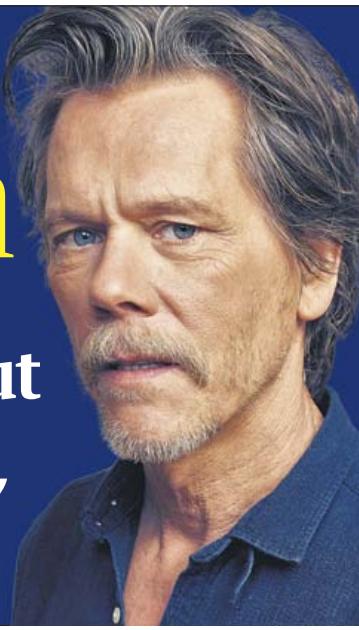


# Kevin Bacon

'I couldn't care less about being heroic or handsome'

→ Film & Music G2



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# The Guardian

## New Covid-19 rules don't go far enough, say experts

Sage members say type of 'circuit breaker' used in Scotland was needed in England weeks ago

Peter Walker  
Ian Sample  
Heather Stewart

Scientists advising the UK government believe the planned new Covid restrictions do not go far enough and that "fringe" anti-lockdown epidemiologists are gaining too much attention, the Guardian has learned.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage) believe a potential shutdown of pubs and restaurants in northern England and the Midlands, expected next week after delays that one MP has called "reckless", are unlikely to bring cases down to a more manageable level.

Speaking anonymously, some of the experts maintained that a circuit breaker-style intervention of the type being imposed in Scotland today

should have been enacted in England two or three weeks ago when such a move was discussed with ministers. This would have involved a two-week shutdown for hospitality venues and other parts of society to drive down cases and hospital admissions.

With the UK recording more than 17,500 new Covid-19 infections yesterday, up almost 25% on the day before, and leaders in northern England in open revolt over imminent lockdown plans, some scientists believe more should have been done already.

One senior scientist said the UK was at a critical point and that deeper measures were needed to bring the resurgence under control.

Another epidemiologist, Prof John Edmunds, who sits on Sage, said a circuit breaker was needed to stop the NHS becoming overwhelmed. The epidemic was increasing, and widely, he said. "It is, of course, more severe in the north and north-west but it is increasing everywhere and so we have to take action unless we want to face really large numbers of hospitalisations in the quite near term and, unfortunately,

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## Hospitals set to cancel operations as beds fill

Denis Campbell  
Helen Pidd  
Josh Halliday

Some hospitals in northern England will run out of beds for Covid patients within a week, health chiefs are warning, amid growing signs that the fast-unfolding second wave will seriously disrupt normal NHS care again.

Trusts in the north-east and north-west are getting so many new Covid cases every day that some plan to ditch routine surgery again to free up staff and beds, despite an NHS-wide order that they should continue to provide normal care this time.

"Mutual aid" plans are also being made for hospitals to take Covid cases from outside their area to relieve the pressure on those

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## Face of No 10: Stratton to host daily TV briefing

Heather Stewart  
Simon Murphy

The former ITV journalist Allegra Stratton is expected to be announced as the face of Downing Street's new daily televised press briefings.

Her appointment follows months of speculation about who would take on the White House-style briefings after

Downing Street announced the creation of the role in July. Discussing the new televised briefings at the time, Boris Johnson said: "We do think that people want direct engagement and want stuff from us and so we're going to have a go at that... I will pop up from time to time, I have no doubt."

But Westminster insiders on both sides of the aisle were in rare unanimity yesterday: Stratton is taking on a tough

▲ Allegra Stratton in Downing Street, where she is currently an adviser to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak

PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE CRACKNELL WRIGHT/LNP

role. "Awful job," said one sympathetic Labour adviser.

The 39-year-old, currently an adviser to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, will in effect become a high-profile spokeswoman for the prime minister

A senior Tory claimed Johnson had personally asked Stratton more than once to become the public face of his government before she accepted. If she did hesitate, it would be understandable. The role will involve explaining the

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## News



## New restrictions must go further, say Sage experts

Continued from page 1

large numbers of deaths. This is still a killer virus, despite improvements in treatment."

There is also worry within Sage about the influence of a relatively small number of public health academics who oppose new lockdown moves, with some members understood to be annoyed at the level of coverage they have received. This week thousands of advocates for the Great Barrington declaration urged governments in the UK, US and elsewhere to abandon strategies to suppress the virus and let the infection spread among the healthy while protecting the vulnerable.

It is unclear how the vulnerable would be identified and protected, and whether allowing the epidemic to grow unchecked in healthy people would lead to the kind of so-called herd immunity that its authors hope would protect everyone. "I can't see where the evidence is to back it up," the senior scientist said.

Concern about the government's ability to rein in the spread of Covid in coming weeks has been prompted in part by uncertainty over what measures will be introduced and when.

The Guardian understands the majority of northern England, from Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria to Merseyside, Greater Manchester, much of Lancashire and Yorkshire and most of the north-east, as well as Nottinghamshire, expects to be under Covid restrictions as part of a new three-tier alert system whose announcement was originally expected this week.

Yesterday, a government source said the plan was now to make the announcement on Monday, with measures coming into force on Wednesday. MPs from the affected areas were summoned for a video briefing yesterday with the health minister Edward Argar and Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England.



▲ Lilian Greenwood was one of the MPs summoned for a video briefing

Continued from page 1

### Stratton to take on 'awful job' of hosting Johnson TV briefing

government's every move, as it battles to get to grips with an unprecedented public health emergency. Stratton will be on display as political journalists quiz her about ministers' latest missteps. And she arrives at a moment when the government is besieged by backbenchers sceptical about Covid restrictions, and facing fierce criticism over the way they are communicated.

There are two daily lobby briefings for political journalists, which are on the record. One will be replaced by the televised briefing. Daily lobby briefings have been directly quotable by journalists since Tony Blair's director of communications, Alastair Campbell, sought to make them more accessible. But they continued to be held behind closed doors – most recently in 9 Downing Street, before coronavirus forced them to go virtual. The briefings are currently taken by

Johnson's official spokesman, James Slack, the former Daily Mail political editor who did the same job for Theresa May. He is expected to be promoted to a more strategic role.

Stratton's post is part of a shake-up masterminded by Johnson's director of communications, Lee Cain, who intends to reduce the number of civil servants dealing with the press. He is having a room in 9 Downing Street fitted out as a broadcast studio for the briefings. Downing Street hopes the public will warm to Stratton, and that footage from the briefings will pop up in news bulletins, as clips from the daily coronavirus press conferences regularly did during lockdown.

Stratton is a Cambridge University graduate whose move to the chancellor's director of strategic

**'People want direct engagement so we're going to have a go'**

**Boris Johnson**  
On the televised briefings

► Masks in Manchester yesterday. It is one of the areas expected to face fresh restrictions as Covid cases surge  
PHOTOGRAPH: OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY

The briefing warned that the number of Covid patients in intensive care in the north of England would surpass the April peak if infections continued rising at the current rate.

MPs were also shown early Public Health England research suggesting bars, pubs and restaurants accounted for 41% of cases in which two or more under-30s had visited the same venue in the week before testing positive. This fell to a quarter of infections across all age groups.

One MP later expressed frustration. "We got some interesting data but questions about policy were banned,"

said Lilian Greenwood, Labour MP for Nottingham South. Yesterday Nottingham had the UK's highest Covid infection rate, at 689 cases per 100,000 people. "I asked how the science supported delaying extra restrictions in Nottingham until next Wednesday, especially now they've been announced to the media so everyone knows this is their last weekend to meet friends and family indoors.

"Unsurprisingly, I got a hopeless answer. A load of waffle and excuses about there are lots of things to take into consideration, regulations take time, and that's a decision for ministers - the ones who won't answer questions. I'm fuming, it's reckless."

Another complication is an expected package of support for businesses affected by the new restrictions, expected to be announced by Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, most likely a day after the new measures are unveiled. Treasury sources said he had drawn up a menu of options over the summer and acknowledged that the job support scheme, which was the centrepiece of his winter economic plan announced a fortnight ago, would not be adequate for areas where an entire sector was being shut down.

Allies of Sunak denied he had held up new lockdowns, insisting he was keen to give businesses clarity about the rules they would face.

communications role in April followed a successful career in journalism.

She started out as a producer at the BBC, followed by a stint as a political correspondent at the Guardian. In 2012, she rejoined the BBC when she became Newsnight's political editor. She was appointed national editor at ITV News in late 2015 and also co-presented ITV's Peston on Sunday.

Stratton told the Telegraph in 2016 about how she refused to take part in the infamous 2012 Newsnight broadcast that wrongly linked the former Tory party treasurer Lord McAlpine to allegations of child sexual abuse.

"I was jogging, on my day off, when my editor called me on my mobile and asked me to come in and do a two-way in the studio," Stratton recalled. "I thought about it a lot, but I was unconvinced by the story and, having raised my concerns, I decided not to take part. I was proved right, but I hesitate to say as much because that story ruined my editor's career."

Stratton married James Forsyth, the political editor of the Spectator magazine, which the prime minister used to edit, in 2011 at a ceremony where Sunak was the best man.



◀ An installation by the artist Luke Jerram at Gloucester Cathedral, which gets £200,000

PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN SHEPHERD/LNP/REX

◀ Blackpool's Winter Gardens, which receive nearly £850,000 in support from the Treasury

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY

▼ Jim Carter as Mr Carson in the Downton Abbey film and Highclere Castle, which receives £72,000

PHOTOGRAPH: REX

# Heritage sites share £103m in first phase of culture bailout

**Mark Brown**  
Arts correspondent

More than 400 heritage sites in England, from the Blyth Tall Ship in Northumberland to Bodmin jail museum in Cornwall, are to receive money from a £103m rescue fund to help them through the virus crisis.

The culture secretary, Oliver Dowden, has announced long-awaited details of the first major tranche of funding from the government's £1.57bn culture recovery fund.

It includes £67m to 433 organisations who applied for grants of less than £1m to help them survive the pandemic. Another £34m will go towards restarting stalled construction and maintenance works at major heritage sites. A further £2m has been awarded to the Architectural Heritage Fund.

The money is from the Treasury, but decisions on who gets what were made by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The fund's chief executive, Ros Kerslake, said the government support was crucial, but warned: "Our heritage is still facing a perilous future - we are not out of the woods yet."

It was right that investing in heritage was a priority, she said. "Heritage creates jobs and economic prosperity, is a major driver for tourism and makes our towns, cities and rural areas better

places to live. All of this is so important for our wellbeing and will be particularly vital when we start to emerge from this incredibly difficult time."

Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Historic England, said it was heartening to see money going to sites and organisations that had been hit hard by coronavirus.

"These grants range from giving skilled craft workers the chance to keep their trades alive to helping heritage organisations pay the bills," he said. They would also kick-start repairs "at our best-loved historic sites".

The grants include money to sites which often draw tourists because of their links to film and television. Highclere Castle, famous as the setting for Downton Abbey, gets £72,000; Gloucester Cathedral, whose cloisters were used as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films, gets £200,000; and Wentworth Woodhouse, a vast Georgian mansion in Rotherham that doubled as Buckingham Palace in the film *Darkness Hour*, gets £468,300.

The recipients include smaller, quirkier places which would be a big loss to the cultural fabric. For example the Shell Grotto in Margate, a strange place which is either a Victorian folly or an ancient temple, depending on who you talk to, receives £48,200 with Margate caves.

The grotto's owner, Sarah Vickery, told the *Guardian* that being closed



from March to July had been incredibly tough. "We lost an awful lot of income. To be honest, so much I've not wanted to add it up ... you've got to preserve your sanity."

Despite that, Vickery said she had not given up. "The grotto has been open to the public since 1838. It will take more than this to close it. We were always going to find a way through, although I wasn't sure what that would be for a long time."

Nearly 20 cathedrals will receive chunks of money, including Canterbury (£999,200), Winchester (£948,200), Wells, (£201,300) and Salisbury (£245,000).

Other recipients include the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincolnshire (£426,700), Blyth Tall Ship (£51,400), the Piece Hall in

Halifax (£995,000), Blackpool's Winter Gardens (£846,600) and Severn Valley Railway (£906,000).

The £34m heritage stimulus fund will be divided out to 12 heritage organisations including the National Trust (£6m), the Canal and River Trust (£1.6m), and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) which looks after buildings

**'Our heritage will be vital when we start to emerge from this difficult time'**

Ros Kerslake  
Lottery Heritage Fund

including the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace.

HRP receives just over £3m. Lucy Worsley, the TV presenter and its chief curator, said the organisation would now be able to resume critical conservation work. "There's no truer way to experience the past than to walk in the footsteps who have lived it," she said. "That's why preserving our heritage is so important."

Dowden said the money "will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounce-back post Covid".

Theatres, museums, galleries and music venues are still waiting to hear if they have been successful in getting rescue money. Those announcements are expected early next week.

## National Trust to cut almost 1,300 positions after making 'hard choices'

**Mark Brown**

Almost 1,300 jobs are to be lost at the National Trust as a result of the pandemic, although it said it had more than halved the number of people it expected to make compulsorily redundant.

Unions have described the job losses as devastating for the people affected, but also called the plan "a reasonable way to move forward".

The trust warned in July that it may have to make 1,200 people redundant in order to make annual savings of

£100m. Yesterday it said 782 people had taken voluntary redundancy, and 514 people would be made compulsorily redundant. It said it had halved the number of compulsory job losses after what was the biggest redundancy consultation process in its 125-year history.

More than 14,500 pieces of feedback were received and the trust said

**£100m**

*Annual savings the trust warned in July it needed to make as its finances were decimated by the pandemic*

it had listened. There had been particular disquiet at plans to sack its education officers. The trust now says it will retain roles focused on helping children learn, and also retain curation specialists and everyday maintenance positions.

Hilary McGrady, the trust's director general, thanked staff, volunteers and members for making their views known and said the plans were putting the charity on course for a secure financial future. She said: "It's with deep sadness that we have to make redundancies. I certainly don't want to stop any of the extraordinary work done by the people of the National

Trust. But our consultation has done as intended. It provided proposals to reach our savings target, and sparked such thorough feedback and collective intelligence that we've been able to adapt our plans while still making the savings we needed. It's been a difficult process with some very hard choices."

Mike Clancy, general secretary of the union Prospect, said the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic continued to have a great impact on the income of heritage organisations. "This is still a huge number of job losses and those redundancies will have a huge impact on the lives of all affected," he said.

# Northern leaders threaten revolt against tough new lockdown rules

**Josh Halliday and Helen Pidd**

Ministers are facing open revolt from leaders in northern England over fresh coronavirus restrictions due to be announced within days, as mayors, MPs, council chiefs and business groups vow to fiercely oppose new measures without substantial financial support.

Pubs, bars and restaurants across Merseyside, Greater Manchester, parts of West Yorkshire and the north-east could be forced to close next week to try to slow the soaring infection rate.

The leaders of the big northern cities are planning a formal alliance in opposition to any attempt by government to force restrictions on them without significant Treasury funding.

Such is the level of anger among local leaders that some are prepared to refuse to endorse measures expected to be announced by the health secretary, Matt Hancock, next week.

Judith Blake, the leader of Leeds city council, said she was "exhausted" trying to work with the government and feared both Leeds and Bradford would be subject to "tier 3" measures, shutting down all hospitality. "We're working with both hands tied behind our backs, trying to do the best thing locally, and then you get the government just leaking information to the press," she said. "It's so depressing. I'm sure it's a tactic too - put it out there, see what the reaction is."

MPs received a briefing from the government's Covid taskforce yesterday, warning the number of virus patients in intensive care in the north of England would surpass the April peak if infections continued rising at the current rate. They were also shown early research by Public Health England suggesting bars, pubs and restaurants accounted for 41% of cases in which two or more under-30s had

## Greek islands cleared

Five Greek islands have been added to the government's quarantine exemption list with arrivals in England from Lesvos, Santorini, Serifos, Tinos and Zakynthos no longer needing to self-isolate for 14 days from 4am tomorrow following a decrease in cases, according to the transport secretary, Grant Shapps.

No countries are being removed from the travel corridor list.

Italy maintains its exemption despite recording a seven-day rate of 31.6 coronavirus cases per 100,000 people. PA Media

visited the same venue in the week before testing positive. Blake said she wasn't convinced hospitality was a key cause. "Up to this point our evidence is pointing to the higher risk of infection being in households and confined indoor spaces," she said.

Andy Burnham, the mayor of Greater Manchester, said he was losing patience after the planned shutdown leaked yesterday, days after Hancock promised to improve communication with local leaders. With the leaders of Liverpool, Newcastle and Leeds, Burnham is demanding local authorities be allowed to see details of the restrictions - and proposed financial support - before they are announced. "There is no way at all I will sign off on the closure of any business without a local furlough scheme," he said.

More than 19,000 businesses in West Yorkshire would require financial support if Leeds and Bradford went into a tier-3 lockdown, the highest level, with leaked plans suggesting that may include the closure of all hospitality venues and no social contact between households. In Liverpool, officials said 28,000 jobs were at risk.

Blake said northern cities had formed an alliance to "ensure that an economic package of compensation is in place to make sure that our city centres aren't decimated".

The Guardian understands that most of northern England, from Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria to Merseyside, Greater Manchester, much of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and most of the north-east, as well as Nottinghamshire in the Midlands, will be under some form of restrictions under the new planned system.

The sharp rise in hospital admissions in the worst-hit areas has alarmed decision makers in the regions as well as in Whitehall. More than a third of Covid patients in England's hospitals are in the north-west, where admissions have risen sevenfold since the start of September. The number of patients on ventilators is now at its highest since the end of May in the north-west, north-east and Yorkshire.

Steve Rotheram, mayor of the Liverpool city region, said: "Significant restrictions, like those being proposed, must also come with significant financial support for local businesses that will be affected, local councils who are leading our public health efforts and for NHS test and trace."

Simon Fell, Conservative MP for Barrow-in-Furness, said he and local leaders are asking for restrictions on household mixing to be put in place in Barrow - where the infection rate has topped 200 cases per 100,000 people - but not across the whole of Cumbria. Fell is part of a growing Tory rebellion against the nationwide 10pm curfew.



## Scotland Drinking ban in chaos over definition of cafe

**Libby Brooks**  
*Scotland correspondent*

Scotland's nationwide crackdown on indoor drinking descended into chaos yesterday evening, less than 24 hours before strict new regulations on hospitality are due to come into force.

Many business owners in central Scotland, where a 16-day shutdown of pubs, restaurants and cafes that serve alcohol was announced by Nicola Sturgeon on Wednesday, claimed that they were still uncertain whether they were expected to close at 6pm today as trade bodies described the Scottish government's behaviour as "dysfunctional".

In her statement to MSPs, the first minister said that the temporary shutdown would include all licensed premises, although cafes without an alcohol licence could stay open until 6pm "to support social isolation".

But at lunchtime yesterday, during first minister's questions, Sturgeon brought in an exemption for licensed cafes, stating that they could likewise stay open provided they did not

sell alcohol. As businesses absorbed the news, many began to question precisely how a cafe is defined, as desperate owners asked whether they might be able to stay open after all.

Jason Leitch, the Scottish government's national clinical director, compounded the confusion when he was asked to clarify the situation during an interview with BBC Radio Scotland. Leitch said it would be left to the environmental health officers in local authorities to define and enforce the regulations.

This appeared to contradict Sturgeon's earlier statement, when she insisted that a "specific exemption" for cafes would be set out in regulations to be published today. With businesses still waiting for clarification from the guidelines, hospitality bodies said that many establishments were still

uncertain whether or not they would be expected to close.

Describing the unfolding chaos as "dysfunctional", the chief executive of Scotland Food and Drink, James Withers, said that the problem could have been foreseen had the Scottish government consulted with businesses in advance. "Had we been approached even on Monday we could have worked through this in time for a Wednesday announcement," he said, adding that it was "also madness" that licensed restaurants could not remain open so long as they did not serve alcohol.

The Scottish Licensed Trade Association stated plainly that "there is no such thing as a licensed cafe" and therefore no definition in law of a cafe versus a restaurant, while leading licensing lawyer Stephen McGowan, of the law firm TLT, called on the Scottish government to offer clarity.

"If parliament does not define cafe and it is left to local interpretation as is suggested here, then expect absolute carnage across the country. You'll have one premises shut and the one next door open over the subjective view of a council officer? What a position to be in."

Local residents on online forums have decried the "prohibition" that would result from harsher restrictions in central Scotland.

**16**

*Number of days that pubs, cafes and restaurants serving alcohol must close for in central Scotland*

▼ Glasgow is one area in Scotland where Covid-19 cases are rising and new restrictions have been imposed  
PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD/THE GUARDIAN



## Media Papers turn on Johnson over Covid measures

**Peter Walker**  
Political correspondent

Boris Johnson's government is facing an alarming foe ahead of winter - usually-friendly newspapers.

Titles such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail are devoting increasing space in their comment sections to writers questioning whether distancing measures are even effective.

This has spilled over into news coverage of public health voices such as Oxford university's Sunetra Gupta, one of the leaders behind a call to focus more on herd immunity, whose stance has been criticised by other scientists.

Yesterday it felt as if this view had burst into the mainstream of coverage.

Leading the charge was the Mail. Citing a British Medical Journal study suggesting lockdown could cost more lives than herd immunity would have, the page featured Whitty, Johnson and

Vallance. "So when will they listen?" boomed the headline.

The Telegraph's front page also featured the study. Inside, the main editorial was headlined: "Scientists say the government's Covid strategy is wrong - so why does it persist?" - perhaps an over-simplified view given many other scientists do not agree.

The Sun used its front page to warn that Johnson faced a "revolt from furious MPs" on further lockdown measures in the north of England.

Asked about the coverage, Johnson's spokesman said: "We live in a liberal democracy and you would fully expect open debate on these matters."

Titles such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail are devoting increasing space in their comment sections to writers questioning whether distancing measures are even effective.

This has spilled over into news coverage of public health voices such as Oxford university's Sunetra Gupta, one of the leaders behind a call to focus more on herd immunity, whose stance has been criticised by other scientists.

Yesterday it felt as if this view had burst into the mainstream of coverage.



## Nottingham 'It's insane not to start restrictions sooner. The government is too populist'

**Amy Walker**

**M**any of those walking through the concrete expanse of Nottingham's Old Market Square yesterday were clear they would be giving the city centre a wide berth this weekend in anticipation of crowds marking the last days without Covid restrictions here.

"This is the last time I'll be coming into Nottingham," said Norma Harper, a retiree, catching some respite along the square's walls after an unavoidable appointment with an audiologist to fix her hearing aid. "I think the pubs will be full this weekend."

Harper, who was keeping her pink camouflage face covering on outdoors, has good reason to be concerned. Yesterday it was revealed that the city's coronavirus rate was 689 per 100,000 people - the highest in England - and there are currently no extra measures in place on top of those imposed nationally.

Although an announcement - including a ban on mixing between households - was expected from the government by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils this week, it is understood to have been pushed back until Monday. A document leaked to Nottinghamshire Live yesterday suggested new restrictions wouldn't come into force here until Wednesday.

In response, Nottingham city council's leader has warned of the "huge burden" placed on local authorities if less Covid-conscious residents view the delay as an opportunity to go out for one last blowout with friends this weekend, running "the risk of making a bad situation even worse".

It is a view shared by Simon Davies, 60, who - with a Boris Johnson cut-out over his face mask - was out campaigning against the government's handling of Brexit as part of a Nottingham pro-European group. "It seems insane not to bring in restrictions sooner. The government is too populist, they want to make people happy," he said - a desire that had come at the expense of public health.

Although Davies said he wasn't "terrified - I wouldn't be here doing this if I was", he added that he felt the city and county councils had taken a "sensible approach in treating people like adults" by

advising them to stop socialising before government intervention.

But with most cases in the city still among 18- to 22-year-olds, many of whom are students at Nottingham's two universities, some people believe curbing virus rates will not be a simple process.

Emma Graves, 20, a second-year textile student at Nottingham Trent out for coffee with three of her housemates, said her circle were being sensible, but added she was "lucky enough to live with eight people I like".

"If I lived with people I hated I might have been tempted to act differently," she said, empathising with fresher students living in student halls with relative strangers.

A 20-year-old student at the University of Nottingham, out for lunch in Hockley, went so far as to say he and his friends "wanted to catch the virus".

"It's a bit of a thing in our house. We kind of just want to get it so that we can stay inside for two weeks and just get it over with," he said, while his friend added: "It's just a cold."

