames

For extra puzzles  
See page 10

## Word watch

David Parfitt

**Stabilimentum**  
a A broad band of silk in a web  
b A large weighing scale  
c A period of political stasis

**Chalybean**  
a Of superior quality steel  
b An ancient Babylonian dialect  
c A bright red edible legume

**Shash**  
a A skewered meat dish  
b Noisy signal interference  
c Assertive language

Answers on page 15

## Sudoku Mild No 14,412

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

## Difficult No 14,413

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

## Super fiendish No 14,414

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

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

## The Times Daily Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Père Noël is the French version of which legendary figure?

2 Featuring Odysseus, which satyr play by Euripides is named after a type of mythical one-eyed giant?

3 The British financier Barney Barnato (1851-1897) made his fortune in Kimberley with which gemstones?

4 Who is the late comedy partner of Griff Rhys Jones, who played the title role in the sitcom *Colin's Sandwich*?

5 Chianti wine is made in which region of Italy?

6 Giotto's *Navicella* mosaic was almost entirely destroyed



GETTY IMAGES

during the building of which Vatican basilica?

7 Alan Measles is the childhood teddy bear of which Turner prize-winning potter?

8 Which range of hills in northern England is

known as the "backbone of England"?

9 In which Merseyside town did the World of Glass museum open in 2000?

10 Which Dutch artist painted *The Merry*

Drinker (c 1628-30) and *The Gypsy Girl* (1628-30)?

11 The shakuhachi is a Japanese flute traditionally made from a single piece of what?

12 Joan Greenwood played Sophia Dorothea, wife of the future George I, in which 1948 film?

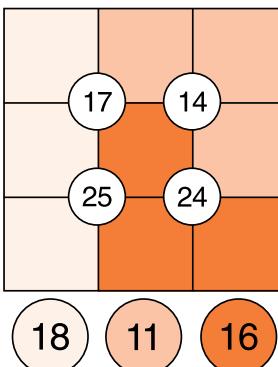
13 Located in Peru, what is the world's highest tropical mountain range?

14 Which English golfer held the men's world No 1 ranking for the entirety of 1993?

15 Which country's 50,000 won banknote is this?

Answers on page 15

## Suko No 3941



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

For interactive puzzles visit [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk)

**TRAILFINDERS** THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

WHEREVER AND WHENEVER, TRUST TRAILFINDERS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...

★ Trustpilot ★ ★ ★ ★

"Truly excellent: patient, friendly, helpful & a mine of knowledge, tips and advice."

### Local to You

43 high street Travel Centres staffed with expert Consultants across the UK & Ireland

### Independent Trusted Travel Advice

On hand 365/24/7, we offer wholly impartial advice alongside an extensive range of hand-picked quality product

### Unrivalled Care & Protection

Unique ATOL approved Trust Account

### No Surcharges or Hidden Extras

With Trailfinders the price you see is the price you pay



ALL YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TAKEN CARE OF IN ONE PLACE

Call TRAILFINDERS on 020 7368 1364, or visit your local Trailfinders Travel Centre



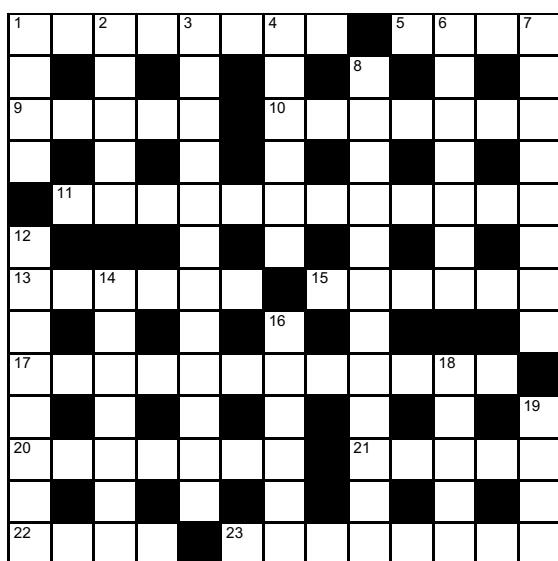
ATOL LICENCE: 1458

caa.co.uk



IATA

## The Times Quick Cryptic No 2511 by Orpheus



### Across

- Wanderer's tie with Virginia and Georgia (8)
- Father after Oscar (4)
- Prison officer's wage (5)
- Meal we hope not to have on the motorway! (7)
- US city man introducing article on London theatre (12)
- Motorist's club (6)
- French street with upper-class books? Not so (6)
- Concluded successfully, being proficient (12)
- The Case of the Government Ministers?* (7)
- Evergreen tree — old, as it happens (5)
- Record held by greyhound is challenged (4)
- Study of weapons finally kept in garden (8)

### Down

- Pass very agilely at first around island (4)
- Engraver and painter leaving house for court (5)
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23

- Perplexity shown by less civilised chaps involved in wager (12)
- Nonentity's complaint about inferior wine? (6)
- A different article — by him, presumably? (7)
- Toothless type that may take in the workers (8)
- Very rich plant producing railway carriages, etc (7,5)
- Made progress, being precocious (8)
- One youngster in Students' Union — a nightmare! (7)
- Pie-eyed bachelor's first game (6)
- Woman in City area originally teaching law (5)
- Tax the French extremely viciously (4)

Yesterday's solution on page 15