At Foreman's, an independently run punk and rock bar on Forman Street, supervisor Jordan Spencer, 28, said this weekend was likely to be busy. "But our customers keep the lights on. They don't need to have the rules reiterated to them."



*This is the last time I'll be coming into the city. The pubs will be full this weekend'*

**Norma Harper**  
Pensioner

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/THE GUARDIAN

### Closures and curfews Do scientists think they work?

#### Are pubs and restaurants important in the spread of Covid-19?

Outbreaks often begin in crowded indoor settings, with transmission then occurring beyond that. That's according to studies cited by Dr Michael Head, a senior research fellow in global health at the University of Southampton.

Prof Linda Bauld, a public health expert at the University of Edinburgh, noted that data from Aberdeen, where a lockdown was imposed in August, showed that the outbreak was triggered by a small number of infectious people entering hospitality venues.

Head said: "The idea with restricting access to pubs or restaurants is that we can break the chain of transmission, reduce super-spreading events, and then that should have a decent impact in terms of lowering new outbreaks."

#### Why focus on alcohol?

In general, alcohol consumption has been shown to reduce inhibitions and increase risk-taking behaviours.

"It is difficult for people to do all the things they are supposed to do when they are [in those settings], and it is very difficult - despite the best efforts of staff - to really police that effectively," said Bauld.

#### What about the 10pm curfew?

This seems more questionable, experts say. "I remain baffled about that to this day, as to why shifting closing hours just one hour forward would have any tangible effect," said Head. "I suppose the idea was that it would reduce the length of time people are in the pub."

It seems there is little evidence base for the curfew. "I've seen no studies that say that is the time that you should cut [serving alcohol] off at," said Bauld. "If you look at what the academics have been saying about the curfew, I haven't really identified anybody in public health who thought it was a great idea."

It could be counterproductive, with people potentially going to the pub earlier, congregating after closing time, or buying alcohol for

gatherings at home, Head said. "I think the actual impact from [the 10pm curfew] would have been at best inconsequential and at worst have had negative consequences."

#### Should pubs, bars and restaurants be shut when cases are high?

"In my view, pubs and restaurants should be shut in high-burden areas and the restaurant-owners and staff fully compensated for loss of income," said Head, noting emerging evidence that Covid-19 transmission is not just down to large droplets from coughing or speaking, but that tiny airborne particles called aerosols could also play a role. "Although reducing alcohol being served and making sure people stay at their own tables is useful, it doesn't eliminate risk altogether and significant risks of transmission still remain," he said.

There are also the super-spreaders, Bauld pointed out. "If you have got one of those people in that kind of venue it is a disaster," she said. Nicola Davis



# Northern hospitals prepare to cancel routine operations as Covid-19 cases fill all beds

Continued from page 1

in which all beds equipped to treat such patients have filled up.

Matt Ashton, Liverpool's director of public health, told the Guardian that the city's two main acute hospital trusts have so many new Covid patients every day that they may reach their maximum capacity next week.

"I don't want to panic people but within seven to 10 days our hospitals will be at the level they were at the peak of the pandemic."

In a meeting yesterday chaired by England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, MPs from the north and Midlands were warned that within 22 days some hospitals there could see even more Covid patients in intensive-care units (ICU) than in the spring peak.

"If the north-west capacity is likely to be reached in 22 days," Ashton said, "Liverpool will get there first."

The number of Covid patients being treated by the Royal Liverpool and

Broadgreen trust and Aintree university hospital has doubled to 200 in the last week. The two trusts jointly have about 400 beds suitable for such cases. The fact that hospitalisations are doubling every week means they could reach their limits very soon, especially as Liverpool now has one of England's highest infection rates, added Ashton. "It's doubled in a week in effect from roughly 100 to roughly 200. That's hugely worrying," said Ashton, who added: "This is the point where the NHS will start to struggle in doing its normal routine business."

Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers, which represents trusts, agreed the rapid rise in hospitalisations in the north meant some hospitals may soon reach their limit.

"Trust leaders in the north-west, Yorkshire and north-east are telling us they are extremely concerned about the rapidly rising levels of Covid-related hospital admissions. For a few trusts, admission levels are now at

their highest since Covid-19 arrived in the UK," he told the Guardian.

"There is a danger they could reach capacity within as little as a week or two. They would then have to look for support from neighbouring trusts."

Matt Hancock, the health secretary, underlined the government's deep unease about the situation when talking virtually at an NHS Providers conference yesterday.

"We're at a perilous moment in the course of this pandemic. I'm very worried about the growth in the number of cases, especially in the northwest and north-east of England, parts of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, [and] parts of Yorkshire," he said.

The number of Covid patients in hospitals in the north-east and north Cumbria has jumped five-fold in three weeks from 60 in mid-September to 300 now. Similarly, from having no new Covid patients being admitted in ICU last month, they now have 50.

Hospital sources in the north-east

## The Nightingales What happened to them?

Seven Nightingale hospitals, built to help the NHS in England cope with Covid-19, remain on standby.

They include one at the ExCeL centre in east London that can provide up to 500 intensive care beds. It has treated a small number of patients, all of whom have left.

In Bristol, plans were discussed for the Nightingale there to provide additional capacity for the city's eye hospital, it was reported this week.

In Harrogate, local councillors called for the Nightingale facility to be used to take pressure off the NHS in other ways, such as providing a flu vaccination centre.

A Nightingale hospital in Birmingham is being readied to take patients at 48 hours' notice, according to a hospital chief executive in the city. And the Nightingale in Exeter is being used for a Covid-19 vaccine study.

The Nightingale hospital in Washington, Sunderland, which has not been used, will be available as long as necessary, authorities say.

The mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, said the Nightingale there could work as a "backup plan" quite quickly in the event of Covid admissions worsening, if staffing levels were increased. Ben Quinn

▲ Medical staff care for a patient with Covid-19 at the Royal Papworth hospital, Cambridge, in May

PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL HALL/AP

say the speed of these recent increases means that, even though they can deal with as many as 1,000 Covid patients, they may be forced to start cancelling planned surgery again within days.

The move is being considered as a way of freeing up beds and staff for Covid patients, in a repeat of the action all trusts took during March and April.

One hospital boss said: "We aren't too far away from having to postpone elective operations. I suspect we'll have to do that in the next week, or even sooner." Some of those affected could be patients who have already been waiting months for surgery, since hospitals across England postponed operations such as joint replacements and cataract removals in the first wave.

Prof Chris Gray, of the north-east and north Cumbria integrated-care system, said: "Our hospitals are now starting to feel the impact of the significant rise in cases across our local communities. We are well prepared for this and the current numbers are well below what we experienced at the height of wave one. The big challenge for the NHS now is how we manage the continued uncertainties of Covid-19 as we head into the pressures of winter."

Additional reporting Pamela Duncan and Haroon Siddique

# Virulent virus

## Covid deaths 3.4 times higher than for flu and pneumonia

Nicola Davis  
Pamela Duncan

More people died of Covid-19 in the year to August than those who have died annually from flu and pneumonia combined in any year since 2000.

Despite the fact the virus is only thought to have been in general circulation since March, Covid-19 has so far caused the deaths of 3.4 times as many people in 2020 as flu and pneumonia combined, according to data released for England and Wales by the Office of National Statistics.

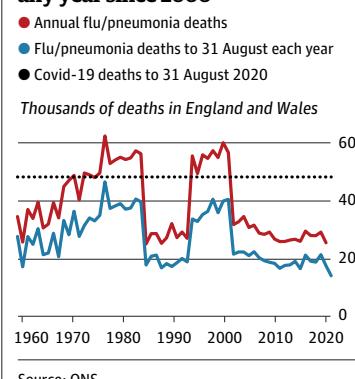
Flu and pneumonia are counted together because, as the ONS notes, "many cases of pneumonia are in fact caused by influenza".

The ONS team found that influenza and pneumonia were mentioned on more death certificates than Covid, but when they looked at the conditions recorded as the cause of death, coronavirus was more common.

Although flu and pneumonia deaths have been relatively low this year, the report found more people had died of Covid-19 in the first eight months of this year than have died of flu or pneumonia in the same period since comparable records began in 1959.

In the year to 31 August 2020 there were 52,327 deaths in England and Wales involving Covid-19 of which 48,168 (92%) had coronavirus as the underlying cause. In the year to date, one-in-eight deaths (12.4%) in the period to August 2020 were caused by Covid-19. By comparison 3.5% of

**More people have died of Covid this year than from flu or pneumonia in any year since 2000**



Source: ONS

deaths in the same period were caused by pneumonia and 0.1% by flu.

Prof Andrew Hayward, director of the UCL Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care, said: "In the period January to August, Covid caused around three times as many deaths as we usually see from influenza and pneumonia. This is despite the fact that Covid was not in widespread circulation until March."

Prof Rowland Kao, an epidemiologist at the University of Edinburgh said the ONS data did not reveal whether the higher death toll was down to a

### 12.4%

*Deaths in England and Wales in the year to 31 August caused by Covid; 0.1% deaths were due to flu*

greater number of infections or Covid-19 being more deadly than flu and pneumonia.

"The substantially greater number of deaths attributed to Covid-19 does tell us that at the moment, Covid-19 is a greater risk to people than influenza."

Hayward said other data sheds light on the matter. "You cannot necessarily [see] it from these data, because it does not show the number of infections, but Covid-19 has a much higher case fatality rate than influenza."

Kao said part of the reason Covid-19 had caused relatively more deaths may be down to there being a flu vaccine, not yet available for the new coronavirus.

The number of Covid-19 deaths in the eight months to 31 August is higher than the annual total of flu and pneumonia deaths in any year since 2000, the year in which a widespread flu vaccination was introduced in the UK.

The ONS report showed that, of the deaths caused by the new coronavirus in the year to date, 30% occurred in care homes, almost twice the proportion of care home deaths caused by flu and pneumonia (15.2%). Sarah Caul, head of mortality analysis with the ONS, said: "The mortality rate for Covid-19 is significantly higher than influenza and pneumonia rates for both 2020 and the five-year average." The report does not yet cover September to December 2020 - a time of year when cases of flu typically rise.

The influence of these few months on the overall picture remains to be seen, but Hayward said the measures taken to control the coronavirus would also reduce the transmission of flu, meaning fewer deaths of the latter than over a "normal" winter.

"It is to be expected that Covid will continue to cause considerably more deaths than influenza and pneumonia," he said.

medical outcomes, the second wave will grow more slowly than the first, with more cases but lower mortality," the authors said.

The paper was based on a reanalysis of modelling by Imperial College, which has been widely cited to justify the strict lockdown introduced in March. The modelling predicted that if nothing were done half a million people in the UK would die from Covid-19.

Prof Ken Rice and colleagues at Edinburgh carried out their reanalysis after noticing a table in the original Imperial College report that suggested closing schools would reduce the R (reproduction) number of the disease, but increase the total deaths. Their first thought was that this must be a mistake. But when they combined Imperial's epidemiological modelling with real-world data collected since March, they found the predictions were accurate.

"The basic explanation ... is that an intervention that substantially suppresses the first wave leads to a stronger second wave once the interventions are lifted," said Prof Graeme Ackland, one of the authors. He suggested this prediction might have been ignored because of the political risks of failing to suppress the pandemic in the short term to save more lives in the long term.

## Herd immunity Edinburgh study is not all that it seems

Linda Geddes  
Science correspondent

While it has been widely accepted that the closure of schools in March was bad for the life chances of children, a research paper from the University of Edinburgh has said it may also have contributed to a higher Covid-19 death toll.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal, suggested lockdown restrictions were the most effective way of reducing peak demand for intensive care beds, but argued they were also likely to prolong the epidemic because, once lifted, they left a large population susceptible to the virus. Some commentators have seized on the study as evidence that the government was too quick to impose a full lockdown and should have allowed herd immunity to build up in the younger population. Its conclusions are consistent

with the strategy proposed by an international group of scientists this week - "focused protection" of the most vulnerable, with the rest of society returning to relative normality. But assumptions made by the study mean its conclusions would hold water only if all social distancing restrictions were lifted, resulting in a large second wave and others after that, and if an effective vaccine were not forthcoming.

"More realistically, if the case isolation, household quarantine, and social distancing of over-70s strategy is followed, alongside other non-pharmaceutical intervention measures such as non-mandatory social distancing and improved



▲ Closing schools during lockdown may have prolonged the pandemic

**Sketch**  
**John Crace**



*If Honest Bob Jenrick is No 10's mouthpiece, then you know they've lost the plot completely*

A common definition of insanity is repeating the same mistakes and expecting a different result. It also appears to be a guiding principle behind government policy that Boris Johnson is testing to destruction. Right now it's hard to think of anything the government is managing to do with even a basic level of competency. Other countries appear able to run an efficient test-and-trace system. The UK, not so much. Scarcely a day goes by without some cock-up at a private laboratory. This week it was revealed 16,000 positive results disappeared because of an out-of-date spreadsheet. And yesterday, it was announced that test and trace had recorded the worst proportion of contacts it has managed to trace.

For weeks if not months now, mayors and council leaders from cities in the north and the Midlands that are under local lockdown have been begging the government to consult them before taking further action in their communities. Yet on the very day it was revealed that the rate of infection had risen significantly in 19 of the 20 regions under tough restrictions, the government chose to brief the national media that further measures would be introduced next week without even bothering to tell the people in charge of running those areas. Nor giving them a whisper of what financial support, if any, would be on offer for those businesses affected.

Understandably almost every mayor and council leader, with the exception of Andy Street, the mayor of the West Midlands and close ally of Johnson, has gone

ballistic. While Street was using his Twitter account to extol the virtues of walking to school and its "Gateway Construction" scheme, the Manchester mayor, Andy Burnham was in near meltdown. He tweeted: "No discussion. No consultation. Millions of lives affected by Whitehall diktat. It is proving impossible to deal with this government." Burnham's sentiments were quickly echoed by the Liverpool mayor, Steve Rotheram,

Newcastle city council leader, Nick Forbes, Nottingham council leader, David Mellen, and the Labour MP and Sheffield mayor, Dan Jarvis.

The incompetence at work here seems almost wilfully self-destructive. Even a five-minute chat with local leaders could have been a win-win for Johnson. If it turned out that they came up with a more effective, better targeted plan, then the government would have got credit with its "red wall" supporters - for reaching out to their communities and for reducing the infection rates. And if after all the consultation, no one was able to come up with a better plan, then at least the government would have had someone to share the blame. The only possible conclusions are that the government has lost all grip on reality and/or it actually doesn't give a toss.

This possibility seemed all the more plausible given its decision to send out the housing secretary, Robert Jenrick, on the morning media round. Now, I know every cabinet minister has to take their turn and the talent is thinly spread, but with the man who broke lockdown rules to drive 300 miles to his third home to deliver medicines to his parents, you really are scraping the barrel. In some politicians, it's a necessary contrivance to play dumb when faced with a series of tricky questions. For Honest Bob it's the only way he rolls. Time and again he merely looked blank or went into shutdown. Probably the best place for him. And us.

# 'Killed by James Bond'

## Film lovers glum as the lights go off at Cineworld

Archie Bland

**E**scape to other worlds," the Cineworld website urges its customers, and even after the chain announced it was temporarily closing 127 sites across the UK, the company's cinemas continued to make good on that promise of alternative realities.

At the Stevenage multiplex, a trailer played for Death on the Nile, promising a 23 October release date that has in fact been shunted back to December.

A few minutes later, a booming voiceover man celebrated the chain's revival over footage of popcorn and plush red seats. "The interval is over," he announced. "Cineworld is back."

There were a few rueful laughs from behind the masks of the half-dozen ticketholders for Tenet scattered around the auditorium.

"Not for long it isn't," said Tara Smith, watching the Christopher Nolan extravaganza for the third time in lieu of anything else to do. Nobody even shushed her.

At Hackney Picturehouse, part of Cineworld's smaller "neighbourhood" sub-brand, they're giving the popcorn and ice-cream away.

The same outdated celebratory promo played before Bill & Ted Face the Music (audience: one), along with another, which sounded hopeful and, now, heartbreaking: "At last, the light can shine again," it said. "More than ever, great stories need a big screen."

But at the moment, audiences do not agree, or not enough of them, anyway, and so the blockbusters that

are Cineworld's bread and butter have taken flight, seeing the so-so performance of the expected box-office triumph Tenet and concluding that they are better off waiting.

Mulan, Black Widow, Kingsman and Wonder Woman 1984 all delayed their releases, or skipped the cinema altogether; then the new Bond film, No Time to Die, was pushed back to next year, and that was that.

The posters celebrating the November release date are still up. But every one of the company's 127 sites will be shut from today, with no word as to when they will open up again.

"Needless to say, for the UK [Bond] is the biggest movie of the year," said Mooky Greidinger, Cineworld's chief executive. "We were bleeding much bigger amounts when we are open than when we are closed - we are like a grocery shop with no food."

In Stevenage, one member of the team who said she was on a zero-hours contract shook her head as she rang up a Pepsi. "We have literally been killed by James Bond," she said.

There is more to the story than the treachery of Barbara Broccoli. Cineworld, which bought the US chain Regal in 2018 and inherited a large pile of debt, was already in a precarious position when the

coronavirus hit; it is now creaking under the weight of £6.6bn owed against a cash balance of £220m.

While Odeon and Vue have serious problems of their own, with Odeon moving a quarter of its venues to a weekend-only model, it would be wrong to presume that Cineworld's crisis automatically means the death of cinema.

Still, said Michael, a manager at a branch in the Midlands, reports that the chain was trying to sell useless pick'n'mix supplies to the staff made it feel that way. "And then to not tell us before we read it in the papers, that's not a good look," he said.

"Everyone here is miserable. We have no idea if we have jobs to come back to. I know this isn't true for everybody, but it's more than just another job for a lot of us. Cinema's mattered a lot to me. It's really sad to think of everyone watching Netflix at home instead."

In Stevenage, without a lot of options, Peter Slight and Carol Smith had come to see Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite! "We come near enough every week," said Slight. "We are going to miss it, definitely. This is one of the main things that we do for fun, and now it's being taken away again."

Still, he was not surprised. "You're sitting there like billy no mates sometimes. It's just horrible."

Katie Irons, arriving for her second viewing of the romantic drama After We Collided with her friend Bobby, was at a loss as to what she would do instead. "We're always here," she said. "When you're in there, things feels normal, it feels nice. This is the only thing we really do at the moment."

The sole audience member at the Bill & Ted movie in Hackney, Benita, said she had skipped work to catch a farewell film before the closure. "I'm trying not to cry," she said. "I've been a member for years."

She remembered coming to see the Martin Luther King biopic Selma with her family and friends. "There were maybe three white people at that showing," she said.

"It was one of the most profoundly touching moments. The way the emotion gets you, what you experience collectively at the cinema, it's overwhelming. And there's a whole generation of people, you wonder if they will ever know what it feels like to see something playing in a full house."

She wasn't expecting the same from seeing Bill & Ted on her own, even if Keanu Reeves was in it, but she felt honour-bound to pay her respects. "I've heard it's terrible," she said. "But I just love the cinema. It feels like a massive loss in my life."



## Box office There's life beyond the multiplexes, say thriving independents

Steven Morris

Multiplexes may be closing their doors or reducing their opening hours, but it is not all doom and gloom in the world of cinema. Box offices at many independent cinemas are reporting solid audience numbers, with some selling out screenings and others encouraging blockbuster fans to give arthouse films a try.

"There's no getting away from the fact that overall it's a difficult time," said Jason Wood, the creative director for film and culture at the Home cinema in Manchester. "We feel huge sympathy for people losing their jobs. But it's an exciting time for independent cinema. It's really important to recognise there is an industry beyond the mainstream blockbuster film culture."

While multiplex screenings for Tenet have sometimes been sparsely

attended, often films shown by Home are selling out. "We had a lot of love while we were closed during lockdown: people were sending donations and taking up memberships," Wood said.

One tactic has been to show films on the big screen, such as Kitty Green's The Assistant, that were streamed during lockdown. Some viewers saw the film online and wanted to see it on the big screen; others heard about it because it had done well on streaming. It has been a sellout at Home.

"But for me the really big success is the BFI restoration of La Haine," said Wood. "We've played it now for four weeks and it's sold out every single performance." Bong Joon-ho's Memories of Murder has also been hugely popular.

"Many of the successes have been foreign language, a number are directed by women, some directed by people of colour," Wood said.

Another venue welcoming back



▲ The Hackney Picturehouse in London, where only small audiences had watched the new Bill & Ted film this week PHOTOGRAPH: LINDA NYLIND/THE GUARDIAN



audiences in good numbers is Watershed in Bristol. "We hit our September target and our October advance sales are really brilliant," said its cinema curator, Mark Cosgrove.

Its big hits have included the British coming-of-age drama *Rocks*. "There is an overall crisis, but it's in the commercial blockbuster model. Some of the reporting is suggesting that cinema is dead because the Bond film has been moved back. There's a lot more film out there."

Meanwhile, capacity at the Queen's film theatre in Belfast, like elsewhere, has been reduced because of coronavirus. Joan Parsons, head of the theatre, said: "We are full for most screenings at the moment, and

▲ The Watershed cinema in Bristol. Unaffected by the cancellation of the Bond film, its sales have been strong

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WAUGH/ALAMY

have to turn people away. It is clear that there is an audience that want to attend cinemas, all of which have made significant investment in health and safety measures."

Not all independent cinemas are thriving, of course. WTW, a beloved family-run business that has cinemas in Newquay, Truro, St Austell and Wadebridge in Cornwall, issued an emotional plea this week for people to take a chance on the sort of arthouse film they might not normally see, or pop in for a takeaway coffee.

◀ Home in Manchester say its customers' loyalty has been crucial

PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL HART/ALAMY



Its director, Mark Williams, said: "There have been plenty of sleepless nights and many tears shed. It is not just cinemas that are affected.

"From sound and projection engineers to our local drinks and concessions suppliers, there are so many affected by the current huge challenges. We're determined this won't be the end."

While the cinemas of Aberystwyth, mid-Wales, defied a government ban at the start of the second world war and stayed open, Covid could force the Commodore, run by Mike Davies's family since the late 1950s, to shut temporarily.

A few good nights of James Bond can usually keep the cinema going for months, so the loss of 007, as well as the new Wonder Woman and Black Widow films, has been a bitter blow.

"We had Bill and Ted this week. We had almost single-figure audiences, which is a shame: it's not that bad a film. The studios and distributors are being shortsighted, to put it mildly.

"When they finally release their blockbusters, there might not be so many cinemas to play them in," Davies said.

Davies, his wife, Cindy, and son, Neil, are currently keeping the cinema going. "We're doing cleaning, maintenance, everything," said Davies. "We're hanging on. We won't give up."

## Expert views

### What is the future of the British cinema industry?

**Steven Gaydos**, executive vice-president of content, *Variety*  
We're at a tipping point. The pandemic has simply accelerated systemic issues in the cinema exhibition business. The room was already on fire; Covid just poured lighter fluid around the house.

Pre-coronavirus, the sector was squeezed by streaming, by tech and cultural change, and by changing demographic tastes. Mid-range films and dramas have been reduced to a small fraction of a studio's annual income. It's all about Marvel, Star Wars, Pixar, fantasy films and family animation.

Tenet and Bond are just the messengers being shot. It's not the studios' fault they don't want to release a movie when 80% of their audience won't leave the house.

**Kate Muir**, critic and co-leader of the Critics Mentorship Programme at the London film festival  
Simultaneous digital and cinema release is what's going to happen from now on. There's a hope that cinemas will continue to exist, but I just meet people all the time who are buying home projectors. The book-club-style communal screening has taken off, where lots of people sit at home and watch a film together, and tweet and talk to each other on Instagram afterwards.

I've just seen Steve McQueen's new film, *Mangrove*. It's on the BBC as a five-part series, it's on Amazon, and it's also in the film festival. That's what things should be. That is exactly the future right in front of us.

**Charles McDonald**, publicist

Emotionally I think cinemas can survive, but economically it's going to be very, very tight. What's galling is that before Covid, the UK box office was relatively healthy. Lots of the dangers that had been felt to be deadly - TV, video games - had been fought off. Many cinemas had recently been refurbished.

If *No Time to Die* moves again we really are into armageddon and everything will need a total rethink.

**Delphine Lievens**, senior box office analyst at Gower Street Analytics

The rest of this year is looking quite bleak. But it's worth looking at how cinemas have been coping so far as well. One of the big issues in the UK is that we don't have a great depth of local content. A lot of the territories where they are not struggling quite so much - Germany, Spain, Australia - they have productions that are taking up the space that would have been filled with Hollywood content.

I am cautiously optimistic that the industry can evolve from this. We can see that we need to be making more British films, for example; we can see that people will watch non-studio content if it's given strong enough marketing.

**Catherine Shoard**  
**Andrew Pulver**

## Mentors

### Only 150 to be in schools by end of year

**Sally Weale**

Education correspondent

Just 150 of the 1,000 academic mentors promised as part of the government's £1bn education catch up plans will be in schools in England by the end of the year, the Guardian has learned.

The remainder will be placed in two waves in January and February, in a programme due to end in July, prompting outrage from teaching unions who said the response was "completely inadequate".

The plan contained promises when it was announced in June, including a national tutoring programme offering one-to-one and small-group coaching by approved private providers.

Headteachers have warned, however, that the £650m extra funding, amounting to £80 per pupil and which will go direct to all state schools, will be wiped out by costs incurred as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Like the academic mentors, the private tuition strand of the £350m national tutoring programme offering subsidised tuition to disadvantaged children will not get fully under way until the new year.

Headteachers said rather than waiting for a new system to be implemented, all the money should have gone to schools for immediate use.

Russell Hobby, chief executive of Teach First, which is recruiting and placing mentors in schools, confirmed 150 would be in place in November after half-term. A further 400 would start later in January and the rest in February. "We are on track at the moment. I think it's probably not a bad thing that we wait to start this," said Hobby.

The advantage of the mentors is they are under the school's control and direction. They are supporting and building on what the school is doing. Teach First received 2,000 applications for the roles and 700 schools have expressed an interest. The government is paying the £19,000-a-year salary, though in reality many will work for only six months.

This week, Boris Johnson returned to his theme of one-to-one tuition during his speech to the virtual Conservative party conference. Mary Bousted, the joint general secretary of the National Education Union, described the 150 mentors as inadequate.

"It should have been obvious to the government that the most effective way of supporting children who have not been able to learn effectively at home during school closures was to give the money to schools".

Geoff Barton, the general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, added: "It was always likely that the government's decision to dedicate £350m to setting up from scratch a complex programme of tutors and mentors would be difficult to deliver in a timely manner, and so it is proving."

# Theresa May leads MP rebellion over new housing proposals

**Peter Walker**  
Political correspondent

The government faces a potentially serious rebellion over its plans to centralise and accelerate the house-building process in England after Theresa May led a string of senior Tory MPs in expressing opposition to the proposals in parliament.

May, speaking in a Commons back-bench debate organised by another Conservative MP, Bob Seely, said that while she and others fully supported

the need for more homes to be built, ministers must "think again on this".

The former prime minister said the plans would remove local decision-making, build over rural areas, and not deliver the affordable homes needed.

"We do need to build more homes, but we won't do that by forcing local authorities to grant more planning permissions to developers so that they can build more homes to bring the price down – because developers simply won't do it," she said.

The changes, set out in a white paper in August, would remove councils

from many routine decisions and use an algorithm to set housing targets.

Analysis of the algorithm has alarmed many Tory MPs and councillors after it suggested that many of the homes would be built in Conservative heartlands such as Kent and Surrey.

The motion by Seely, which has no force on the government, requests that the system is not introduced without a debate and a vote in the Commons.

Seely, the Isle of Wight MP, said the algorithm risked ensuring that with new homes, "the biggest housing increases will be to rural shires and

suburbs, and the biggest falls are in the urban north and Midlands".

Virtually every Tory MP who spoke criticised the plans, with Jeremy Hunt saying they risked "eroding local democracy".

Boris Johnson's spokesman said no action would mean people being less able to buy a home. He said: "That's why we must reform the planning system to cut red tape and make the system faster, while ensuring that councils and local people can decide where developments should and shouldn't go."

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## Call for GCSEs to be replaced and longer school days

**Richard Adams**  
Education editor

The disruption caused by the coronavirus allows for a "radical" rethink of England's school system, according to a group of Conservative MPs who advocate scrapping GCSEs, longer school days and delaying the start of formal education.

The paper from the One Nation caucus of centrist Conservative MPs is the latest assault on GCSEs, arguing that England is unusual in making teenagers sit two sets of high-stakes exams within the space of three years, and is partly responsible for high levels of stress and unhappiness among pupils.

Flick Drummond, the MP for Meon Valley and one of the authors of the report, said: "It seemed to us that the Covid outbreak was a good opportunity to take another look at the education system and see what we could do differently, and do something radical."

Drummond said that sitting GCSEs at the age of 16 no longer made sense. "Now that children stay at school until the age of 18, why on earth should they take these exams at 16?"

The paper argues that preparation for GCSE exams means that pupils miss a large chunk of valuable learning because of the time taken up with mock exams and revision, followed by the exams themselves. "That's

**'Now that children stay at school until the age of 18, why on earth should they take these exams at 16?'**

**Flick Drummond**  
Conservative MP

almost six months out of a whole year spent preparing for exams," said Drummond.

She said she was particularly concerned by the impact of exams on mental health, citing a report backed by the Children's Society in August that ranked England 36th out of 45 countries in Europe and North America for wellbeing.

Instead, the report argues that the exam should be replaced by a baccalaureate, which would cover several years' study, and would allow children more time from the age of 15 to settle on the subjects they wanted to study in the sixth form for A-levels or vocational qualifications such as T-levels and apprenticeships, and to explore potential careers in a structured way.

GCSEs have also come under attack from a coalition of state and independent school leaders. They are launching a group called Rethinking Assessments to campaign for alternatives in the wake of the algorithm debacle that severely affected the results process this summer.

The One Nation group is said to be supported by around 100 Conservative MPs, more than a third of the parliamentary party, and chaired by the former minister Damien Green.

Drummond said she wanted to bring the issues in the paper to the attention of her colleagues in government: "I'm hoping that will be taken seriously and discussed, particularly in the light of Covid, we've got an opportunity to look at other countries and ask if what we are doing is working for us and for young people."

Drummond also says that the school timetable should be revisited to bring it into line with modern life, including a change to the way holidays are distributed through the year, and lengthening the school day to 5pm to allow children to undertake more extracurricular activities or receive further support.

"It could mean disadvantaged children could get more of the same enrichment opportunities as those from better-off homes. Often schools finish at 3pm or 3.30pm and then what can they do?" Drummond said.

The report's other recommendations include a delay in the age of compulsory schooling, to the age six, which is more in line with other European countries.

In the paper's section on early years' education, Cherilyn Mackrory, the MP for Truro and Falmouth, argues that there should be targeted help for families with young children. The paper also says that because many children are not "school-ready" at the age of four, when reception classes open, delaying the start of formal schooling to the age of six "would be more appropriate".

# Police officers face inquiry over handcuffing of black athletes

**Vikram Dodd**  
Police and crime correspondent

Five police officers are under disciplinary investigation after they stopped and handcuffed the British athlete Bianca Williams and her partner, the police watchdog has announced.

The investigation covers claims that officers breached police standards of professional behaviour relating to use of force, duties and responsibilities, authority, respect and courtesy.

The investigation into misconduct allegations will also examine whether the couple “were treated less favourably due to their race”, the Independent Office for Police Conduct announced.

Williams and her partner, Ricardo dos Santos, a Portuguese sprinter, were stopped by officers from the Metropolitan police on 4 July as they drove to their home in their Mercedes.

The couple were handcuffed while their baby son was in the car in an incident that generated controversy over police conduct and allegations of racial profiling, which the Met denies.

The IOPC said the five officers were under investigation for misconduct. It stressed this did not mean disciplinary charges would follow.

The police watchdog said officers faced allegations over their treatment of Dos Santos. “Potential breaches, which will all be thoroughly investigated, include: the manner of some of the officers’ initial approach to Mr Dos Santos; handcuffing Mr Dos Santos, and his continued detention and whether there were grounds to do so.”

In regard to Williams, the police watchdog said: “The potential breaches, include taking hold of her without first having sought her cooperation with the search; handcuffing her initially and continuing



▲ Athletes Ricardo dos Santos and Bianca Williams with their baby

to handcuff her after she had been searched; her continued detention and whether there were grounds to do so.”

Following news of the investigation, Dos Santos told the PA news agency: “We were given no notice by the IOPC that a decision had been made and that they would be making this public today. We have not had any direct contact from the IOPC or any information to understand why they

are only considering misconduct. We will respond to this tomorrow.”

The IOPC regional director, Sal Naseem, said: “Having analysed a range of evidence we now have a fuller picture of the officers’ interactions with the couple and their child.

“As a result, we have taken the decision that this meets the threshold for a misconduct investigation.”

The Met said: “The serving of notices does not necessarily mean misconduct proceedings will follow. The officers involved are from the territorial support group. No officer is suspended.”

The IOPC also said it would be looking at why the Mercedes was followed and whether the force used was lawful, necessary, reasonable and proportionate. It would also examine “whether there were legitimate grounds for a Merlin report to be created for their baby who was in the back of the car”.

Merlin is a database run by the Met that stores information on children who have become known to the police for any reason.

The Met commissioner, Cressida Dick, has said the force apologised to Williams for “the distress it has clearly caused her”. Williams, 26, believed the stop happened because of her race.

## Designer Stella McCartney launches green manifesto

**Hannah Marriott**

Stella McCartney has launched a sustainability manifesto in collaboration with artists including Jeff Koons, Ed Ruscha and Cindy Sherman.

Peter Blake, Olafur Eliasson, Alex Israel, Sam Taylor-Johnson, Joana Vasconcelos, Chantal Joffe and Rashid Johnson also took part in the project, which takes the form of an A-Z and seeks, in part, to drill down on the meaning of certain terms - from A for accountable to Z for zero waste - in an age of mass greenwashing.

The A-Z is an attempt to represent the pillars of Stella McCartney’s business, which will inform all of the company’s future decisions, she said. McCartney presented her collection with the fashion industry in flux, with sales down 15.9% compared with pre-pandemic levels.

Speaking at a virtual press conference after her digital spring/summer 21 show, McCartney said: “We have always been conscious we had a deeper meaning than creativity alone - that we wanted to change the industry for the better. I barely even know what the word sustainable means any more,” she added, with confusion and greenwashing rife in the industry. For the fashion industry to be sustainable, she said, “it has to come from a place of honesty ... It can’t just be for marketing and because the youth of tomorrow will demand it.”

It came at the end of a socially distanced fashion month in which designers’ attempts to predict what the world will be wearing in six months ranged from celebratory party wear to eerie PPE-inspired visors.

McCartney’s take was upbeat. Models were filmed walking around the grounds of Houghton House in Norfolk, wearing flowing, hot pink dresses, huge hammered brass earrings and thick-soled flip flops made of 50% waste materials. There were Anne Boleyn-style necklines on jumpsuits and dresses and innovations including “stellawear”, a 99% zero waste shapewear underlayer which also serves as a swimming costume.

With social distancing now a design consideration, “everyone’s like, ‘don’t do eveningwear’,” said McCartney, “but for me I definitely think there has to be optimism, we’ve still got to get dressed up, we’ve got to come out of this not wearing sweatpants. And we will come out of this.”



▲ Stella McCartney: ‘There has to be optimism. We still have to dress up’



PHOTOGRAPH: WAYNE HAVENHAND/SWNS

## First-edition Harry Potter book could sell at auction for £50,000

**PA Media**

A rare Harry Potter first edition could sell for £50,000 when it is auctioned next week.

The book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone, was bought by an English man to help his children learn English growing up in Luxembourg.

It had been sitting on a bookshelf for 21 years when the owner decided to check and see if it was a rare copy.

About 500 first-edition copies were printed, 300 of which were sent to schools and libraries. This book is one

of the remaining 200, and the fourth to be found by Hansons Auctioneers’ book expert, Jim Spencer, in a year.

Although original estimates set the price at £20,000 to £30,000, the good condition could mean it fetches as much as £50,000 when it goes up for sale on 13 October.

The seller, who asked to remain anonymous, said: “A couple of months ago I decided to reread the Potter series. I knew there had been a few first editions sold recently and Hansons was featured on the BBC website so, just to be safe, I checked the criteria.

“I was very surprised and shocked to see that it did in fact tick all the

boxes, but still could not quite believe it until I checked with Jim Spencer.”

There are various ways to identify a Philosopher’s Stone first issue, published by Bloomsbury in 1997, including duplication of “I wand” on page 53. Most importantly, the issue number must read “10987654321”.

Spencer said: “True first issues are seriously scarce. This new copy deserves to do really well because it’s in astonishingly good condition. I would love to see it make £50,000.”

The money from the sale will be used by the vendor to pay off his daughter’s student loan and help her apply for a mortgage.

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# Anaesthetist had drunk wine before British woman's fatal caesarean, French court told

**Kim Willsher**

Pau

An alcoholic anaesthetist who botched an emergency caesarean operation that left a young British woman brain dead had started drinking after waking up on the morning of the procedure, a French court heard yesterday.

Helga Wauters, 51, is accused of pushing a breathing tube into 28-year-old Xynthia Hawke's oesophagus instead of her windpipe and failing to react even when the young woman turned blue, vomited, cried out in pain and went into cardiac arrest.

A colleague spoke of smelling alcohol on her breath and other medics said she seemed incapable of reacting even as alarms sounded when the tragedy unfolded in 2014.

Hawke's baby, a boy, was born healthy on 26 September 2014, but she was left in an irreversible coma and died four days later. The child is being brought up by his father, Yannick Balthazar, 39, who last saw Hawke lying on a trolley before the operation.

"Xynthia Hawke was described by her employer as a ray of sunshine. Her mother told us she was the daughter every mother wished to have. The 26 September 2014 should have been the most wonderful day of her life, but it

was the day she lost her life," Jean-Pierre Tresmontan, the police chief who investigated the tragedy, told the court. "Xynthia Hawke never knew the happiness of taking her child in her arms, never knew she had given birth to a beautiful boy, and never had the chance to say goodbye to her partner."

Tresmontan said a search of Wauters' home found 14 empty vodka bottles. A bottle filled with a mix of water and vodka was discovered in her car. The anaesthetist told investigators she needed to drink before work to "stop her hands trembling". Given blood and breath tests by police several days after the caesarean, Wauters was found to be several times over the drink-drive limit at 10am.

The court was told the anaesthetist was about to lose her job at the maternity clinic in Orthez, south-west France, because of concerns about her drinking. Wauters admitted "part of the responsibility" but blamed a faulty ventilator for Hawke's death. Experts later reported the machine was in perfect working order.

Wauters, a Belgian national, who was said to have been a brilliant medical student, admitted to police that she had a drinking problem and had spent several periods in rehab. Investigators found she had lost two previous jobs because of her alcoholism, but

**'The essential job of an anaesthetist is to keep patients alive. She is directly responsible and I want her to admit it'**

Iris Hawke  
Sister



▲ Xynthia Hawke's sister Iris, left, and mother, Clare, in the courtroom in Pau. Xynthia died at a French maternity clinic in 2014. PHOTOGRAPH: GAIZKA IROZ/AFP/GTETY



◀ Anaesthetist Helga Wauters at the start of her trial in Pau

PHOTOGRAPH: GAIZKA IROZ/AFP VIA GETTY

▶ Xynthia Hawke, whose son was born safely, but she never got to meet him or hold him

addiction]. I will regret this tragedy all my life. I carry the death of Xynthia Hawke with me every minute. I accept my responsibility, but I do not think I merit going to prison."

Hawke's parents, Clare and Fraser, from Somerset, and her older sister Iris, 36, listened as the investigator outlined in detail how the tragedy unfolded.

Hawke had wanted a natural birth, but after hours of labour, Wauters, the on-call anaesthetist at the maternity clinic, had been brought in to give her an epidural injection for the pain. Because the baby was large and overdue, doctors decided to carry out an emergency caesarean. Wauters, who had by then gone home and drunk wine with a neighbour, was recalled to administer a general anaesthetic.

Hawke regained consciousness after her child was born, but when she opened her eyes, she began crying out in pain. Within minutes, her oxygen level had fallen dangerously. When the heart monitor flatlined, setting off an alarm, one of the medics present called for help.

Witnesses said there was vomit in the breathing tube, suggesting it had been placed in the wrong passage.

Psychological reports on Wauters found she minimised her alcohol problem and "did not accept the facts". She told investigators she had been drinking that day but: "I was not drunk. I was in possession of all my faculties."

Hawke's sister Iris spoke of the family's devastation following her death, adding that "six years is too long, it is indecent and cruel to wait so long to come to court".

"Xynthia's death should never have happened. I miss her every day of my life," Iris said. "Xynthia's life was put in the hands of Helga Wauters, who made the decision to come to work drunk ... this decision killed my sister that night."

She said Wauters' decision to leave Belgium to work in France was a "self-centred, egotistical act [that] left us all with terrible consequences".

"The essential job of an anaesthetist is to keep their patients alive. She is directly responsible for the death of my sister and I want her admit it. I want her to spend the maximum time in prison for taking Xynthia's life and never be allowed to practise again."

She added: "I hope she one day combats her alcoholism and can one day apologise for what she has done."

The case continues.

# Beijing's new Arctic shortcut due to global heating is threat to Britain, says navy chief

**Dan Sabbagh**

China represents a strategic threat to Britain because Beijing's navy could reach the North Atlantic via the Arctic by a route opened up by global heating, the head of the Royal Navy has said.

Adm Tony Radakin, the First Sea Lord, said an "increasingly assertive" China had the capability to reach waters north of the UK by using the emerging northern sea route.

"Climate change is a concern for all of us, but it is opening up new maritime trade routes across the top of the world, halving the transit time between Europe and Asia. And we sit at the gateway to those routes," the navy chief said in a speech given from

the new £3.1bn Prince of Wales aircraft carrier in Portsmouth yesterday.

"But when China sails its growing navy into the Atlantic, which way will it come - the long route or the short?"

According to the navy, the once icebound northern sea route, which runs the length of Russia, has become passable to normal shipping during August, September and October without the need to use an icebreaker.

Experts say using the route is at least 10 to 12 sailing days faster than traditional routes via Singapore and the Suez canal, and its emergence has become a growing source of concern at senior levels of the navy. They fear that China will work with Russia to try to exploit it for trade and military purposes.

Britain's navy is increasingly being

drawn into maritime conflict with China. In 2018 the then defence secretary, Gavin Williamson, sent the HMS Albion to sail close to man-made islands in the South China Sea which are claimed by Beijing, though they are more than 200 miles (320km) away from its mainland.

China said the UK had undertaken "provocative actions" and aggressively asked the ship to move on.

Navy insiders argue that Britain has to face up to a long-term challenge from Beijing, which is becoming a military as well as economic superpower. This view is consistent with a growing belief in Washington that China and the US are increasingly locked into a low-level conflict.

The admiral's warning comes at a time when the navy is vying for

resources as part of the review of defence and foreign policy due to conclude in November, and with Anglo-Chinese relations at a low ebb after Beijing launched a national security crackdown in Hong Kong.

The navy has been repeatedly criticised for overspending, and last year it was directly criticised by Dominic

**'When China sails its growing navy to the Atlantic, will it come the long or short way?'**

**Adm Tony Radakin**  
First Sea Lord

Cummings, the prime minister's chief aide, for continuing to "squander billions of pounds" on two new aircraft carriers whose costs doubled to £6.2bn.

China now boasts the world's most powerful navy, with 350 ships and submarines, according to an annual review conducted by the Pentagon.

The Royal Navy ranks 28th in the world by number of ships, although it is one of only three navies to have a pair of aircraft carriers or more, along with China and the US.

Britain intends to sail the first of the carriers, the Queen Elizabeth, to the Indo-Pacific next spring but will not clarify the exact route. There is speculation that it may be sent to the South China Sea in conjunction with US and Australian warships to assert the right of freedom of navigation.

Chris Parry, a former rear admiral, said: "The northern sea route is a major component of China's belt and road initiative in its quest to dominate trade in and around Eurasia. The risk is that China, in cooperation with Russia, will seek to exclude others from the route by restrictive practices."

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## More than 97% of UK marine protected areas being dredged

**Karen McVeigh**

More than 97% of British marine protected areas, created to safeguard ocean habitats, are being dredged and bottom trawled, according to data shared with the Guardian.

Nearly a quarter of the UK's territorial waters are covered by MPAs, set up to protect vital ecosystems and

species, including harbour porpoises and dolphins. This network of parks is a symbol of the government's "world leading" target to protect 30% of ocean biodiversity by 2030.

However, analysis of fishing vessel tracking data from Global Fishing Watch (GFW), by Oceana, a conservation NGO, found that bottom trawling and dredging is happening in 71 out of 73 offshore MPAs around the UK.

The vessels, from the UK, other EU countries and Russia, spent an estimated 200,000 hours trawling or dredging across the seabed in offshore MPAs in 2019, according to GFW algorithms based on their AIS (automatic identification systems) data, Oceana said.

The findings follow reports by Greenpeace of an increasing number of foreign supertrawlers fishing

PHOTOGRAPH:  
NICK BULL/  
PICTUREEXCLUSIVE.  
COM



**Autumn arrives** A drone's eye view of Biss Wood in Wiltshire shows the changing colours of dogwood and field maple trees. The wood, near Trowbridge, has 389 species of fungi, from lilac bonnet to green elf cup, and this is the season to look for them.

in the same sites. The government has insisted that the EU's common fisheries policy restricts its ability to implement tougher protections in MPAs. Melissa Moore, head of policy at Oceana UK, said: "If the government really want to take back control of our waters, as they repeatedly claim, they should make a policy announcement today that they'll halt bottom-towed fishing gear by foreign and UK vessels in all marine protected areas..."

In response to Oceana's analysis, a Defra spokesperson said: "We are putting sustainable fishing and the protection of our seas at the heart of our future fishing strategy. We have already set up a 'blue belt' of protected waters nearly twice the size of England and the fisheries bill proposes new powers to better manage and control our marine protected areas."

# Lost stash of erotic art by Duncan Grant comes to light

**Mark Brown**  
Arts correspondent

An extraordinary stash of more than 400 erotic drawings by a key member of the Bloomsbury group that was thought to have been destroyed has re-emerged – having been secretly passed down over decades from friend to friend and lover to lover.

The drawings are by Duncan Grant, one of the most celebrated and successful British artists of the mid-20th century. As a gay man he lived most of his life as a criminal.

In the 1940s and 50s Grant made hundreds of drawings, many of them explicit and often influenced by Greco-Roman traditions as well as contemporary physique magazines.

On 2 May 1959, Grant gave his friend Edward Le Bas a folder marked “these drawings are very private”. The mythology in Bloomsbury circles is that the drawings were later destroyed, probably by Le Bas’s sister.

That was that until Nathaniel Hepburn, the director of Charleston, the beautiful Sussex farmhouse Grant and Vanessa Bell called home, was contacted with an offer of the drawings.

There had not been many joyous moments in 2020 for anyone running a cultural organisation, Hepburn said.



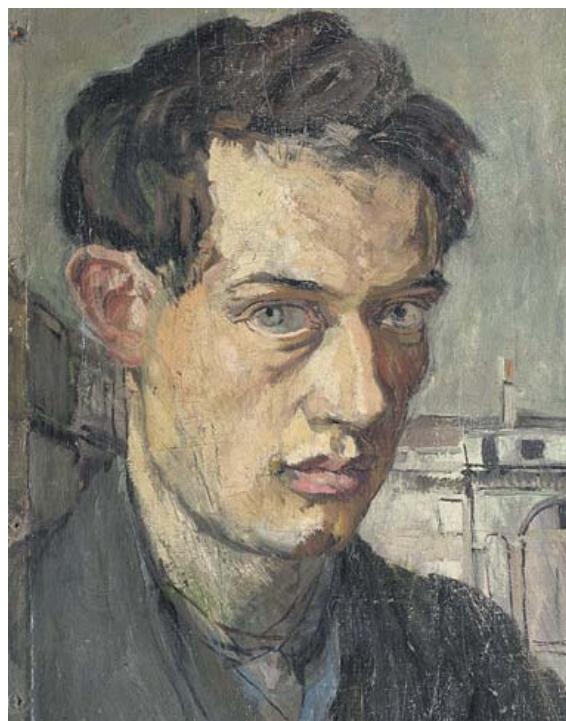
► One of more than 400 drawings by Duncan Grant, passed from friend to friend, lover to lover  
IMAGES: CHARLESTON TRUST/ESTATE OF DUNCAN GRANT



▲ It was widely believed that the drawings had been destroyed, until a retired theatre director, Norman Coates, offered them to Charleston

**'The skill of his drawing negates the sexiness of them'**

Norman Coates Last owner of the drawings



▲ A self-portrait of Duncan Grant. He lived in Charleston, the Sussex house to which the drawings have been donated

“But certainly getting that email, having that phone conversation and then seeing the drawings and realising how important they were going to be ... it was certainly a high point of the year.”

The offer came from the retired theatre designer Norman Coates, who for years stored the drawings in plastic folders under his bed.

Coates said the drawings were “extraordinary, so in your face. You can’t avoid them. When I’ve occasionally brought them out to show selected friends after dinner, after the initial ‘My God’ exclamation at these very explicit drawings, they mellow ... the sexual element really doesn’t dominate. It is the painting and the skill of his drawing and the aesthetic of it which negates the sexiness of them ... It is a very odd feeling. It just becomes a beautiful collection of pictures.”

Coates was left the drawings by his partner, Mattei Radev, who died in 2009. Radev, a Bloomsbury mainstay who as a younger man had a secret, tortured affair with the writer EM Forster, was left them by Eardley Knollys, who died in 1991.

Knollys ran the influential Storran gallery in London and had an affair with the writer and director Jean Cocteau. He was given them by Le Bas, a painter, who received them from Grant, a man who the economist John Maynard Keynes briefly thought might be the love of his life.

Hepburn said the works were often explicit fantasies but, as a whole, were something more. “They are, I think, a body of work that talks of love. Of course at the time they were made, that is a love that was illegal. He was never able to share the works. How we see them now will be very different.”

Coates could, of course, have sold the drawings and made a fortune. Hepburn hopes that the act of generosity might spur others to help Charleston, which like most historic houses is struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Next week it will launch a crowd-funding campaign to raise the remaining sum needed to reopen. The appeal will kick off on 16 October, the 104th anniversary of the date when Grant, his boyfriend David “Bunny” Garnett, and Bell moved to Charleston.

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## National

### Brexit

# Government plans 10 inland sites to relieve lorry congestion at ports

**Lisa O'Carroll**  
Brexit correspondent

The government has announced plans for up to 10 inland sites to cope with Brexit congestion and border checks, including in Birmingham, Warrington and a former airfield near Epping Forest in Essex.

The inland border sites are being acquired to relieve ports, among them Dover and Liverpool, and could be in place for up to two years, according to one council where the planning process for infrastructure has begun.

Among the proposed sites is a second facility for Ashford in Kent, next to the recently acquired "Mojo" lorry park, that will enable "about 2,000 HGVs" to queue on the coast-bound carriageway while other traffic continues to flow in both directions.

The details were disclosed in a long-awaited update on the government's border operating model and are part of the plan to avert congestion and queues of up to 7,000 trucks in Kent.

The document sets out rules for border controls for travelling with EU member state national ID cards, no longer acceptable from 2021, when passports will be mandatory for entry to the UK. It also confirms that hauliers will need a "Kent access permit" to get into the county if they are heading for a ferry in Dover or a Eurotunnel train in Folkestone, as part of congestion management.

The government says it will be

# 7,000

The number of lorries that a 'worst-case' report on post-Brexit chaos said could end up queueing in Kent

putting new infrastructure in place at Ebbsfleet international station in Kent, North Weald airfield in Essex and Warrington in the north-west.

Along with the second Ashford site - which would be used for processes around transit including "passport for goods" checks - two further sites are being considered primarily for the same processes in Thames Gateway and Birmingham. Other potential sites could be put in place by July next year in Holyhead, Fishguard/Pembroke and Dover.

Industry leaders including the Road Haulage Association, which Gove has accused of not being "constructive", welcomed the report.

The government had identified 29 areas last month for potential use for border infrastructure but has already stood some of these boroughs down. Medway council in Kent said it had been notified by the government that land in its area would not be needed.

Anglesey council has rejected an approach for a potential customs facility at an agricultural showground near Holyhead, the second busiest roll-on, roll-off ferry port in the country.

Essex county council said: "HMRC is proposing to use and operate North Weald airfield as a common transit convention (CTC) site. This is not a lorry park, but a customs facility which enables exporters to defer paying duties when importing goods into Europe. We expect HMRC to engage stakeholders, including local residents, shortly as part of its planning application under special development order legislation."

The 138-page document will be a must-read for all hauliers and businesses, and particularly the estimated 145,000 companies that have never traded outside the EU.



## Fisheries

### Debate nets unexpected red herring

**Daniel Boffey**  
Brussels

All is fair in love and cod war. And with the EU's coastal states under pressure to give way on UK demands for greater fishing catches in its waters post-Brexit, any argument is worth a try.

When the issue of the future access of European fishing fleets was being discussed by EU ambassadors in Brussels on Wednesday the Belgian government's representative, Willem van de Voorde, made a notable intervention.

To the confusion of some, and the delight of others, the ambassador cited

a treaty signed some 350 years ago by King Charles II that granted 50 fishermen from Bruges "eternal rights" to English fishing waters.

When the *Privilegie der Visscherie* was given in 1666, Bruges was part of the Southern Netherlands, controlled by Spain. The offer was Charles's way of showing gratitude for the hospitality he received when he stayed there after the decapitation of his father, Charles I, and his own restoration to the throne.

"I wasn't quite sure what he was on about, but I think he was joking," said



one diplomat who had listened to the Belgian intervention. "But then, you never know."

While it is unlikely that the Belgian claim has any standing, the tensions in Brussels over fishing access for European fleets from 1 January are real.

The UK has demanded a radical increase in fishing catches in its zone as it leaves the EU's common fisheries policy.

While some in Brussels recognise the need to satisfy this demand, one of the key arguments made for Brexit during the 2016 referendum, France in particular is insisting on the fishing status quo.

During the same meeting of ambassadors in Brussels, the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, pointed out that EU revenues from fishing in UK waters were around €650m compared with €150m for British fishermen in those waters.

"I think he was suggesting that there was an argument for a change in the balance," said an EU source. "It is going to be difficult, though. No sign of France changing its mind yet."

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## Baby stranded in India finally gets British passport after 239-day wait

**Diane Taylor**

A nine-month-old baby stranded abroad since birth has finally received a British passport, 239 days after his parents applied for it.

Richard Hamilton, from Britain,

and his Indian wife, Priya Jacob, have two children, Joy, aged three, and Jacob, nine months. The couple are humanitarian aid workers, with postings around the world. But delays and U-turns by the Home Office after Jacob's birth in India split the family between two continents and meant his mother could not take up a job tackling



▲ Nine-month-old Jacob Hamilton with his new British passport

coronavirus. A passport application for Joy was processed in weeks.

The delays were caused when passport officials kept changing their minds about holding an interview over Skype rather than face-to-face. After eight months in which there were 67 emails and 16 calls to the passport helpline, the process finally moved forward after the Guardian posed questions to the Home Office.

Hamilton and Priya Jacob were based in India when the application was made. Hamilton returned to the UK a few months ago to help look

after his mother who was sick and to organise the passport, with Priya Jacob remaining in India with the two children. Now the family have reunited in India and can move forward with obtaining visas to travel to Myanmar, where Priya Jacob has been offered a job as a regional project director.

Hamilton said: "We are so relieved this extraordinarily lengthy, often very intrusive, and unsympathetic process has finally come to an end. We now as a family very much look forward to moving on with our lives and continuing our humanitarian careers."

## Removing Grenfell panels 'will take until 2029' at current rate

**Robert Booth**  
Social affairs correspondent

Grenfell-style combustible cladding is being replaced so slowly that it could take until 2029 before all buildings are fixed, Labour has said.

According to government figures, 249 high-rise apartment blocks are yet to be made completely safe, and the majority of them are still wrapped in dangerous aluminium composite (ACM) panels.

Over the past six months, privately owned towers have been fixed at an average of 1.2 a month, and 88 blocks have still not started remediation, official figures show. Social housing blocks are being fixed at the rate of just over two a month, and there are nine where nothing has yet happened.

The public inquiry into the Grenfell tower fire found that ACM panels were the main cause of the 2017 disaster in which 72 people died.

The shadow housing minister, Thangam Debbonaire, said the rate of progress meant the government would miss its original targets for fixing the cladding crisis by almost a decade.

### £1.6bn

Funds to tackle cladding and other safety issues. The public accounts committee says £3.5bn is needed

The government said last month it expected all building owners to have works on site for the removal of unsafe ACM cladding by the end of this year, with completion of remedial works by the end of 2021. It has made £600m available for the removal of ACM panels, and a further £1bn to tackle other fire safety problems in high-rise blocks discovered since Grenfell.

In total, the government estimates that more than 2,000 high-rise buildings need attention because of various types of dangerous cladding, plus the discovery of previously hidden problems that could allow fire to spread.

"The government's lack of action over the last three years to tackle the building safety crisis has left thousands trapped in unsafe homes," Debbonaire told the housing secretary, Robert Jenrick, in a letter. "The only thing that will fix the issue is a long-term solution to the remediation of buildings. It is increasingly clear that the size and scope of the building safety fund is nowhere near sufficient to ensure that all tall buildings are made safe. The government must urgently bring forward a long-term solution for external wall remediation which protects leaseholders."

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said Labour's time scales were inaccurate and its priority was to make homes safer as quickly as possible.

"Work is already complete or under way in more than 70% of buildings with ACM cladding, rising to over 90% in social housing - we expect building owners to have work complete by the end of 2021," it said. "We're providing £1bn to speed up the removal of unsafe non-ACM cladding through our building safety fund and working to progress eligible applicants to the next stage - so the remediation process can begin without delay."

The public accounts committee has suggested the repair fund needs to be much larger, with up to £3.5bn likely to be needed. Meanwhile, leaseholders have been trapped in stalemates with developers and building owners over who should pay.



▲ A memorial at the foot of Grenfell tower, where 72 people lost their lives as a result of the fire in June 2017

PHOTOGRAPH: HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

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## Writer's view

### Controlled, yet exposed and urgent

Colm Tóibín



In Stanford in 2008, the Irish poet Eavan Boland told me how much she admired the work of Louise Glück. She took down some volumes of her poetry from the shelf in her office and gave them to me.

That night I read the opening lines of a poem:

I sleep so you will be alive,  
it is that simple.  
The dreams themselves are  
nothing.  
They are the sickness you  
control, nothing more.  
It was called *A Dream of  
Mourning*. I was amazed by its  
chiselled, hurt tone, the mixture of  
what was deeply private and oddly  
heightened and mythical.

In an essay about Emily Dickinson, Glück wrote: "It is hard to think of a body of work that so manages, without renouncing personal authority, to so invest in the single reader."

Of TS Eliot's poetry, Glück has observed: "And I suppose that, among sensitive readers, there must be many who do not share my taste for outcry." Writing about the poet George Oppen, Glück called him "a master of white space; of restraint, juxtaposition, nuance".

All of which could be said about her own work. Her poems are controlled and highly charged, restrained but also exposed, unafraid of and perhaps also terrified by outcry.

Glück has described "harnessing the power of the unfinished", to create a whole that does not lose the dynamic presence of what remains incomplete: "I dislike poems that feel too complete, the seal too tight; I dislike being herded into certainty."

The sounds in her poems emerge tentatively and then bravely, and sometimes fiercely, from within their rhythms. If there is one poem by her that gives us a sense of her great talent and the bravery of her voice, it is the opening poem in her book *The Wild Iris*, which begins:

At the end of my suffering  
there was a door.

I have heard her say that this image was with her for years before she found a place for it. It is difficult to think of another living poet whose voice contains so much electrifying undercurrent, whose rhythms are under such control, but whose work is also so exposed and urgent.

# American poet Louise Glück wins Nobel prize in literature

Alison Flood

The poet Louise Glück has become the first American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature in 27 years, lauded for "her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal".

Glück is the 16th woman to win the Nobel, and the first American woman since Toni Morrison took the prize in 1993. The singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was a surprise winner in 2016.

One of America's leading poets, the 77-year-old writer has won the Pulitzer prize and the National Book Award. She has tackled themes including childhood and family life, often reworking Greek and Roman myths.

Glück said yesterday: "It is a great honour. There are recipients I don't admire. But I think of the ones I do."

She said the winnings - 10m Swedish kronor (£870,000) - would help her buy a home in Vermont. "But mostly, I am concerned for the preservation of daily life, with people I love ... it is disruptive."

When asked where new readers should start, Glück said, "I would suggest they don't read my first book unless they want to feel contempt. But everything after that might be of interest. I like my recent work. Averno would be a place to start, or my last book *Faithful and Virtuous Night*."

The chair of the Nobel prize committee, Anders Olsson, hailed Glück's "candid and uncompromising" voice, which is "full of humour and biting wit". Her 12 collections of poetry, including the Pulitzer-winning *The Wild Iris*, and the "masterly" *Averno*, are "characterised by a striving for clarity", he added.

Olsson continued: "In her poems, the self listens for what is left of its dreams and delusions, and nobody can be harder than she in confronting the illusions of the self."

The news was welcomed by her fellow poets. Claudia Rankine said: "Something good had to happen! She is a tremendous poet, a great mentor, and a wonderful friend. I couldn't be happier. We are in a bleak moment in this country, and as we poets continue to imagine our way forward, Louise has spent a lifetime showing us how to make language both mean something and hold everything."

Kate Clancy said it was "great to have a woman poet win the Nobel", adding: "Louise Glück is a very quotable poet - you can look her up on Instagram ... [but] her poems are austere, difficult, very much alive. I've always admired her."

Born in New York City in 1943, Glück grew up on Long Island and attended Columbia University. She is an adjunct professor of English at Yale. In an interview with Poets and Writers magazine, she spoke about the balance between

life and work, arguing that "your work will come out of an authentic life".

She said: "When I was young I led the life I thought writers were supposed to lead, in which you repudiate the world, ostentatiously consecrating your energies to the task of making art.

"After two years of that, I came to the conclusion that I wasn't going to be a writer. So I took a teaching job in Vermont ... and the minute I had obligations, I started to write again."

Glück has often avoided the spotlight. When she was appointed as US poet laureate in 2003, she said she had "no concern with widening audience", and that she preferred her audience "small, intense, passionate".

At Carcanet, her UK publisher for more than two decades, its founder, Michael Schmidt, said staff were "completely surprised" at the news but also "astonished at the justice of the win".

**'She's not trying to persuade us of anything, but helping us to explore the world we're living in'**

Michael Schmidt  
Louise Glück's UK publisher

▲ Louise Glück was praised by the Nobel prize committee chair for her 'candid and uncompromising' voice

Glück was "in a sense, aesthetically, imaginatively, at odds with the age," Schmidt said. "She's not a cheerleader. She's in no way a voice for any cause - she is a human being engaged in the language and in the world. And I think there's this wonderful sense that she is not polemical, and maybe this is what's being celebrated. She's not a person trying to persuade us of anything, but helping us to explore the world we're living in."

The prize is awarded to the writer the academy deem has fulfilled the condition laid out in the words of Alfred Nobel's will: to "have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction".

After enduring almost three years of scandal, observers had predicted the academy would go for a safe choice this year.

The august and secretive voting body was rocked by allegations of sexual abuse and financial misconduct in 2017, culminating in the conviction of Jean-Claude Arnault, husband of academy member Katarina Frostenson, for rape in 2018. Frostenson left the academy after she was discovered to have leaked the names of previous winners, and a string of resignations followed, with the 2018 award postponed.

Announcing the 2018 and 2019 winners last year, Olsson promised the prize was moving away from being Eurocentric and male-oriented. It went on to choose two European writers, Olga Tokarczuk, a Pole, and Peter Handke, who is Austrian, a choice widely criticised over Handke's denial of Serb atrocities during the war in the former Yugoslavia.

# Eyewitness



## ▼ Cotswold airport, Gloucestershire

One of British Airways' last two Boeing 747s comes in to land after flying from Heathrow yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN SHEPHERD/LNP



## BA's last two 'Queens of the Skies' make their final flights

**Gwyn Topham**

Transport correspondent

The last two Boeing 747s operated by British Airways have made their final flight from London Heathrow, after the coronavirus meant the national carrier could no longer afford to fly its jumbo jets.

The distinctive, four-engine planes, the backbone of BA's longhaul fleet for almost 50 years, were loved by pilots, enthusiasts and many passengers, but their noise and fuel consumption will mean few airline accountants, let alone environmentalists, will be sorry to see them go.

BA's final pair of 747s took off one after the other from Heathrow yesterday at about 7.47am, one circling back around the airport for the benefit of spectators. Having completed more than 104m miles of flying between them, the duo's last trip was a short hop west. One flew to Cotswold airport in Gloucestershire and another to St Athan in south Wales, where they will be broken up for scrap.

Alex Cruz, BA's chief executive, said it was "an emotional milestone" to see the so-called Queen of the Skies depart for the last time in BA colours. "I know I speak for our customers and the many thousands of colleagues who have spent much of their careers alongside them when I say we will miss seeing them grace our skies."

BA had already decided to phase out its 31-strong fleet by 2024 as part of its carbon reduction commitments. When the pandemic hit, it took the decision to retire its 31-strong 747 fleet permanently.

The airline has scrapped the jumbos amid savage cost-cutting, including making more than 10,000 staff redundant and imposing wage reductions on remaining employees. Cruz warned last month that air travel had permanently changed, with BA now carrying less than 20% of its 2019 traffic.

Almost 1,000 Boeing 747s were in service worldwide in 1998, at the peak of their popularity, but new lighter, more fuel-efficient long-haul aircraft had started to supersede them.

Data from the analytics firm Cirium shows that most of the remaining 747s are cargo planes, with just under 300 in service. Of 157 jumbos still theoretically in use for passengers, only 35 are in service, and the rest are in storage.

*I know I speak for many when I say we will miss seeing them grace our skies'*

**Alex Cruz**  
BA's chief executive

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# Oxford tries to stop sewage spills with bid for bathing water status

**Sandra Laville**

Oxford has become the latest area to push for bathing-water status for an area of river in an attempt to stop Thames Water discharging raw sewage into it.

The city council has backed a motion to apply for a section of the Thames to become a bathing water area, akin to the status granted to coastal waters. The status drives up the standards of waterways. Currently no English river qualifies as bathing water, but the designation applies to more than 600 beaches and lakes.

The measure would mean the river would be subjected to strict tests based around public health requirements.

More than 4,000 people have signed a petition in support of bathing-water status for the Thames in Oxford.

Linda Smith, the cabinet member for leisure and parks on Oxford city



PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT FORD/GETTY

council, said it was currently legal for Thames Water to dump raw sewage into the river in heavy rainfall when treatment works were overwhelmed.

Smith said: "The Environment Agency has had its funding slashed

**170**

*The number of raw sewage spills in Oxford last year, according to data collated by End Sewage Pollution*

since 2010 and been forced to reduce its staff numbers, which has reduced its capacity to enforce regulations, so pollution incidents have increased while the number of prosecutions have fallen."

The council is calling on Thames Water to provide real-time data of where and when sewage works were overflowing so that residents know about the risks of swimming.

Guardian data shows water companies released raw sewage into rivers in England 204,000 times last year.

Last year, four treatment works in Oxford spilled raw sewage into the river more than 170 times, for the equivalent of 82 days, according to data collated by the End Sewage Pollution campaign from figures provided by the Guardian and Rivers Trust.

Claire Robertson, from the campaign, said: "It's a national and local scandal that raw sewage is regularly ending up in our rivers.

Last week the Environment Agency chair, Emma Howard Boyd, said the nation's approach to water needed to be transformed if the government's 25-year environment plan for clean and plentiful water was to be achieved.

She said the push for bathing-water status in rivers could mark a step-change. "Bathing-water designations in rivers would take time and

investment to achieve safely, but can be done if that's what people want," she said.

A spokesperson for Thames Water said it was investigating giving warnings before sewage discharges.

"We work hard to minimise storm discharges, while also looking at how we can improve the system for the future, including reducing groundwater infiltration and increasing capacity. We've also invested heavily in monitoring equipment to understand how frequently spills occur and help us plan improvements."

"We fully appreciate just how well loved these waterways are and why people want to use them for recreation; however, they should be mindful that sewage discharges aren't the only sources of pollutants. Animal faeces from livestock and wildlife, along with run-off from farms and roads, also contribute to the hazards."

A spokesperson for Defra said: "We welcome applications for bathing-water designations, including for bathing areas on rivers."

"England has high standards of water quality in its bathing waters, with 98.3% of bathing waters passing the minimum standard last year. Of these, 71.4% of bathing waters were classified as 'excellent' - the highest water quality standard."

## Barry Bennell sentenced to fifth jail term for child sexual abuse

**PA Media**

The former football coach and serial paedophile Barry Bennell has been jailed for an additional four years as he was sentenced over sexual abuse for a fifth and most likely final time.

The 66-year-old former Crewe Alexandra, Manchester City and Stoke City coach, also known as Richard Jones, was sentenced at Chester crown court yesterday after pleading guilty to three counts of buggery and six counts of indecent assault against two boys at an earlier hearing.

The offences happened between 1979 and 1988 when the victims were aged between 11 and 14. The court heard it would be the final prosecution against Bennell, who will not leave prison until he is at least in his 80s.

More than 100 victims are believed to have come forward to allege they were abused by the paedophile.

Former Manchester City youth player Gary Cliffe, who Bennell was convicted of abusing in 2018, said the justice system was "inept" at dealing with cases on that scale. He said he was "devastated" for those who had come forward with allegations which Bennell would not be charged with.

The Offside Trust, set up by survivors of child sexual abuse in sport, said it was "delighted that more survivors have seen justice done today" but criticised the decision to end prosecutions. "The decision not to bring the dozens

of other outstanding cases to court is a bitter blow to so many men and their families."

Det Insp Sarah Oliver said Cheshire police had investigated complaints from dozens of alleged victims. She said: "Anyone who has been a victim of child sexual abuse does deserve to have their day in court [and] justice, but because of the number of individuals Barry Bennell abused that has just not been possible. I hope that they can see this as a vicarious justice."

Bennell appeared via videolink from HMP Littlehey in Cambridgeshire, where he is serving a 30-year sentence after being convicted of 52 child sexual offences against 12 boys in 2018.

Judge Patrick Thompson told Bennell: "These were children whose parents trusted and respected you, when you were in fact a parent's worst nightmare. That, I'm afraid, is your legacy."

Bennell's total jail sentence is now 34 years with a further two years on licence.



▲ Barry Bennell's total sentence is 34 years with two more years on licence

**You were in fact a parent's worst nightmare. That, I'm afraid, is your legacy'**

**Patrick Thompson**  
Judge

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# World

## Trump claims families of fallen US soldiers may have given him Covid-19

**Martin Belam**  
**Amanda Holpuch** New York  
**David Smith** Washington

Donald Trump suggested yesterday that relatives of fallen soldiers could have given him coronavirus, as the timetable for the last two presidential debates was thrown into turmoil.

In a phone interview with Fox Business TV, Trump complained about coming into close contact with veterans' families, in a meeting held one day after a "super-spreader" event where Trump had nominated a new supreme court judge at the White House and many attendees later tested positive.

Of the military families event at the White House on Sunday 27 September, Trump said he "went through 35 people" whose family members had died, "and everyone had a different story", adding: "I can't back up and say, 'Give me room. I want room. Give me 12 feet. Stay 12 feet away when you talk.'"

He also said he would not agree to debating his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, in a virtual setting rather than in person on 15 October, when the commission in charge of presidential debates said it was moving the debate online because of coronavirus concerns relating to the president. The



▲ Trump's administration has not disclosed when he contracted Covid

White House has not disclosed when Trump contracted coronavirus, which he announced early last Friday.

When he first announced he had coronavirus a lot of speculation swirled around his close aide Hope Hicks, who had tested positive two days before Trump's announcement.

But it later emerged many other White House figures have tested positive in recent days and they had all attended the event on Saturday 26 September when they gathered closely in the Rose Garden at indoor receptions, mostly maskless, to witness the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett.

The press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, the former White House counsel Kellyanne Conway, Republican National Committee chair Ronna McDaniel, three Republican Senators

and others who were at the event now have coronavirus, and the source of the infections of them and the president has not been firmly established.

Meanwhile, Trump told Fox: "I'm back because I'm a perfect physical specimen."

Democrats in Congress yesterday announced a plan for a commission to review whether Trump is capable of carrying out his presidential duties or should be removed from office. Announcing the move, the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, mocked Trump's interview: She said "Specimen", maybe I can agree with that ...the disassociation from reality would be funny if it weren't so deadly."

The president has unleashed a barrage of erratic and self-contradictory tweets and declarations in recent days that have left staff scrambling and raised concerns over his stability.

Trump reacted angrily to Pelosi's plan, tweeting: "Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation. They don't call her Crazy for nothing!"

He also retweeted Republican allies, including the congressman Mark Green, who posted: "I wouldn't put it past @SpeakerPelosi to stage a coup."

Although the 25th amendment of the constitution enables Pelosi to create such a panel, the House of Representatives would not be able to remove him from office without the agreement of the vice-president and members of the cabinet.

Earlier yesterday, the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) had said the next presidential debate would be a virtual affair. In a statement the CPD said: "In order to protect the health and safety of all, the second presidential debate will take the form of a town meeting, in which the candidates would participate from separate remote locations."

Trump told Fox: "I heard the commission a little while ago changed the debate style. That's not acceptable to us. I'm not going to do a virtual debate. I'm not gonna waste my time ... that's not what debating is all about. You sit behind a computer and do it, debates? Ridiculous. And then they cut you off whenever they want."

An official statement from the Trump campaign said: "President Trump won the first debate despite a terrible and biased moderator in Chris Wallace, and everybody knows it. For the swamp creatures at the Presidential Debate Commission to now rush to Joe Biden's defence by unilaterally cancelling an in-person debate is pathetic. That's not what debates are about or how they're done."

### Questions over president's Covid 'cure'

New questions have emerged over the circumstances in which Donald Trump was given an experimental antibody drug cocktail produced by a golfing acquaintance to treat his coronavirus infection.

As Trump wrongly hailed his treatment - which included a drug called REGN-COV2 produced by Regeneron - as a "cure", it emerged that the company's chief executive, Leonard Schleifer, is a member of the Trump National golf club in Briarcliff Manor, New York, and had met the president in May to talk about drugs his company was developing.

Trump's relationship with Schleifer adds to questions over the president's almost exclusive access to experimental treatments unavailable to most Americans.

The price of Regeneron stocks soared after it was revealed the drug had been made available for his treatment and Trump stated it would be made freely available for all, though he didn't explain how. "I call that a cure," Trump said

in a video, adding that everyone should have access to the not-yet-approved drug and that he would make sure it was in hospitals as soon as possible.

Trump's comments were quickly criticised by doctors. "Frankly, he is an anecdote," said Dr Rob Davidson, who works in Michigan, on Twitter.

It also emerged yesterday that the drug was developed using human cells originally obtained from an elective abortion, a practice repeatedly denounced by the president and many of his supporters.

The stem cells used to develop the monoclonal antibody cocktail are known as HEK-293T cells, a line of cells used in laboratories. The cells were originally derived from an embryonic kidney after an elective abortion performed in the Netherlands in the 1970s.

Trump has already limited research using embryonic stem cells for ideological reasons.

**Peter Beaumont, Sarah Boseley and Jessica Glenza**



**A taste of normality**  
**Much calmer debate that still created some buzz**

**David Smith**  
Washington

**I**t was always going to be about the two faces of America. One: white, male, midwestern, evangelical Christian. The other: black, female, coastal, progressive. What wasn't so predictable about the face-to-face US vice-presidential debate was that

Mike Pence would show up with a bloodshot eye - never a good look during a pandemic - or that a fly would nestle in his white hair.

Equally striking was Kamala Harris's ability to weaponise facial expressions. The California senator's fusillade of raised eyebrows, pursed lips and withering stares at her opponent will live in Democrats' memory long after the words are forgotten (and probably be viewed by Republicans as sneering elitism).

It was also notable that both candidates did a better job than their bosses in last week's debate apocalypse.

Both were adept at sidestepping questions - such as whether they had discussed "the issue of presidential disability" with their septuagenarian running mates - in favour of talking points. At times, it almost felt like a brief holiday in political normality.

This may have been a sneak preview of the 2024 election. Harris was on her game and looked ready to take over from Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. Pence, the current vice-president, used attack lines on taxes, the Green New Deal

**Alarm in Europe**  
Many countries battle resurgent Covid-19  
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**'A threat from within'**  
Special report on the deadly factions in Iraq  
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▲ Kamala Harris and Mike Pence (with fly) in a more courteous debate than the Cleveland horror show

PHOTOGRAPHS: REUTERS; AFP/GETTY

and the supreme court that Trump had failed to land against Biden.

It was hardly a surprise that Pence reeked of white male privilege; it was less anticipated that the target was the moderator, Susan Page of USA Today, as much as Harris.

Showing no respect for her questions, rules or timekeeping, he just kept talking and often called her "Susan". Struggling to gain control, she pleaded: "I did not create the rules for tonight ... I'm here to enforce them."

So with that, Republicans may have lost more suburban women voters, if that is even possible. But

**The American people have witnessed the greatest failure of any presidential administration in history'**

Kamala Harris  
Democratic candidate



### I'm speaking'

Women on social media praised the way Kamala Harris dealt with Mike Pence's attempts to interrupt her during the debate.

As Pence tried to talk across her on Wednesday night, Harris said: "Mr vice-president, I'm speaking."

It was heralded by many as a great response to a man trying to talk over you. "I hope every little girl heard that" tweeted the Orange Is the New Black actor Uzo Aduba.

A snap CNN poll found that among women, 69% thought Harris had won the debate, compared with 30% who thought Pence had won. Men saw the battle as a much closer 48%-46% to Harris.

The former New York prosecutor Mimi Rocah said: "I am speaking' will and should be used by women everywhere when the daily mansplaining starts." Martin Belam

The pandemic has claimed more than 210,000 American lives and infected more than 7 million people. Harris pulled another of her scathing lawyerly expressions.

Pence, the head of the White House coronavirus taskforce, went on to offer a highly disingenuous defence that bore little relation to Harris's critique: "When you say what the American people have done over these last eight months hasn't worked, that's a great disservice to the sacrifices of the American people."

Pence also claimed that the Biden-Harris plan for dealing with Covid-19 looked awfully similar to what the Trump administration was already doing.

"It looks a bit like plagiarism, which is something Joe Biden knows a little bit about." This was a reference to Biden's failing to credit the British Labour leader Neil Kinnock in a speech 33 years ago. Harris shook her head, wryly.

Yet twice in the debate Pence used the line "You're entitled to your opinion but you're not entitled to your own facts", without crediting the man who coined it, the late

Democratic senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. "Good line," said Harris sarcastically.

It was a bold line of attack for a campaign and administration that has been caught telling thousands of lies and misleading claims. Would Harris take a Covid-19 vaccine if it became available? "If the public health professionals, if Dr Fauci, if the doctors tell us that we should take it, I'll be the first in line to take it," she said. "Absolutely. But if Donald Trump tells us that we should take it, I'm not taking it."

Pence demanded: "Senator, I just ask you, stop playing politics with people's lives. The reality is that we will have a vaccine, we believe, before the end of this year. And it will have the capacity to save countless American lives. And your continuous undermining of confidence in a vaccine is just unacceptable." Harris smiled and shook her head.

Later, she delivered a memorable warning about the Trump administration's concerted efforts to undo Barack Obama's signature healthcare law. "If you have a pre-existing condition - heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer - they're coming for you. If you love someone who has a pre-existing condition, they're coming for you. If you are under the age of 26 on your parents' coverage, they're coming for you."

It was perhaps the most quotable riff of a night that was more courteous than the horror show in Cleveland last week. When Trump interrupted like a jackhammer, Biden eventually snapped: "Will you shut up, man!" Harris had a more elegant rebuke prepared: "Mr Vice-President, I'm speaking."

Perhaps tellingly, Pence was denying the existence of systemic racism when the fly spent two minutes on his head.

The lie will soon be forgotten. The fly will not. It evoked comparisons with the end of Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho in which Norman Bates, channelling his mother, spots a fly and says: "Why, she wouldn't even harm a fly ..." At the end, Pence's wife, Karen, joined him on stage, and was not wearing a face mask. Pence reportedly calls her "mother".

## Far right Charges in alleged militia plot to kidnap governor

Amanda Holpuch and agencies

Six men have been charged with planning to kidnap the governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer - a Democrat - in a plot linked to a rightwing militia group, the FBI said.

Seven more people were charged with plotting to attack the state capitol building. The state attorney general, Dana Nessel, announced additional charges under Michigan's anti-terrorism law. Of the total, seven men, all in custody, are linked to the militia group Wolverine Watchmen. They are suspected of attempting to identify the homes of law enforcement officers to make "threats of violence intended to instigate a civil war".

The news sent shockwaves through a country facing one of the most contentious elections in its history, already marred by accusations of voter suppression, civil unrest linked to police brutality and protests by heavily armed rightwingers.

Whitmer told reporters she knew the job would be hard but she "never could have imagined anything like this". She thanked law enforcement and said she hoped the criminal charges would "lead to convictions, bringing these sick and depraved men to justice". Referencing last week's presidential debate, when Donald Trump told the far-right Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by", she said the president was "rallying" groups such as the ones that plotted her kidnap. "Hate groups heard the president's words not as a rebuke but as a rallying cry, as a call to action."

An FBI agent wrote in an affidavit: "Several [plotters] talked about murdering 'tyrants' or 'taking' a sitting governor." The six men charged with plotting against Whitmer were arrested on Wednesday night and each faces up to life in prison.

Whitmer has been the frequent target of protests by anti-lockdown groups against her efforts to control the spread of coronavirus. Her strategies once caused Trump to tweet "Liberate Michigan".



▲ Gretchen Whitmer has been opposed by anti-lockdown groups

# Infections hit record highs in several European countries

**Jon Henley**  
**Kate Connolly** Berlin  
**Sam Jones** Madrid

Several European countries have recorded their highest daily number of Covid-19 infections since widespread testing began, as European governments struggle to stem a rapid resurgence of the virus that risks overwhelming some healthcare systems.

The figures came as the World Health Organization reported a record one-day increase in global coronavirus cases, with the total rising by 338,779 in 24 hours. The previous record for new cases was 330,340 on 2 October. As a region, Europe is now reporting more cases than India, Brazil or the United States. Authorities across the continent are battling spiralling case numbers as contacts have multiplied since the end of strict national lockdowns in the spring and last month's return to schools and workplaces.

Germany's leading public health body, the Robert Koch Institute, said yesterday that the virus could start spreading uncontrollably after the number of new infections in the country leapt by almost half overnight to 4,000, a figure not seen since April. There are predictions that new cases could soon exceed 10,000 a day.

The health minister, Jens Spahn, who has won praise for his management of the pandemic so far - Germany has reported significantly fewer cases and a much lower death rate than most of the rest of Europe - said he was "very concerned", adding that the pandemic was a "character test for us as a society". The capital, Berlin, and



the financial hub of Frankfurt have already imposed a curfew on evening entertainment, and most of Germany's states have agreed that people who live in higher-risk areas should not be allowed to stay in hotels elsewhere.

Days after bars in Paris were closed for a fortnight, France announced tighter restrictions in four more cities after reporting a record 18,746 new infections. The proportion of test results that are positive has risen to 9.1%, from 4.5% a month ago.

The health minister, Olivier Véran, said Lille, Lyon, Grenoble and Saint-Étienne had joined Marseille and

**338,779**

*Increase in total number of global coronavirus cases over past day, a record rise according to WHO*

**700**

*Number of cases per 100,000 people in Madrid, against 300 in the rest of Spain - the highest rate in the EU*

Paris on "maximum alert" and must close gyms, sports centres and bars, although restaurants could remain open. Toulouse and Montpellier were "worrying" and could be subject to the same restrictions on Monday, he said.

The president, Emmanuel Macron, said: "In places where the virus is spreading too fast, especially among the elderly who are most at risk, and where there are more and more intensive-care beds being occupied, we must proceed to more restrictions." He added that the situation would not return to normal "for several months".

The Paris regional health agency said 40% of intensive care beds in the capital and surrounding areas were occupied by coronavirus patients, and it told hospitals to move to an emergency footing, mobilising extra doctors and postponing some operations. The health agency's chief, Aurélien Rousseau, said: "It means that we're going to have a huge wave of cases and we need to throw all our forces into the battle."

In Spain, the squabbles and mixed messaging that have dogged efforts to tackle the virus in and around Madrid

▼ Police officers check tourists by the Colosseum after mask-wearing was made mandatory outdoors in Rome

PHOTOGRAPH: ANGELO CARCONI/ANSA



continued yesterday. The capital and its surrounding area is battling a soaring infection rate of more than 700 cases per 100,000 people, against just 300 per 100,000 in the rest of Spain, which has the highest rate in the EU.

Less than a week after the central government imposed a partial lockdown on the capital and nine nearby towns, a court in Madrid struck down the temporary measures, which had been opposed by the regional government. Despite the verdict, however, the regional president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, urged people to stay in the capital over the busy bank holiday weekend and to follow all the health recommendations.

Austria also recorded its highest ever one-day total of infections yesterday, despite taking measures such as mandatory mask-wearing.

The health ministry said 1,209 new cases had been recorded within the previous 24 hours. The country managed to escape the worst of the pandemic earlier in the year with a strict nationwide lockdown, but numbers have continued to rise steadily in recent weeks.

## Women named on aborted foetuses' graves found in Rome cemetery

**Angela Giuffrida**  
*Rome*

A group of more than 100 Italian women have asked prosecutors to investigate who is behind the burial for nearly a decade of aborted foetuses in graves marked with the names of their mothers in a cemetery in Rome.

The practice came to light only last week after one of the women, whose curiosity was sparked after reading about the so-called "fields of angels" in local newspapers, discovered a plot with a wooden cross bearing her name and the date on which the foetus was buried at Prima Porta cemetery.

More than 100 women have since come together for a potential class action in a scandal that has also reignited the debate in Italy over the difficulties women have in obtaining safe abortions, despite the procedure being legal since 1978.

In Italy the foetuses of pregnancies terminated after three months in hospitals can be buried, but only with the mother's permission. Rome's San Camillo hospital, where the woman who first exposed the issue had an abortion, has denied responsibility.

The hospital said in a statement that the remains of foetuses were identified with the mother's name only for the purposes of drafting transport and burial permits. These details were then given to Ama, the public services firm that manages Rome's cemeteries.

Ama also denied responsibility, saying it carried out burials upon the instruction of the health authority.

Livia Turco, a former health minister, believes anti-abortion groups are behind the exposure of mothers' names on the graves. "The question of privacy is serious and we need to find out who's responsible," Turco said. "But it's obvious that this is the fruit of a campaign by Catholic groups that we perhaps underestimated."

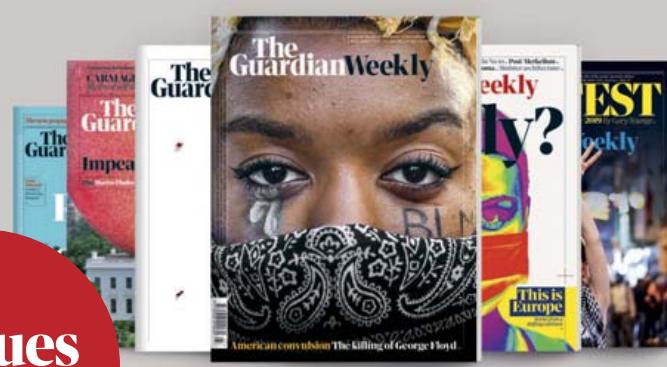
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# Azerbaijan accused of using banned cluster bombs in conflict region

**Peter Beaumont  
Michael Safi**

Azerbaijan has been accused of using banned cluster bombs in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, including munitions found in civilian areas, and has accused Armenia of using the same weapons, without providing evidence.

Media and human rights organisations have confirmed the use of Israel-made M095 cluster munitions, which scatter hundreds of bomblets, or submunitions, on residential areas of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's capital, which is being targeted by Azeri forces.

The use of the banned weapons was documented as fighting continued yesterday and international mediators prepared to try to reach a ceasefire agreement in Geneva.

Expectations for short-term peace are low and there are fears regional powers could be dragged into the conflict, with a Russian-led military alliance warning it could intervene in the conflict if Armenian sovereignty is threatened.

As the deadliest fighting over the region - ruled by ethnic Armenians but inside Azerbaijan's territory - since the 1990s entered its 15th day yesterday, Armenia accused Azerbaijan of bombing the historic Ghazanchetsots (Holy

Saviour) Cathedral. Baku denied its forces were behind the attack.

Rubble was strewn about the floor, pews were knocked over and the interior was covered in dust from the building's limestone walls that had been hit. A section of its roof had collapsed and fallen.

"There is no military, nothing strategic here, how can you target a church?" one resident, Simeon, said.

Cluster bombs are banned under the convention on cluster munitions (CCM), a treaty signed by more than 100 states, but neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan. The indiscriminate nature of the scattering of the bomblets, some of which can fail to explode on impact, can pose a threat to civilians long after conflicts have ended.

Officials from Azerbaijan deny their forces are using the weapons in Nagorno-Karabakh and have instead alleged that Armenian forces used them in an attack on a pipeline.

The use of the cluster munitions has so far been mostly documented in Stepanakert which has come under bombardment by the Azeris' arsenal.

After images of the bomblets appeared in the media and online, Amnesty International said its experts were able to trace where the weapons had been used in Stepanakert.

Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty's acting head of research for eastern Europe and central Asia, said: "Cluster bombs are inherently indiscriminate weapons, and their deployment in residential areas is absolutely appalling and unacceptable. As fighting continues to escalate, civilians must be protected, not deliberately targeted or recklessly endangered."

While neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan are signatories to the CCM, indiscriminate targeting of civilian areas is illegal under international humanitarian law.

The use of the weapons in the conflict was described as "deeply alarming" by the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). Cluster munitions were used in Nagorno-Karabakh in the last round of fighting in 2016 and both sides have said they cannot join the treaty until the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is resolved.

## In brief

### European Union

#### Backing for 60% cut in emissions by 2030

EU states are under pressure to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 against 1990 levels, and be carbon neutral by 2050, after a vote in the European parliament.

The climate vote, which sets the chamber's position as it goes into negotiations with the 27 member states and the European commission, won the backing of 392 MEPs, with 161 voting against and 142 abstaining. Pascal Canfin, the chair of the chamber's environment committee, who proposed the 2030 target, said: "Having the parliament supporting 60% helps progressive countries to drive ambition upwards." Daniel Boffey Brussels

### Colombia

#### Pandemic exacerbates threat to local activists

Colombian rights activists say the pandemic has not slowed attacks on them, as an Amnesty International report accuses the government of failing to protect their lives.

At least 223 activists defending human, environmental and land rights were murdered this year, the watchdog Indepaz said. "We are being massacred," said Daniely Estupiñán, of Buenaventura's Black Community's Process group.

Estupiñán, who has had many death threats, said Covid had added to the violence, with militias and drug gangs fighting for control while ruthlessly enforcing lockdowns.

Joe Parkin Daniels Bogotá

### Australia

#### Eskimo Pie ice-cream to get new name

The Australian ice-cream company Peters is to rename one of its signature brands, the 100 year-old Eskimo Pie, as the Polar Pie, because of colonial and derogatory connotations of the word "Eskimo".

In a statement, Peters said the company was "committed to being a part of the solution on racial equality and we acknowledge that now is the time for change".

The word "Eskimo" is a colonial term that has been used in Alaska to refer to Inuit and Yupik people. Lawrence Kaplan from the University of Alaska said the term was "now considered unacceptable by many or even most Alaska Natives". Michael McGowan Sydney



## Old idea of aid is dead, says Dhowre Elba, UN agriculture ambassador

**Tracy McVeigh**

Sabrina Dhowre Elba, the actor, Vogue cover model and ambassador for the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), has called for a rethink of how society views the notion of aid.

The Vancouver-born daughter of a Somali mother who raised five children on her own, Dhowre Elba says a new model of aid must better understand the abilities and resilience of recipients. "I want people to understand that the era of humanitarian aid is over," she said. "Aid is not the future. The old idea of aid is dead."

"People work harder in Africa than perhaps anywhere," she added. "Yet there's this misconception that is ingrained because of the way the continent has been presented."

"I remember as a kid seeing Unicef adverts, a picture of the face of a hungry African child, thinking how awful it must be there. That face needs to be changed. That face doesn't represent the billions of strong Africans, of strong women and girls whose voices aren't heard. They want real, sustainable investment."

Dhowre Elba and her husband, the British actor Idris Elba, who is also a UN ambassador, honeymooned in east Africa and have both fallen for the continent. "Idris and I always talk about retiring to Africa; we want to have kids in Africa, we're both Africans, and we both would love to live there," she said.

In December they went for "Idris's homecoming" to Sierra Leone, the birthplace of his late father. It was an "eye-opening visit", she said.

"I expected the attitude of people to be much worse than it was. Sierra Leone has been through so much, from the mudslides to Ebola, but the farmers were optimistic."

"I learned so much from talking to mothers, seeing that people saw realistic careers for themselves in rural communities - they don't all want to go to the city, they want to build livelihoods where they are."

By April, the couple were Ifad ambassadors. "You can have all these top-level causes but from my mother, I know about rural life and communities, and especially how women and girls play such a massive role."

"She was calling me every day saying: 'What are you going to do for women in Africa?' She attributes so much of what she has achieved to having come from a rural community."

Dhowre Elba said recovery from the pandemic meant thinking globally, in everyone's interest. "I can imagine everyone is worried about the state of their own country," she said, urging that no one should see money as being "diverted" to the developing world during the crisis. "It's practical to invest now, so we don't go backwards: we can't slip back to 1990s levels of global poverty; we can't have thousands of people displaced."

# The enemy within

## How a US assassination empowered militias and weakened the Iraqi state

**Ghaith  
Abdul-Ahad**  
*Baghdad*

Iraq's second city had barely fallen when the call came. It was June 2014 and Islamic State had just captured Mosul, the prize in a fight for control of a country already scarred by more than a decade of war.

Four days after the city's capture, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most revered Shia cleric, issued a fatwa urging Iraqis to volunteer in the fight against Isis. Tens of thousands of mostly young men from the poor Shia south and Baghdad suburbs flocked to recruiting centres and militia bases.

One such gathering was in a sprawling compound in eastern Baghdad, where a crowd of young men packed into a hall. Excited to volunteer for the fight, they came with shopping bags stuffed with clothes and little else. Many wore bright shorts, their mood as carefree as if they were going to a picnic.

Some wore green bandanas with the logo of the Kata'ib Hezbollah militia, set up in 2006 by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, a commander close to Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

The walls were lined with photos of militiamen who fell in Syria's civil war. Muhandis would go on to be the key leader of Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces), the Shia militia umbrella group known as the Hashed.

In January this year he died in the US drone strike that killed Iran's top



▲ An Iraqi holds portraits of Qasem Soleimani, right, and Muhandis

military commander, Gen Qassem Suleimani. By the time he died, the militias under his command, acting at the behest of Iran, were at the heart of the Iraqi establishment. In killing him, the US disrupted a fiendishly complicated set of power relations. It is in Iraq, and not in Iran, that many fear the impact of the strike will be felt in the long term.

"Previously, we chose only people who were committed to protecting the [Shia] sect and observed their religious commitments, who prayed and fasted, but now we are accepting anyone," said the militia chief's recruiting officer in 2014. A tall, broad-shouldered man with a thin beard and short-cropped hair, he walked among the rows of enthusiastic young men, jotting down names on a yellow notepad.

A few weeks earlier he had been leading a unit fighting Isis



▲ After Iraqi men volunteered in their thousands to fight Isis, it was militias led by Muhandis that organised them into a fighting force PHOTOGRAPH: KARIM KADIM/AP

in Aleppo, signalling the ever-shifting pace of Iraq's military and political landscape. "We fought the Americans, and we are fighting Daesh [Isis] in Syria," he said.

"Our experience will make them strong. We will give them the best training anyone can give here. Even army soldiers are joining us - they want to get rid of the corruption that caused the defeat of the army."

The young recruits were joined by veteran Shia fighters such as Abu Hashem, who fought against Saddam Hussein in the 1980s and 1990s under Muhandis's command. The day Mosul fell, Muhandis called his veteran fighters to meet him.

"To be honest, after the fall of Mosul we didn't go to war because of Sistani's fatwa," said Abu Hashem, a white-haired senior intelligence officer in the Hashed. Instead, he said, it was Muhandis who spurred the older fighters into action. "We met him in his house in the Green Zone and he told us that the Iraqi state had fallen," Abu Hashem said.

"There is no state," he recalled him saying. "I am the state now."

### Shia shrines

The extent of Muhandis's influence over the various bickering factions of the Hashed is clear from accounts of how he marshalled fighters in the counter-campaign to drive Isis out of Iraq and how he was able to draw on Tehran's resources to do so.

After Abu Hashem and his comrades arrived ready to take up arms in 2014, Muhandis ordered them to the Taji military base north of Baghdad to set up a new force. Their first task was to protect the Shia shrines in Samara and stop the advance of Isis militants to Baghdad.

"When we arrived at the base, we found complete chaos. Thousands of young volunteers had gathered there, and no one knew what to do with them," Abu Hashem said.

They were joined by demoralised and broken soldiers, whose units had collapsed, and who had abandoned their armour and guns in the retreat.

"Those of us who knew how to drive a tank took over abandoned army tanks and started forming new tank battalions and teaching the young volunteers. Others set up a radio and communications network. I had spent my life in intelligence, so I was assigned to run the security and the intelligence apparatus."

Many veteran fighters were in their 50s and 60s, but their younger



**[Muhandis] was negotiating these multiple factions that were unruly and difficult to control. He was like a conductor'**

**Abu Hashem**  
*Hashed al-Shaabi officer*

relatives joined them too. "Each one brought two or three sons. A lot of the young had come with their fathers or uncles," Abu Hashem said.

When Muhandis arrived, the organisation was there on the ground. According to Abu Hashem and other commanders, Iranian flights soon started delivering arms to a newly opened airport in Najaf.

"One of the ministers in the government at that time used to be head of logistics in the [Shia party and militia] Badr Corps. He sat on the floor in a white *dishdashah*, picked up phones and arranged for shipments of pickup trucks, munitions and weapons, then distributed them among the different factions."

With weapons, cars and men

came Iranian advisers. They dispersed across Iraq in a wide arc from Diyala in the east to the western border with Syria. Their voices could be heard on the military radio directing mortar fire in Falluja, installing thermal cameras in a besieged village west of Mosul and accompanying the advance of an Iraqi special forces brigade in Tikrit.

Abu Hashem said: "Without the Iranians we wouldn't be able to do anything. If the Iranian advisers weren't there, battalions wouldn't attack. Their presence gave the men confidence in the early days.

Suleimani had a halo around his head and he became the symbol everyone was devoted to. And [Muhandis] was negotiating with these multiple factions that were unruly and difficult to control. He was like a music conductor."

The Hashed was not one fighting force but a loose group of multiple militias. Some were well organised, battle-hardened and hierarchical; others were a few dozen men hired by a local warlord or tribal sheikh.

There were three categories of factions. First, there are the military wings of the parties that dominated Iraqi politics since 2003 and played a major role in the civil war. The remnants of Muqtada al-Sadr's

▼ Iraqis flock to a Baghdad recruiting centre after Mosul fell to Isis in 2014. Thousands of Shia men volunteered  
PHOTOGRAPH: GHAITH ABDUL-AHAD/GUARDIAN



Mahdi army, now renamed the Peace Battalion, is the most well known.

Next are the smaller, more radical groups, including Kata'ib Hezbollah and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq. They refer to themselves as "loyalist factions", follow Iranian leadership religiously and politically, and have fighters seasoned in Syria's civil war. Following the defeat of Isis in 2017, these factions sent aligned MPs to Iraq's parliament, and became in effect a militia with a political wing.

Lastly are the factions formed by clergy in the influential shrine cities of Kerbala and Najaf, or by tribes, who have no clear political agenda beyond preserving their interests.

Abu Hashem said: "When we formed the Hashed, we tried to replicate the experience of the Basij [Iran's religious volunteer militia], but we failed in one thing, and that is the multiplicity of factions. Some of the battalions have just a few dozen men but insist on fighting under their flag and refuse to accept the command of others."

Divisions within the Hashed over command, strategy and the division of its loot, as well as which religious authority its factions followed - Sistani in Iraq or Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei - had long been rife, but since Muhandis died,

pro-Sistani factions have become detached from the Hashed, which they see as more closely aligned with Iran's interests rather than Iraq's.

"When [Muhandis] wanted a certain faction to do something, during the fighting, he had to convince, urge, kiss them on the shoulders, and dangle many rewards before they did his biddings," said a member of the Hashed shura council of all the senior commanders.

"[Muhandis] had no faction of his own, and this was why he could run the Hashed and everyone listened to him," he said. "He had been in the Shia struggle for 30 years doing this."

Under his watch, the Hashed grew to a formidable force, playing a crucial role in defeating Isis. By late 2019 it could field tens of thousands of men, with artillery, tanks and an intelligence network, along with a sophisticated propaganda arm and extensive commercial interests.

"Muhandis turned a bunch of militiamen into an establishment, he created all these militias," said the Shura council member. "He is the cook. He institutionalised them and enrolled them in politics, appointed them ministers, made them wear suits, and helped them realise the potential of being a stakeholder in the state and think of their political

future after they were just a bunch of gunmen."

From a governance point of view, Muhandis's "cooking" had profound consequences for Iraq. "You have some military factions that receive their salaries from the Iraqi state but don't follow the military chain of command," said one Iraq analyst.

"They act according to their alliances with the Revolutionary Guards, serving the larger Iranian strategy in the region and their own commercial interests. They [are] a threat to the Iraqi state from within."

In the months before Muhandis's death, its fighters were on the back foot, denounced in mass rallies by protesters who were weary of their huge power in all echelons of Iraqi

***"The assassinations of Suleimani and Muhandis broke the rules of the game that allowed Iran and the US to exist together"***

Member of Hashed shura council



▲ Protesters in Baghdad this month, marking a year since big anti-government protests began over services and corruption PHOTOGRAPH: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP/GTET

life - and with it, the wealth militias had acquired, often corruptly.

But the US hit not only sparked a battle for control, it also revived the group with a new sense of purpose. The deaths of two of the region's most influential commanders enabled the Hashed to regain the initiative with displays of force: tens of thousands of men marched in demonstrations condemning the US attack, and a week-long funeral was held for Muhandis.

#### Kidnapping

More ominously, the pro-Iranian militias stepped up assassinations and kidnappings of activists, fired rockets at the US embassy in the Green Zone and at military camps, and targeted supply convoys with improvised bombs. So emboldened have they become that Iraqis speak of their country as two parallel states - one under a weak government, another ruled by the militias.

The killing of the commanders shifted the narrative, observers said, from "the people v a kleptocratic regime" to one in which, according to a friend of Muhandis, "everything was an American plot to weaken Iran and its allies, first by mass demonstrations, assassinations and eventually military confrontations".

Then in April a new prime minister, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, was named, ending a five-month stalemate after the resignation of the former prime minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi. An urbane former intelligence chief, Kadhimi is the first prime minister since 2005 not to belong to any of the Islamist parties.

He faces formidable challenges - an economy in tatters from the collapse in oil prices and endemic corruption to a failed healthcare system unable to deal with Covid-19, and continuing anti-government protests in Baghdad and other cities.

But Kadhimi's most fearsome task is trying to negotiate a new path for Iraq between a belligerent US and a defiant Iran, whose influence on Baghdad remains profound. Any war between the two countries is bound to take place on Iraqi soil.

"The assassinations of Suleimani and Muhandis broke the rules of the game that allowed both Iran and the US to exist together in Iraq and support each other's factions during the fighting, not just because they faced the same enemy but because these were the rules that allowed Suleimani to travel across Iraq while

the Americans were maintaining bases nearby," said another source close to Muhandis. "In a second all these rules were destroyed, and now they need to set up new rules."

The shura council member said: "Everyone was looking at Iran, what it would do [and] how it would retaliate but the reaction is here in Iraq. These factions have weapons, and they are well trained and violent; any one of them can take action either to avenge the killing of Muhandis and Suleimani or to show the leadership in Iran that he is their new man in Iraq. Any of these factions can start a war."

And yet, nine months on from the US airstrike, the factions are more divided than ever, even as they were emboldened and renewed by his death. "The killing of Suleimani disrupted the flow of the decision process for these factions and they don't act according to a general strategy," the official said, adding that Kadhimis believed any direct confrontation with the factions would be too risky, with no guaranteed positive outcome.

He pointed to a raid in June by a counter-terrorism force in south Baghdad. They detained a militia cell of Iraqis and Lebanese, accusing them of planning to fire a barrage of Katyusha rockets at the fortified Green Zone. The same night, hundreds of militiamen gathered on the streets in a show of force, while others moved on Green Zone targets. The men were freed a day later.

"They sent a strong message to the prime minister, by coming close to his house, and he found himself alone" the official said. "The units he requested from the minister of defence never arrived. In a way the factions exposed their cards, showing the major positions they hold within the Green Zone and how will they react in future."

Kadhimi's strategy, the official said, is based on strengthening the army by advancing young officers, expanding the counter-terrorism force and exploiting the rift between pro-Sistani and loyalist factions.

A senior Iraqi army officer said: "I sometimes think that the only solution to this crisis, of two states and two armies, is a military solution. First we close Baghdad, issue an ultimatum for Hashed units to join regular forces or we fight you. It will cause a bloodbath, but better to have two weeks of war than to keep postponing the confrontation."

# Life is sweet

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In an exclusive interview, Nigella Lawson talks about her solo lockdown, surviving loss, and how she's found happiness at last. Plus, delicious recipes from her new book Cook, Eat, Repeat.

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# Financial

## Boost support for employers or face jobless surge - Dodds

**Larry Elliott**  
Economics editor

Labour has called for stronger action to prevent a winter surge in unemployment after releasing figures showing that the government is providing less generous wage support to employers than other major European countries.

The shadow chancellor, Anneiese Dodds, accused Rishi Sunak of adopting a "sink-or-swim" approach as Labour published a report unfavourably comparing the Treasury's job support scheme to what is on offer in Germany, France and the Netherlands.

The opposition party said that in three of the sectors most at risk of significant job losses in the coming months - hospitality, manufacturing, and arts, entertainment and recreation - employers in the UK had much less of an incentive to employ staff part-time.

It said employers who wanted to bring two staff back for half the

working week, instead of keeping one employee on full-time and making the other redundant, faced much higher wage costs in the UK than they would in the three eurozone countries.

In his winter economic plan last month, the chancellor announced the replacement of the government's furlough scheme with a jobs support scheme under which an employee working at least a third of normal hours has their pay topped up by the state and their employer.

Labour said that for someone working half-time, the cost to employers across the three sectors was twice as large in the UK as in France and two-thirds higher than in the Netherlands. German employers pay no wage top-ups for those working part time.

Sunak has said his £1,000 job retention bonus (JRB) - payable for every worker brought back off furlough and kept on the payroll until next January - provides an added incentive for employers to retain staff.



▲ Anneliese Dodds says Rishi Sunak has taken a sink-or-swim approach

**£197**

Weekly cost to UK employers of two people working half-time rather than one person working full-time

However, Labour said that even if the two UK workers qualified for the JRB on top of the job support scheme payment, wage costs remained significantly higher. In manufacturing, the difference in wage costs for a UK business employing two workers on median earnings half-time compared with one full-time was £197 a week, or £159 a week once the JRB was taken into account. That compared with £118 a week in the Netherlands, £83 a week in France and nothing in Germany.

Dodds said: "The chancellor should have introduced a job recovery scheme that incentivised employers to keep more staff on. Instead, his JSS makes it more expensive to bring staff back than many other international schemes. Viable businesses just need support to cope with the restrictions the government has imposed on them. They pinned their hopes on the chancellor to deliver, but he's forcing them to flip a coin over who stays and who goes."

"The chancellor's sink-or-swim job support scheme is a throwback to the worst days of Thatcher, and just like in the 1980s people on the lowest incomes will pay the highest price."

The Treasury said total UK support had been higher than France's and around the same as Germany's. A spokesperson said: "The JSS is targeted to provide what employers have told us they need."

## Black, female Barratt director 'life-changing' for managers

**Kalyeena Makortoff**

The chairman of Barratt Developments has said the housebuilder's "white, middle-aged, male" managers had probably never been questioned by a black woman before the John Lewis boss, Sharon White, joined its board.

John Allan said: "I thought, as I sat in on these meetings with her with half a dozen guys: they've probably never been asked searching questions by a black woman before, and this should be life-changing for them."

Allan said Barratt's workforce was far less diverse than the employee base at Tesco, where he is also chairman. He said he was trying to increase boardroom diversity at Tesco as well. "Barrett is 10 years, probably, behind Tesco in terms of this because construction has historically been a kind of white, middle-aged, male activity," he said yesterday at an online seminar hosted by the PR firm Edelman.

This week Tesco appointed a Tate & Lyle executive, Imran Nawaz, as chief financial officer. Allan said he was the chain's second minority ethnic board member after the non-executive director Melissa Bethnal was hired in 2018.

"I think different companies are

at different stages, but we can all do something to kind of push our way along ... This is not just the right thing to do, but it's actually the best thing to do from a business perspective."

Allan, who is vice-president of the Confederation of British Industry, said any company claiming there were not enough black and minority ethnic candidates to fill leadership roles was either making "excuses" or "not trying very hard". "Frankly there is tons of diverse talent out there if you're prepared to look for it, if you're prepared to encourage it."

Firms have been intensifying efforts to improve minority ethnic representation following the Black Lives Matter protests this year. Figures released in February by the Parker review into ethnic diversity in boardrooms showed people of colour held only 178, or 6.8%, of 2,625 director positions across the FTSE 350 index.

The CBI plans to launch a campaign at the end of October to increase diversity at the top of UK business. Signatories - which so far include Aviva, Deloitte and Microsoft's UK business - will commit to publishing their ethnicity pay gaps and set 12-month targets for the ethnic diversity of their executives and senior management.

**'Probably these guys have not been asked searching questions by a black woman'**

**John Allan**  
Barratt chairman



▲ Sharon White, who will sit on the Barratt board. Firms have been seeking to improve minority ethnic representation PHOTOGRAPH: SOPHIA SPRING/THE SUNDAY TIMES

## EasyJet calls for urgent state support as it warns of first ever loss

**Joanna Partridge**

EasyJet has demanded a bespoke support package for the airline industry, warning it is expecting to slump more than £800m into the red this year, its first annual loss in its 25-year history. The airline said it expected to make a pre-tax loss of £815m-£845m for the year to 30 September 2020.

Johan Lundgren, its CEO, said aviation faced the "most severe threat in its history", adding: "The UK government urgently needs to step up with a bespoke package of measures to ensure airlines are able to support economic recovery when it comes."

EasyJet said it carried more than 9 million passengers from July to September, equivalent to 38% of capacity planned before the pandemic. It burned through almost £700m in cash during that period. The company said it was focusing on profitable flying during the winter season, operating just a quarter of its usual schedule.

EasyJet has raised more than £2.4bn since the start of the pandemic, including a £600m loan from the Treasury and Bank of England's emergency coronavirus fund, which it secured in April. It has described itself as well-positioned to weather the current environment and for its business to recover once travel restrictions are eased. However, it has signalled it may need further financial support if flying continues to be disrupted.

It said it reviewed its liquidity position on a regular basis and would "continue to assess further funding opportunities, including sale and lease-backs, should the need arise".

"At the beginning of this year, no one could have imagined the impact the pandemic has had on the industry," Lundgren said. "EasyJet came into this crisis in a very strong position thanks to its strong balance sheet and consistent profitability. This year will be the first time in its history that easyJet has ever made a full-year loss."

The company plans to cut up to 30% of its workforce and close some of its UK bases, including at Stansted, Southend and Newcastle airports. It has previously called for measures such as the removal of air passenger duty for at least 12 months.

**£845m**

The extent of the pre-tax losses the airline said it could make in the year to 30 September 2020

**Business view**  
**Nils Pratley**

## EasyJet has been sending mixed signals and would be unwise to bet on a government bailout

**H**ow bad are things at easyJet? Well, the backward-looking numbers are dreadful, obviously. An airline that has previously always made annual profits now expects a “headline” loss of £815m-£845m in the financial year to September, even before counting the whack from bad fuel hedges, as well as redundancy and restructuring costs.

Yet it’s the forward-looking indicators that matter now, and easyJet is sending confused signals. The only simple part to understand was the familiar call from its chief executive, Johan Lundgren, for the government to “step up with a bespoke package of measures” for the aviation industry. He has a point: it’s shocking that it was only this week that ministers announced a “travel taskforce” to construct a decent Covid-testing system at airports.

But what about easyJet’s direct financial strain? The airline said it would fly at only 25% capacity in the current quarter, but when does that become a crisis? Does easyJet mean it could soon want more financial aid from the state, on top of the £600m already secured from the big-company coronavirus borrowing facility? It’s hard to tell.

If Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, scanned easyJet’s trading update, he could be forgiven for concluding there’s little to worry about. Removing costs has put easyJet in a position “to emerge from the pandemic in an even more competitive position”, the statement declared. While £700m of cash was burned through in the

last quarter and net debt reached £1.1bn, there was £2.3bn of liquidity at the end of last month.

Behind the scenes, one suspects the message is starker about financial risks if quarantine rules remain at their current settings for months on end. City analysts see a potential need for fresh capital next Easter. That, presumably, is why easyJet would like to know now if the government would step up.

There’s no harm in asking, of course. Lundgren could point to the billions of euros that Germany and France have shovved towards Lufthansa and Air France-KLM. And, if Sunak can squander £1bn-plus on business-rate freebies for rock-solid supermarket chains (see yesterday’s column), he may play nicely on air passenger duty.

Yet easyJet would be unwise to bet on a bailout, as opposed to tax tweaks. The stock market still values the company’s equity at £2.4bn, which is a reasonably stable base from which to assemble a self-help financial package.

True, there’s been a £419m share placing already but, if the fundraising was too small, that’s the company’s problem. And if a

*If the chancellor scanned easyJet’s trading update, he could be forgiven for concluding there is little to worry about*

potential crunch is six months away the board has time to address it.

### TalkTalk offer looks lame

TalkTalk is in takeover talks. The crucial chat, though, will be between only two people. One is Martin Hughes of the hedge fund Toscafund, the would-be bidder. The other is Sir Charles Dunstone, the telecoms company’s executive chairman. As both parties have shareholdings of almost 30%, nothing will happen unless they see eye to eye.

Indeed, Toscafund’s possible offer at 97p a share, or £1.2bn, requires Dunstone to roll over his holding into a new TalkTalk ownership structure. So this is really a take-private proposal.

It looks underwhelming. TalkTalk rejected 135p from Toscafund last year, so accepting 97p would require an explanation. One excuse could be the pandemic but, since TalkTalk has been banging on about the fibre broadband opportunities created by homeworking, that doesn’t work.

Toscafund could argue that the stock market is bored with dull and capital-hungry telecoms companies, so a minnow such as TalkTalk may as well be private. Minority investors would get the chance to escape with cash at a 17% premium to Wednesday’s share price.

Well, maybe. If the independent directors on TalkTalk’s board believe a lot more value than 97p can emerge over time, they should speak up. TalkTalk stood at 168p when Dunstone gave up the non-executive lark three years ago and returned in a hands-on role. Departing at this level would be meek.

### Soft support for TRG plan

As predicted, shareholders in the Restaurant Group, the owner of Wagamama, approved the absurdly premature proposal to load up the executives with share awards to keep them keen after a collapse in the price. The chief executive, Andy Hornby, forever famous for being on the bridge when HBOS sank, will now get an award worth £787,500.

But some fund managers, at least, threw a few noodles at Debbie Hewitt, the company’s chair. She pitched the scheme as vitally important but gained only 63% backing. That is soggy support.



◀ Yoo Myung-hee (top) and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala made the final shortlist for WTO director general  
PHOTOGRAPH: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP



## WTO set to have first female boss as contest for director general narrows to two

**Larry Elliott**  
Economics editor

The World Trade Organization is to be run by a woman for the first time in its 25-year history after it was announced that the final choice for director general will be between Yoo Myung-hee of South Korea and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria.

Britain’s former international trade

secretary Liam Fox failed to make the final shortlist as the number of candidates was whittled down from five.

Despite support from the US, Fox failed to muster enough backing, leaving the choice between a seasoned trade official in Yoo and Okonjo-Iweala, who says the organisation needs a fresh pair of eyes. The other unsuccessful candidates in the second phase of the race included one of the original favourites, Kenya’s Amina Mohamed, and Saudi Arabia’s Mohammad al-Tuwaijri.

The protracted battle to secure one of the plum international jobs will be decided early next month, with the winning candidate faced with a number of pressing problems.

Okonjo-Iweala has served two terms as Nigeria’s finance minister and was also foreign minister. Having also been the number two at the World Bank, she is running as an outsider and as the candidate to give the WTO fresh momentum.

She told the Guardian last month: “It’s true I am not a WTO insider but that’s a good thing. We need someone who knows trade but brings a fresh pair of eyes. There are a lot of people with technical skills at the WTO. There is no shortage of trade skills but the problems are there and they are getting worse. Something else is needed, strong political skills, someone able to engage leaders in a substantive way.”

Yoo has a record in government stretching back 25 years and has worked on a number of bilateral trade deals, including those with the US and the UK.

Covid-19 has had a marked impact on global trade flows, with the WTO expecting a drop of 9.2% this year and only a limited rebound in 2021.

The pandemic comes amid a trade war between the US and China, the failure of the WTO to complete the Doha round of trade liberalisation talks, and the refusal of Washington to allow the appointment of judges to the organisation’s disputes appeals panel, a decision that has impaired its ability to police global trade.

The WTO has in the past decided on its leaders through a consensus of its members. If that proves impossible, a vote will be held.

An evening lecture

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# Shareholders revolt over Wagamama owner's pay plans

**Julia Kollewe**

The Restaurant Group, which owns the Wagamama, Frankie & Benny's and Garfunkel's chains, has suffered a sizeable shareholder revolt over a lucrative new pay deal for its chief executive, Andy Hornby, in a year when the company has closed hundreds of restaurants and made thousands of staff redundant.

The company said its remuneration policy had been approved by shareholders, but nearly 37% voted against.

Hornby - the boss of HBOS bank in 2008 when it had to be rescued by Lloyds Banking Group during the financial crisis - and TRG's chief financial officer, Kirk Davis, waived their annual bonuses and took pay cuts of



▲ Andy Hornby is in line for a share award of £787,500 this year

## £1.3m

Andy Hornby's total maximum pay packet for the year, even after his temporary pay cut during the crisis

## 200

The number of Restaurant Group branches that closed this year, with the loss of nearly 4,500 jobs

## BHS buyer Chappell evaded tax on £2.2m, court is told

**PA Media**

Businessman Dominic Chappell evaded tax on the £2.2m income he received from buying the failed BHS high-street chain from retail tycoon Sir Philip Green, a court has been told.

He ended up in this position because "he was simply too busy" to sort out his business dealings properly and he was "let down by others", a jury at London's Southwark crown court was told. Mark Bryant-Heron QC, prosecuting, said that Chappell claims he was "misled" by Green.

40% and 20% respectively this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

But the company's new pay policy has drawn heavy criticism, after it shut 200 branches permanently with the loss of nearly 4,500 jobs. Along with the rest of the hospitality sector, TRG has been hit hard by the pandemic, which led to the temporary closure of restaurants and pubs and pushed the company into a £235m pre-tax loss for the first half.

Hornby is in line for a share award of £787,500 this year, taking his total maximum pay packet to £1.3m, even after his temporary pay cut.

Next year, he will once again qualify for a £945,000 cash bonus plus a share award equal to his £630,000 basic salary, taking his maximum package to £2.2m. Davis will be paid £788,000 this year and is in line for £1.3m next year.

Debbie Hewitt, the chairman of TRG, said the firm had engaged "extensively" with a number of its shareholders before proposing the new policy and was pleased that the majority had backed it. "We recognise that some shareholders did not support the proposal," she said. "We will continue engaging with our shareholders in the coming months."

She said TRG had already made concessions, lowering next year's share award to 100% of salary. It was previously 200% of salary. The share awards will not pay out for three years.

Hewitt added: "In the short term the senior team continue to take pay cuts while the company is still making use of the government's job retention furlough scheme."

TRG's pubs and restaurants, especially Wagamama, have managed to attract more customers in recent weeks and sales have improved markedly, partly boosted by the government's "eat out to help out" scheme in August.

However TRG said the recently imposed 10pm curfew on hospitality had hurt business.



▼ Waterloo station during lockdown, when only 8% of journeys took place on railways compared with 2019

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN CAWTHRA/LNP

## Lockdown rail usage down to lowest level since 1850s

**Gwyn Topham**

Transport correspondent

Passenger journeys on Britain's railways fell during lockdown to the lowest level since the mid-19th century, according to official figures.

The rail industry regulator said 35m journeys took place from April to June, which was just 8% of the total for the same period in 2019. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) said revenue had fallen even further than usage, with less than 7% of 2019's fare income collected over the three months - a shortfall of £2.5bn, covered by the taxpayer under emergency contracts.

Passenger numbers climbed steadily to 43% of normal traffic after lockdown ended, and until the government reversed its messaging about returning to the workplace in late September. The latest provisional figures show the levels have dipped again to between 30-40% of usual traffic.

Train operating companies have been urging the government to give a clear message that rail travel is safe.

The industry is calling for speedy changes to the fares system, with season ticket sales drying up. The Rail Delivery Group said companies were keen to work with government to introduce flexible season tickets to encourage passengers back.

Meanwhile, ministers have hailed a shift in public attitudes towards more walking and cycling - despite data that suggests the Covid-19

## £2.5bn

Revenue shortfall on the railways during lockdown compared with the same three-month period in 2019

cycling boom may have tailed off. The Department for Transport highlighted figures in the national travel attitudes survey published yesterday that showed 39% of people claimed to walk more than before the pandemic, and 38% saying they cycled more.

The transport secretary, Grant Shapps, said: "It's great that those people who have switched to greener forms of transport want to stick with it and I want to capitalise on this with our unprecedented £2bn active travel fund."

The survey, which was conducted between May and July, also underlined how far cycling lags behind car use. Only 3% of those who travelled to work the previous day had gone by bike, compared with 72% by car.

Further evidence that people's intentions may not match the daily reality appear in the latest DfT data for actual transport use. Cycling activity had climbed to more than double pre-pandemic levels on weekdays in May and June. But levels of cycling in England have fallen below 2019 figures on four of the last 10 recorded weekdays.

"defraud" or act "to the prejudice" of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs. He was a key part of the consortium which purchased BHS for £1 in 2015, just over a year before it collapsed causing the loss of 11,000 jobs.

Bryant-Heron told the court: "He had the financial means to pay the tax and was able to raise funds. He dishonestly chose not to pay tax. In relation to VAT he did not even make any VAT returns as required to. He ignored his duty and legal liability to pay tax, until eventually HMRC had to take enforcement action to wind up the company for non-payment."

Chappell's defence is that "he was simply too busy to attend to his tax liability and was let down by others", the jury was told. The court heard that Chappell became concerned in 2016 about the quality of the advice he was receiving and he believed the accounts and the tax liability were "misstated".

Bryant-Heron said: "More specifically, his case is that he was misled by the gentleman who sold BHS to him, Sir Philip Green."

This related to whether the substantial BHS employees' pension fund deficit at the time of the sale would be paid up by the seller to the satisfaction of the pension regulator before the sale. Bryant-Heron said: "Dominic Chappell maintains that BHS was forced into liquidation because of the

**'He had the means to pay the tax and raise funds. He dishonestly chose not to pay tax'**

Mark Bryant-Heron QC  
Prosecuting counsel

actions of Sir Philip Green in renegeing on promises of financial support for the pension fund, and going back on a promise to provide working capital to BHS after the sale. His case is, in short, that had BHS not failed, he would have had the funds to pay his tax liability."

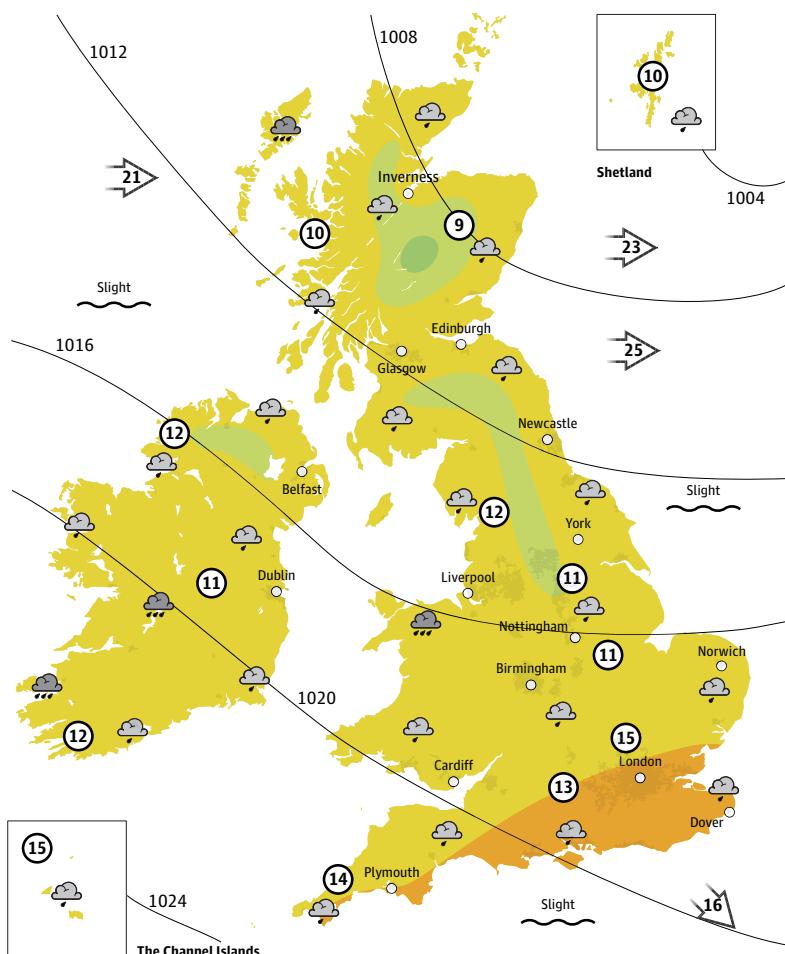
Chappell is charged with providing false or misleading information and also failing to submit VAT returns. It is alleged that he did not arrange for the correct VAT amounts to be registered and that he did not pay VAT. He is also accused of failing to pay corporation tax as well as personal income tax from dividends he received from SRL.

The company which was to be used by Chappell's group to purchase BHS was called Retail Acquisition Limited (RAL). In the 12 months from March 2015, Chappell and SRL invoiced RAL for more than £2.2m. Money was paid either directly to his personal account or to SRL, the court heard.

# Weather

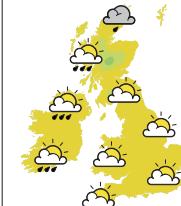
## Friday 9 October 2020

### UK and Ireland Noon today

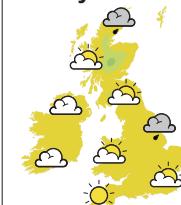


### Forecast

Low 6 High 12  
Tomorrow



Low 5 High 13  
Sunday



### Carbon count

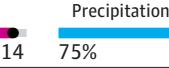
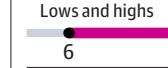
Daily atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):  
Latest 03 Oct 2020 411.11  
Weekly average 27 Sep 2020 411.06  
08 Oct 2019 407.97  
08 Oct 2010 386.77  
Pre-industrial base 280  
Safe level 350  
Source: NOAA-ESRL

### Around the UK

#### London

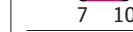
Lows and highs

6 14



#### Manchester

7 10



#### Edinburgh

3 11



#### Belfast

5 10



#### Birmingham

6 12



#### Brighton

7 15



#### Bristol

7 11



#### Cardiff

8 13



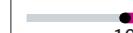
#### Newcastle

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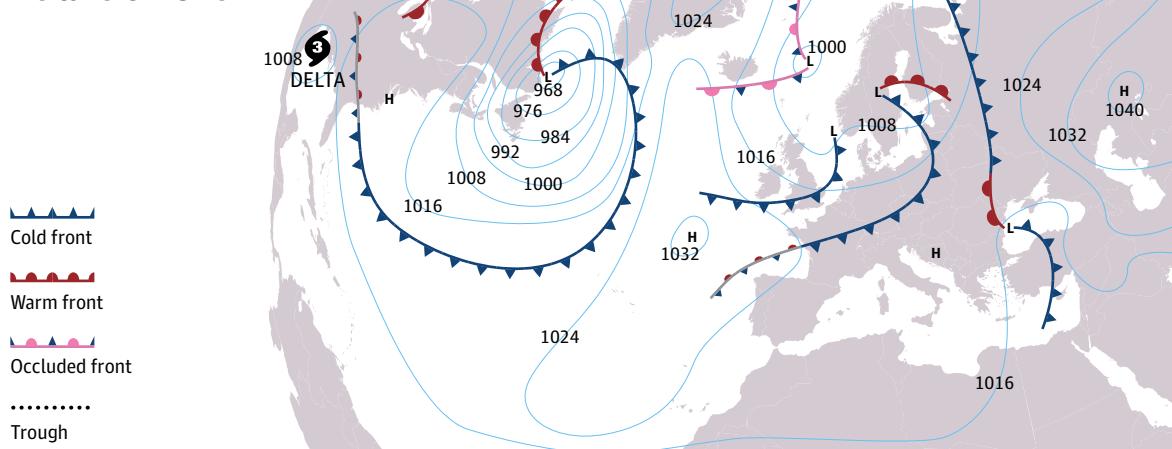


#### Penzance

10 15



### Atlantic front



### High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	0631	3.5m	1856	3.5m
Avonmouth	--	--	1153	10.6m
Barrow	0416	7.6m	1637	7.4m
Belfast	0404	3.1m	1642	3.1m
Cobh	1031	3.5m	2255	3.4m
Cromer	1126	4.1m	2346	4.0m
Dover	0323	5.9m	1547	5.7m
Dublin	0449	3.4m	1716	3.3m
Galway	1036	4.0m	2315	3.8m
Greenock	0527	3.1m	1738	3.2m
Harwich	0436	3.5m	1657	3.5m
Holyhead	0311	4.7m	1535	4.6m
Hull	1123	6.2m	2332	5.9m
Leith	0750	4.6m	2015	4.5m
Liverpool	0347	7.7m	1607	7.6m

### Sun & Moon



Sunrises 0714  
Sunsets 1819  
Moon rises 2232  
Moon sets 1455  
Last Quarter 10 Oct  
  
AccuWeather.com  
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2020

### Lighting up

Belfast	1840 to 0745
Birm'sham	1825 to 0724
Brighton	1820 to 0716
Bristol	1830 to 0727
Carlisle	1826 to 0732
Cork	1852 to 0750
Dublin	1842 to 0743
Glasgow	1831 to 0739
Harlech	1834 to 0734
Inverness	1827 to 0740
London	1819 to 0716
M'chester	1826 to 0727
Newcastle	1821 to 0727
Norwich	1812 to 0712
Penzance	1842 to 0737

### Pollutionwatch

Covid-19 lockdowns have led to improvements in air pollution. In northern India, the Himalayas were visible in the distance for the first time in a generation. And during the first nine weeks of restrictions, nitrogen dioxide along London's roads decreased by an average of 31% compared with pre-lockdown.

Life and traffic pollution in the capital have still not returned to normal. Compared with 2019, decreases of more than 40% have been measured along roads in the City of London and Westminster, including the Strand.

This builds on the improvements from London's ultra-low emission zone. But there are emerging signs of a return to pre-lockdown pollution on some suburban roads.

Horley, north-east of Gatwick, recorded a 60% reduction in residential areas close to the airport fence and about 40% in a nearby children's playground. The biggest reduction was 64%, recorded near the entrance to the Beech Street tunnel in the City of London, which is closed to diesel and petrol traffic.

**Gary Fuller @drgaryfuller**

Thanks to Timothy Baker, Louise Mittal and Anna Font, London Air and Imperial College London for discussion and coding assistance

### Around the world

Algiers	27	Lisbon	25
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Athens	25	Malaga	23
Auckland	16	Melb'rne	15
B Aires	21	Mexico C	25
Bangkok	29	Miami	31
Barcelona	23	Milan	20
Basra	36	Mombasa	30
Beijing	23	Moscow	12
Berlin	15	Mumbai	33
Bermuda	26	N Orleans	28
Brussels	16	Nairobi	28
Budapest	19	New Delhi	35
C'hagen	13	New York	20
Cairo	36	Oslo	11
Cape Town	16	Paris	17
Chicago	26	Perth	21
Corfu	25	Prague	16
Dakar	32	Reykjavik	7
Dhaka	34	Rio de J	25
Dublin	10	Rome	22
Florence	23	Shanghai	25
Gibraltar	22	Singapore	29
H Kong	29	Stockh'm	11
Harare	30	Strasb'g	20
Helsinki	12	Sydney	23
Istanbul	20	Tel Aviv	35
Jo'burg	23	Tenerife	25
K Lumpur	30	Tokyo	17
K'mandu	29	Toronto	18
K'ingston	31	Vancou'r	16
Kolkata	35	Vienna	20
L Angeles	23	Warsaw	16
Lagos	28	Wash'ton	21
Lima	18	Well'ton	15
Zurich	18	Zurich	18

## Football

**Survey finds most women face 'inherent sexism'**

Page 40 →

## Tennis

**Swift Siatek marches into first grand slam final**

Page 39 →



▲ Sale's 34-14 win at Franklin's Gardens proved to be their final match of the Premiership season  
STEVE FLYNN/IMAGE OF SPORT/NEWSCOM/ALAMY

## Sharks shambles

### Serious questions still need answering in light of Sale's coronavirus fiasco

Paul Rees



# Sport

As soon as Sale said last Friday they would be able to raise a team, Premiership Rugby had a decision to make. Before the league's resumption, it had stipulated that teams unable to play matches "due to illness following Covid-19 will be forced to forfeit their fixture". The opponents would be given a 20-0, bonus-point victory.

Sale saying they could raise a team on the Sunday meant, on the surface at least, the rule could not be enforced, nor the one that said if a match could not go ahead because of a government lockdown or local authority restrictions, it would be recorded as a 0-0 draw.

**B**ut by giving Gloucester five points when Northampton said they would not be able to field a team at Kingsholm on Sunday because front-row injuries had been compounded by the number of players who had to isolate after the Sale match, Premiership Rugby was on the defensive when it postponed the Sharks' match, something that before the resumption it said it would not do because of time constraints.

It justified the about-turn by saying: "As the [Sale] match has such a critical bearing on deciding the Premiership champions, we wanted to do everything we could to play it." PHE should have taken the matter out of the sport's hands.

Setting aside PRL putting the title race before health, the value of having Sale in the play-offs was questionable with more than half their squad unavailable through either the virus or injury. With the Premiership saying on Thursday that any contacts of infected players had to isolate for 14 days, it meant the Sharks would have had to stuff the bench: with rookies twice in four days had they played Worcester and beaten them. The four semi-finalists will all be able to pick from greater strength, and surely that is better for the tournament.

Which is not to have a go at Sale but after such a significant outbreak it should have been clear to those in charge that cancelling the Worcester game was the only option. When Racing 92 recorded several positive tests last week, believed to be nine, the Top 14 organisers invoked a rule saying any club that had three players testing positive must quarantine and postpone their next match.

Sale issued a statement on Wednesday, after a further eight positive tests forced the cancellation of the Worcester match, that the news was "devastating", adding: "Although everyone at Sale

Sharks is disappointed to see our campaign end in this manner, the club wholly understand that the welfare of players, staff and officials is the most important factor."

It would not have mattered whether the Worcester game was played had Sale beaten Bath at home last month. That 37-22 loss, conceding a bonus point, ultimately cost them; had the result been reversed, the Sharks would have gone into the final round with their play-off place secure.

The Exeter director of rugby, Rob Baxter, said this week he favoured adopting the French policy of a match being called off triggered by a set number of positive tests. The question would then be whether the game was postponed or cancelled and Baxter suggested using an independent medical board.

The schedule was tight after the restart with a number of midweek rounds, and next season will be congested, starting on 20 November and played over 32 weeks, which will be made up of 22 Premiership rounds, two play-off weekends and eight European dates. The Premiership Rugby Cup will be played in midweek after the Six Nations. Not much cover there for virus outbreaks or bad weather.

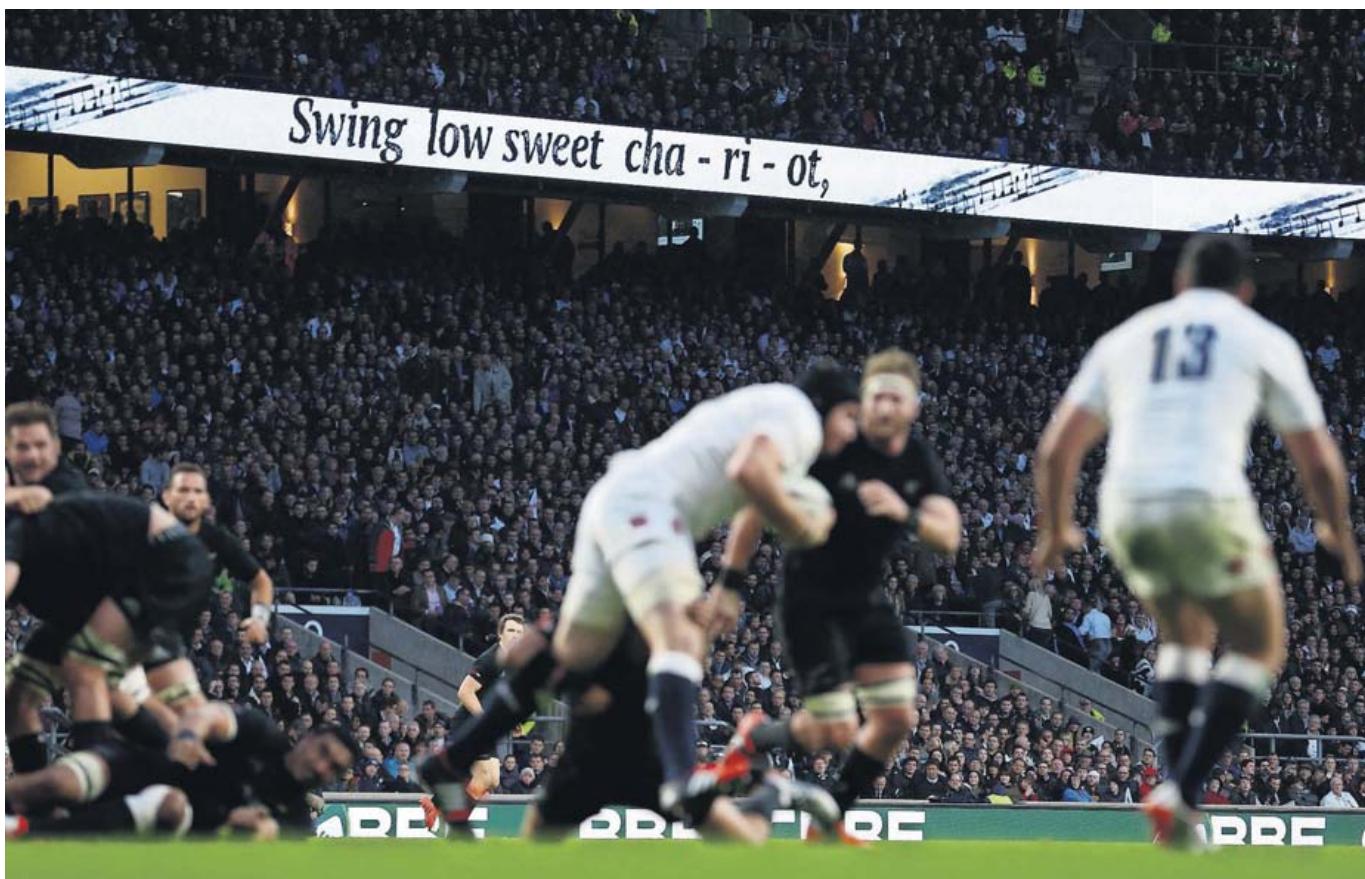
For players, it means living in semi-lockdown for the foreseeable future, with their movements away from rugby restricted. Some will cope better than others, but their livelihoods, as well as their health and that of others, depend on it, as well as PRL offering a lead.

**A**nyone visiting Sale's training ground last Thursday, the day when coronavirus tests were conducted, would have had to isolate when the results came back the following day and showed the club had a Covid-19 outbreak, with 16 players and three staff testing positive.

They would have had to isolate, that is, if contacted by the NHS test and trace service which, given what is happening throughout the country, was not that likely. And yet the Sale players who tested negative, and who had been mingling and training with those who were found to have the virus, were not required to isolate.

The question why was put to Public Health England (PHE) this week. Sale are based in one of the country's Covid hotspots and they were hoping to play the postponed match against Worcester at home on Wednesday. Several of their Northampton opponents the previous week were forced to isolate after the positive tests at the Sharks were made public, so why was the entire Sharks squad and management who tested negative not forced to do the same?

PHE is yet to respond but it is a question it should have been answering given Worcester's health concerns before a match that would have been played but for eight more positive tests at Sale: it may be revealed in the track and trace audit the RFU is driving. Why did PHE not insist as soon as last week's test results were known that the game, originally scheduled for Sunday, be cancelled because of the clear risk that would have been posed to Worcester, as well as to those working at Sale and their families?



► Twickenham has in the past urged crowd participation in the singing of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* but the lyrics will no longer be shown around the stadium  
TOM JENKINS/  
THE GUARDIAN

## No Swing Low ban but lyrics will not be seen at Twickenham

Gerard Meagher

England supporters will not be banned from singing *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* when allowed back into Twickenham but it is understood the lyrics will no longer be emblazoned around the stadium and the Rugby Football Union has stopped selling merchandise that references the song.

The RFU has also given both the men's and women's England teams the green light to take a knee before their forthcoming matches in support of Black Lives Matter and committed to

having two black, Asian and minority ethnic members on its board - currently of 14 people - by 2022 and ensuring it has at least 30% female representation.

The Guardian exclusively revealed in June that, with the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, the RFU was conducting a review into supporters singing *Swing Low* amid concerns there was a lack of understanding as to the song's origins in slavery. Maro Itoje has since explained how the song makes him "uncomfortable" but the RFU has said it will not impose a ban because "it has a long-held place in rugby history" and will instead release an educational documentary before

England's first match of the autumn, against the Barbarians on 25 October. It will feature Josephine Wright, a leading American professor of music and black studies, who has previously described England fans singing *Swing Low* as "cross-cultural appropriation of a US slave song".

Surveying 4,400 members of the rugby community, the RFU found that 74% of people, rising to 84% of those from a BAME background, believed supporters need to be educated about the history of *Swing Low*. It also found that 69% of those asked did not think the song should be banned. Other findings include: 25% of people have

witnessed discrimination "often or sometimes" in rugby, the primary characteristics being race 54%, sex 31% and sexual orientation 30%; and those who participate in rugby union are significantly less likely to be female, of a BAME ethnicity and of the lowest socio-economic group.

The RFU also pledged to improve diversity among club volunteers, constituent bodies and its council - of the 55 members at present only Maggie Alphonsi is black - but did not publish targets. The union also said it will continue to support the message of Black Lives Matter as well as Rugby Against Racism and that both elite teams will be given the option to take a knee or make other gestures before matches.

The RFU chairman, Andy Cosslett, said: "The RFU needs to step up its efforts to improve diversity and inclusion across our game. We are living through testing times, but this will not deter us from grasping the opportunity to better reflect the society we live in."

If Bath win at Exeter tomorrow, they will have a week off before the Premiership final but their director of rugby, Stuart Hooper, has no plans to create a bubble for his team.

"Our players are incredibly responsible guys," said Hooper. "They are not kids and I would not try to trap them in a building so they cannot go out. They understand the risks and drive standards. "They are doing everything they can to get to Twickenham and the first job is beating Exeter. Everything in between is their preparation as professionals and part of that is steering clear of any potential risks with Covid."

Bath's captain, Charlie Ewels, said the players had devised a system to ensure no one took risks. "We talked about the costs of someone picking up the virus and spreading it. Our rule is would you be willing to stand up in front of the group after testing positive if you had picked it up in a supermarket? Yes. But what if it was a case of being on a night out with a bunch of university mates? Would you want to explain that?"

## Bristol ponder bio-secure bubble with trophies in view

Paul Rees

Bristol will consider placing their players in a Covid-secure bubble for two weeks if they defeat Wasps in tomorrow's Premiership play-off semi-final, with their director of rugby, Pat Lam, saying everyone at the club is on high alert after Sale recorded 27 positive tests in five days.

The Bears play Toulon in next Friday's European Challenge Cup final in Aix-en-Provence with the Premiership final following eight days later at Twickenham. Lam says he has become so nervous about the twice-weekly tests conducted on players since the season's restart that he wakes up at 4am on the day of the results.

"I tell our Covid manager to send them through to me no matter what the time is," said Lam. "They are usually through by 5.30am. We laid it out to the players from the start that we had to take every precaution possible. Just as no one wants to be the one who makes a crucial mistake in a final, so in this climate no one wants to be the person who costs the team the chance of a trophy by making the wrong decision."

"If that is what it takes, staying two weeks in a hotel could be an option, especially as the risk in society from Covid grows. Everyone is on high alert about who they are mixing with and the decisions they are taking."

Bristol have prepared for the Wasps match all week, even though the fixture was only confirmed on Wednesday



▲ Pat Lam wakes up at 4am on the day of his players' Covid test results

morning after Sale's match against Worcester was cancelled, ensuring the top four would be unchanged. "It was the commonsense decision," said Lam. "The safety, health and wellbeing of players and their facilities are what is most important."

## Freeman admits asking office worker to cover tracks

Sean Ingle

The former British Cycling and Team Sky doctor Richard Freeman has admitted abusing his position by persuading an office worker to cover his tracks after he ordered banned testosterone, a medical tribunal has heard.

Freeman said that he had "compromised" Trish Meats, a manager at the supplement company Fit4Sport, by getting her to send an email saying the 30 sachets of Testogel had been sent in error and returned - when in reality he had destroyed them.

"I did compromise Trish Meats. I asked her to say the order was her error," Freeman said.

Freeman has accepted 18 of the 22 charges against him from the GMC, including ordering banned Testogel in 2011 and lying to UK Anti-Doping. However he denies "knowing or believing it was to be used by an athlete to improve performance".

On the third day of his testimony at the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, Freeman also revealed how he had got rid of the Testogel, saying: "I cut open the sachets and washed them down the kitchen sink."

However key discrepancies also emerged between the accounts of Freeman and his boss, Steve Peters, one of the biggest names in British sports medicine, over the aftermath of the Testogel order in May 2011.

Last year Peters told the tribunal that he had pressed Freeman throughout the summer of 2011 to get an email from Fit4Sport saying the testosterone had been returned. However Freeman told the tribunal: "I don't want in any way to disparage Mr Peters, but I don't recall those requests."

Freeman also insisted that he had told Peters that he had destroyed the testosterone when Peters visited his house in 2017. "You told Mr Peters you'd destroyed it?" asked Jackson. "Absolutely," replied Freeman.

"Dr Peters said he wasn't told," said Jackson. "The only thing you told him was that you had got it for [the British Cycling coach] Shane Sutton. So when he says that is he misremembering? Is he lying about that?"

"Possibly - I went there for a full and frank discussion, not half the story - which I should have done a long time before, and felt immense relief because I'd struggled with it for a while," replied Freeman.

The tribunal, which is set to finish at the end of November, continues.

**I compromised her - I asked her to say the order was her error'**

Richard Freeman  
Former Team Sky doctor

## Tennis

# Swiatek swans into final to face classy Kenin

Neither finalist dropped a set but teenager's crushing win over Podoroska impressed

**Kevin Mitchell**

Iga Swiatek's name might be as difficult for some to pronounce as her wicked forehand is to read, but the Polish teenager has moved into the final of the French Open against Sofia Kenin with the familiar ease of reserving a table at the Ritz. She knows she belongs.

While Swiatek's 6-2, 6-1 win over the Argentinian qualifier Nadia Podoroska was trickier than the score suggests, the 21-year-old American Kenin, who beat Petra Kvitova, 6-4, 7-5, in the second semi-final yesterday, will know she is in for a fight tomorrow. It is near a certainty as exists in the sport that the 19-year-old Swiatek will challenge for slam titles for years to come - as, probably, will Kenin, who already owns the Australian Open.

Kenin, daughter of Russian emigres but bearing the bloodless robot traits of an American-raised prodigy, and the bubbly Swiatek from small-town Raszyn near Warsaw whose off-court relaxation includes listening to the Stone Roses and AC/DC, could hardly be more different in demeanour, but they share the same burning passion and self-belief.

Mats Wilander, among many, is convinced Swiatek is special. "I genuinely think Iga can be the one," the seven-slam champion said on Eurosport. "She doesn't have any weakness, not one."

"I like her," said the former British No 1 Sam Smith on ITV. "She's a little different, wouldn't be out of place in the 1980s, with her musical tastes."

Preconceptions have been shredded in Paris from the moment Serena Williams limped out of the tournament in the first week, leaving the way for glorious uncertainty. When Swiatek snapped the 17-win run of the world No 2 Simona Halep in the fourth round for the loss of three games, the lights started flashing. She sealed her irresistible progress to the final by overpowering Podoroska in 70 minutes.

Swiatek and Podoroska were the first unseeded semi-finalists since 1983, when Jo Durie lost to Mima Jausovec - but the gulf between them was apparent from start to finish. The world No 131, who comes from the same city as Lionel Messi, could at least console herself with lasting longer than Halep did. She broke in the fifth game of the second set at the fourth attempt but for long stretches she was not in the fight.



▲ Iga Swiatek rips a forehand in her 6-2, 6-1 win over Nadia Podoroska  
CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Swiatek's voice trembles. "It's hard to believe," she said. "I think it's going to hit me after the tournament. Right now I'm just living the dream."

Only a couple of weeks ago, she said she might leave the Tour to go to university, but says now: "It's going to be hard to go back to studying because I really feel like I can achieve big things. I'm only 19. A lot can change during a few years. Maybe I'm going to be hungry for knowledge. I'm not going to make a decision right now. I'm just going to focus on tennis. If I'm going

to be in a few finals of grand slams, it would be impossible to study and play that kind of tennis consistently."

Three people, probably, will help her decide: Tim Henman's early-career coach, Nick Brown, who assists her main mentor, Piotr Sierzputowski, and her sports psychologist, Daria Abramowicz, who travels on Tour with her. Already Abramowicz has brought calm to Swiatek's tennis. "I'm dealing with my nerves pretty good," she said. "I've been so efficient and so focused for whole matches that I put a lot of pressure on my opponents. I'm not even nervous in second sets because I know it's going to probably go my way."

"It's going to be different in the final because I'm going to play a much more experienced player. I will need to be on a different level, the higher level, even though I'm winning easily right now."

As solid as was Kenin's win over Kvitova, it was pedestrian by comparison. Kvitova, who has won two Wimbledons, could not dredge up enough of her pedigree to keep Kenin at bay, who held her nerve in a tight finish.

The only Pole before Swiatek to reach the final at Roland Garros was Jadwiga Jedrzejowska in 1939. They called her Jed, for convenience. One day soon, everyone will know how to say Swiatek.

Swiatek (pronounced Shvee-on-tek) roughly translates as a roadside shrine to a locally venerated person - and that probably will resonate with millions of her compatriots if she can go one further than Jed did 81 years ago.



Sofia Kenin beat Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 in her semi

## Formula One

# Hamilton urges caution after Mercedes' positive Covid test

**Giles Richards**

Lewis Hamilton has insisted there can be no relaxation of precautions against Covid-19 after one of his Mercedes team tested positive before this weekend's Eifel Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. The world champion admitted the loss of the team member is detrimental to them but was confident they would overcome any difficulties.

Mercedes announced yesterday that one of the team had tested positive, the first such result they had returned this season. The team member was not identified but Mercedes stressed that they were dealing with the situation according to F1 and FIA protocols.

To date F1 has conducted 50,000 tests returning 26 positive results. None have affected a race meeting going ahead and the sport remains confident that it could continue to operate a race weekend even if multiple cases were identified.

Hamilton expressed his concern for his colleague while noting that it was a wake-up call, with cases of Covid-19 rising. "Naturally it is sad to hear that for the guys that work so hard," he said. "They work so hard to stay safe and to be here at the weekend so it is definitely a concern."

"It is obviously important for everyone around the world to be continuously reminded that this thing has not disappeared. It is still here, we still need to continue to follow protocols



▲ The Mercedes pit crew work on Lewis Hamilton's car at Barcelona

and wear a mask and keep our hands clean, keep our distances."

The British driver, who can match Michael Schumacher's record of 91 race wins if he takes victory on Sunday, acknowledged that losing a member of the team was a blow and that they would have to adapt.

"I can't say what it is going to do to the weekend," he said. "We have a lot of great people working in our team. We will try and make him proud this weekend. It's going to take a lot of work to make sure that we continue on without any disturbances."

There is no indication that Hamilton had contact with the team member in question.

F1 has not raced at the Nürburgring since 2013 and Hamilton, who won in 2011 for McLaren, is one of only seven drivers on the grid who have competed here before. Going into the meeting, he leads Valtteri Bottas by 44 points, with a maximum of seven races remaining.

Schumacher's son Mick will make his F1 race weekend debut when he drives in today's first free practice session for Alfa Romeo.

## Sport In brief

## Cycling

### Démare wins again and Almeida survives scare

Arnaud Démare of France claimed his second win in this Giro d'Italia by taking the sixth stage in another mass sprint. João Almeida held on to the pink jersey despite a mid-stage scare when another rider crashed into him. To claim his 12th victory this season, Démare lingered in a small bunch after a short climb, then started his sprint first on the slightly uphill finishing straight, eventually winning easily ahead of Michael Matthews and Fabio Felline. After being hit with 37km to go, Almeida had to stop at the side of the road to fix the radio under his jersey. He remains 43 seconds clear of the Spanish rider Pello Bilbao on the general classification. AP

## Golf

### Hatton shares tie for lead at Wentworth

Tyrrell Hatton managed an eagle, five birdies and a solitary bogey to finish six-under par at the BMW

PGA Championship. His opening 66 at Wentworth, near where he grew up, was matched late in the day by Justin Harding and Adri Arnaus. The Open champion Shane Lowry, Eddie Pepperell, Matt Fitzpatrick and Gavin Green were all a shot off the lead on five under. PA Media

## Cricket

### Philander's brother killed in Cape Town

The younger brother of the former South Africa bowler Vernon Philander was shot dead in a Cape Town suburb yesterday. Police said Tyrone Philander, 32, was killed while taking water to a neighbour, with the motive unknown. Reuters

### Greg Wood's racing tips

Newmarket	12.45	Haija	1.15	Nebulosa	1.50
Ataliss Bay (nb)	2.25	Nazuna	3.00	Happy Power	
3.35	Isabella Giles	4.10	Brilliant Light		
4.45	Angel Power				
York	1.00	Dark Illusion	1.35	Logician	2.05
Crownthorpe (nap)	2.40	Prince Alex	3.10	Shalaa	
Asker	3.45	Celsius	4.20	Echo Beach	4.50 Zip
Chepstow	2.10	Vorashann	2.45	Born In Borris	
3.15	McFabulous	3.50	Flic Ou Voyou	4.25	
Soaring Glory	4.55	On Tour	5.25	The Cashel Man	
5.55	Royal Magic				
Kempton	3.55	Wisper	4.30	Sea Of Charm	
5.05	Luckiness	5.40	Dandys Derriere	6.15	Mister
Allegro	6.45	Last Surprise	7.15	Strong Power	
7.45	Goldie Hawk	8.15	Beat The Heat		

## Results

### Football

#### UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

Play-offs: Semi-finals: Group A					
Bulgaria	(0) 1	Hungary	(1) 3		
Yomov 89		Orban 17, Kalmar 47			
Iceland	(2) 2	Romania	(0) 1		
G Sigurdsson 16 34		Maxim 63pen			
<b>Group B</b>					
Bosnia-Herzegovina (1) 1	Northern Ireland	(0) 1			
Krunic 13	McGinn 53				
(aet; Northern Ireland win 5-3 on penalties)					
Slovakia	(0) 0	Republic of Ireland	(0) 0		
(aet; Slovakia win 4-2 on penalties)					
<b>Group C</b>					
Norway	(0) 1	Serbia	(0) 2		
Normann 88	Milinkovic-Savic 81 102				
(after extra-time)					
Scotland	(0) 0	Israel	(0) 0		
(aet; Scotland win 5-3 on penalties)					
<b>Group D</b>					
Georgia	(1) 1	Belarus	(0) 0		
Olkriashvili 7pen					
North Macedonia	(2) 2	Kosovo	(1) 1		
Kololli 15og	Hadergjonaj 29				
Velkovski 33					
<b>INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES</b>					
Belgium	(0) 1	Ivory Coast	(0) 1		
Batshuayi 53	Kessie 86pen				
England	(1) 3	Wales	(0) 0		
Calvert-Lewin 26					
Coady 53, Ings 63					
Russia	(0) 1	Sweden	(1) 2		
Sobolev 90	Isak 21				
	Johansson 73				

### Rugby league

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pct
St Helens	12	9	0	3	345	135	+210	.75
Warrington	13	9	0	4	276	168	+108	.69
Wigan	13	9	0	4	295	240	+55	.69
Leeds	12	8	0	4	301	246	+55	.66
Catalans Dragons	11	7	0	4	318	213	+105	.63
Huddersfield	14	7	0	7	270	293	-23	.50
Hull	14	6	0	8	308	398	-90	.43
Castleford	13	5	0	8	260	279	-19	.41
Salford	12	5	0	7	238	309	-71	.38
Hull KR	12	2	0	10	204	353	-149	.16
Wakefield	12	2	0	10	168	349	-181	.16
Huddersfield 16 Salford 24; Leeds 22 Castleford 40								

### Tennis

**FRENCH OPEN** (Roland Garros)  
Women: Singles: Semi-finals: I Swiatek (Pol) bt N Podoroska (Arg) 6-2 6-1; S KENIN (US, 4) bt P KVITOVA (Cz, 7) 6-4 7-5

Men: Doubles: Semi-finals: M PAVIC & B SOARES (Cro/Bra, 7) bt J SEBASTIAN CABAL & R FARAH (Col, 1) 7-6 (4) 7-5; K KRAWIETZ & A MIES (Ger, 8) bt W KOOLHOF & N MEKTIĆ (Neth/Cro, 9) 6-3 7-5

### Cycling

#### GIRO D'ITALIA

Stage six (Castrovilli-Matera; 188km) 1 A Demare (Fr) Groupama-FDJ 4hr 54min 38sec; 2 M Matthews (Aus) Sunweb; 3 F Fellini (It) Astana Pro; 4 J Sebastián Molano (Col) Emirates; 5 D Cimolai (It) Israel Start-Up Nation; 6 A Vendrame (It) AG2R La Mondiale; 7 M Fröhlich Honore (Den) Deceuninck-Quickstep; 8 P Sagan (Svk) Bora-Hansgrohe; 9 E Battaglin (It) Bahrain McLaren; 10 J Narváez (Ecu) Ineos Grenadiers all time Overall standings: 1 J Almeida (Por) Deceuninck-Quickstep 22hr 1min 1sec, 2 P Bilbao (Sp) Bahrain McLaren +0:43sec; 3 W Kelderman (Neth) Sunweb +0:48; 4 H Vanhoucke (Bel) Lotto Soudal +0:59; 5 V Nibali (It) Trek-Segafredo +1:01; 6 D Pozzovivo (It) NTT +1:05; 7 J Fuksas (Den) Astana +1:19; 8 S Kruijswijk (Neth) Jumbo-Visma +1:21; 9 P Konrad (Aut) Bora-Hansgrohe +1:26; 10 R Majka (Pol) Bora-Hansgrohe +1:32

### Golf

#### BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Leading first-round scores (GB/Ire unless stated) 66 A Arnaus (Sp); J Harding (SA); T Hatton 67 S Lowry; E Pepperell; G Green (Mal); M Fitzpatrick. 68 A Johnston; JB Hansen (Den); S Heni (Aus); J Rose; R Fox (NZ); W Ormsby (Aus); A Rai; M Schwab (Aut) 69 M Wallace; J Lagergren (Swe); G Forrest; R Rock; I Poultier; V Perez (Fr); G Higgo (SA); B Hebert (Fr). 70 D Horsey; M Southgate; J Morrison; B Wiesberger (Aut); R Hojgaard (Den); M Kawamura (Jpn); P Reed (US); L Westwood. 71 R Ramsay; K Samoja (Fin); M Pavon (Fr); K Broberg (Swe); D Willett; R Langasque (Fr); A Quirós (Sp); T Pulkkanen (Fin); A Phibarnrat (Tha); A Sullivan; T Olesen (Den); T Fleetwood; F Zanotti (Pty); M Bullen; M Woo Lee (Aus). 72 M Kinukt (Swe); D Law; M Kieffer (Ger); R Fisher; O Wilson; J Luiten (Neth); O Fisher; J Scrivener (Aus); C Bezuinhou (AUS); S Valimaki (Fin); T Detry (Bel); S Crocker (US); D Howell; J Guerrier (Fr); C Paisley; V Dubuisson (Fr); S Gallacher; Wang J (Kor)

### Fixtures

#### Football

##### Uefa European U21 Championship qualifying

Group Four Scotland v Czech Republic (5.30pm)  
Group Eight Northern Ireland v Finland (6pm)  
Sky Bet League One Fleetwood v Hull (7.45pm)  
Betfred Scottish League Cup

Group E Dunfermline v Falkirk (7.45pm)

International friendlies Japan v Cameroon (1pm); Morocco v Senegal (7pm); Nigeria v Algeria (7.30pm); Tunisia v Sudan (5pm)

#### Rugby union

#### Guinness Pro14

Dragons v Zebre (8.15pm)

#### Rugby league

#### Betfred Super League

Catalans Dragons v Hull KR (6.15pm); Wakefield v St Helens (5.30pm) Sky Sports Mix; Warrington v Wigan (7.45pm)

## Peacock-Farrell's shootout heroics put Northern Ireland in final

### Bosnia-Herzegovina

1

### Northern Ireland

1

Andy Hunter

The dream of a second successive appearance at the European Championships remains alive for Northern Ireland following a nerveless penalty shoot-out victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Liam Boyce and Bailey Peacock-Farrell delivered the vital contributions, the substitute with the match-winning penalty and the goalkeeper with the only save of the shoot-out, to set up a play-off final against Slovakia at Windsor Park next month.

Boyce scored the final kick to send Northern Ireland into ecstasy after Peacock-Farrell's save from Haris Hajradinovic had given them the edge.

The home side controlled from the start, and for large swathes of the second half after McGinn had brought the teams level, but Northern Ireland fought back every time. Their third game under new management witnessed a vast improvement on the previous outing against Norway and answered Steven Davis' call for a display befitting his record 120th appearance for his country.

Ian Baraclough chose not to train at Stadion Grbavica on the eve of the semi-final and the wisdom of that decision was in question immediately. His players struggled to keep their feet from the first whistle onwards and problems with the surface contributed to the home side claiming an early lead. But the pitch was not the only factor, as Northern Ireland allowed Bosnia and Herzegovina to dominate until the moment Rade Krunic made the breakthrough.

## Survey exposes scale of sexism in football

Suzanne Wrack

Two-thirds of women working in football have experienced gender discrimination in the workplace, according to Women in Football's biggest survey.

In collaboration with Sports Marketing Surveys, questions were sent to the 4,200 members of Women in Football (WiF) and the organisation's chair, Ebru Köksal, said the results were "heartbreaking and devastating".

"In this day and age, it's no longer acceptable," she said. "Inherent sexism in the game has been continuing for decades."

The findings were that only 12% of incidents were reported and Köksal



▲ Northern Ireland's players celebrate their dramatic shootout victory in Sarajevo  
DADO RUVIC/REUTERS

The visitors made an apprehensive start, punctuated by a series of needless fouls that enabled Miralem Pjanic to sweep a series of dangerous free-kicks into their penalty area. Corners included, the new Barcelona

said there was "still a lot of fear" of speaking out.

WiF's members are a network of professionals who work in every area of the game, on and off the pitch. The survey showed that when problems were reported they were "brushed under the carpet", with the most common form of discrimination labelled "banter".

Janie Frampton, the WiF ambassador and former referee who reached an out-of-court settlement with the Football Association in 2013 after she took the governing body to a tribunal following a dispute over her dismissal, said: "Myself and Wendy Toms were the first two women [referees] that came through the men's professional game in the 90s.

"Both of us have said so many times since that we probably had too high a tolerance level at the time because we just wanted to fit in. Now, we've come on 30 years and we are still experiencing the same issues ... Wendy and I were treated as a circus - I don't want that to still be the case now."

## Stark's positive test forces match to be scrapped

The Scottish Football Association has apologised after the Scotland Under-19 head coach, Billy Stark, returned a positive coronavirus test during a match against England, forcing the fixture to be abandoned.

Negative tests were returned by players and staff from both teams before the game at St George's Park. But, with the sides scheduled to meet again on Sunday, a second round of testing was required and returned a positive case for Stark. England led 3-1 when the game was halted.

"Despite testing negative during Sunday's test the head coach, Billy Stark, returned a positive test for Covid-19 this afternoon," a statement from the SFA read. "The result of the second test was immediately relayed

Branimir Cipetic was released in space down the right by a simple ball out of defence and over Jamal Lewis. Jonny Evans came across to cover but lost his footing at the crucial moment. That left Cipetic free to pick out Krunic arriving in the penalty area and the Milan forward converted low between the legs of Peacock-Farrell, to the delight of almost 2,000 home supporters allowed in the stadium.

It was the worst possible start for Northern Ireland but also their wake-up call. They almost levelled immediately, and with their first attack of the contest, but the goalkeeper Ibrahim Sehic saved superbly down to his left to prevent Josh Magennis heading in Corry Evans' telling cross from the right. George Saville, launching himself at the rebound, took a kick in the face from Anel Ahmedhodzic but the referee and VAR rejected the penalty appeals.

The interval did not break the momentum or increasing menace in the Northern Ireland performance. Baraclough's side started the second half in the ascendency and were rewarded with the equaliser when Magennis flicked Craig Cathcart's long ball into the path of McGinn. The 33-year-old, who sealed his country's famous win over Ukraine at the last Euro in Lyon, nicked the ball past two defenders, benefiting from a kind ricochet off each, before beating Sehic with a cool finish.

The roles then reversed again as the team that conceded sparked into life. Peacock-Farrell saved well from Krunic and, from the resulting break, Saville saw a goalbound shot blocked by Cipetic. Pjanic, curled a free-kick against the bar after being fouled by Davis. Amir Hadziahmetovic drew another save from the Burnley keeper. Edin Dzeko lobbed him from Pjanic's through ball but could not find the target.

### Bosnia-Herzegovina

4-3-3

Peacock-Farrell; Dallas, Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, C Evans (Whyte 73), McNair (Thompson 90); Boyce 120, Davis 110, Saville, McGinn (Jones 82; Washington 120); Magennis (Lafferty 90); Subs not used Begović, Nastic, Hodžić, Đorđević, Piric, Milošević, Ballard

### Northern Ireland

4-5-1

Cipetic, Ahmetović, Sanicanin, Kolasinač (Hajradinović 118); Čimirović (Loncar 105), Hadžić (Džeković 83), Pjanic (Visca, Dzeko, Krunić (Hotic 88); Subs not used Begović, Nastic, Hodžić, Đorđević, Piric, Milošević, Ballard Referee Antonio Lahoz (Sp)

to the under-19 team manager and the game was abandoned immediately, in line with established Covid-19 protocol. We apologise to the [English] FA for any inconvenience caused."

Stark travelled home alone and will self-isolate for 10 days. Scotland's players and the rest of the backroom team will undertake precautionary self-isolation for 14 days.

Sunday's match has been called off, in addition to an under-17 fixture scheduled to be held at St George's Park tomorrow.

The England Under-19 squad includes the Liverpool midfielder Harvey Elliott, Manchester United's defender Teden Mengi and Wolves' full-back Luke Matheson.

The news came on the same day Xherdan Shaqiri was given the all-clear after testing negative for Covid-19. Earlier in the week it was announced by the Swiss FA that the forward had tested positive but a subsequent test confirmed the Liverpool player had not contracted the virus. **Guardian sport**

▼ Andy Robertson leads the charge after victory on penalties in Glasgow  
IAN MACNICOL/GETTY IMAGES



## McLean holds nerve to keep Scotland dreaming of finals

**Scotland** 0

**Israel** 0

(aet; Scotland win 5-3 on penalties)

**Ewan Murray**

Hampden Park

Scotland had not been involved in extra time since 1961. They have not competed in a major tournament since 1998. On an evening where the first of those runs was broken, the second is a game from ending. A penalty shootout success over Israel took Steve Clarke's team to the Nations League play-off final. The Scots slotted home all five of their spot-kicks, with Kenny McLean the man to seal victory. David Marshall's earlier save from Eran Zahavi was equally significant.

In a match which soon regressed into an ugly scrap, the Israel substitute Shon Weissman was inches away from snatching victory. In the final act of extra time, Scotland hit a post. Had there been a breakthrough, neither team could have claimed they deserved it. Serbia, who defeated Norway, will not be fretting about the prospects of Scotland's visit with a European Championship place at stake.

Debate surrounding the significance of this fixture in appropriate historical context for Scotland had been punctured by Covid-19 troubles. Stuart Armstrong's positive test plus the additional impact on Ryan Christie and Kieran Tierney - all three had to be withdrawn from this tie - delivered an element of hassle Clarke could well have done without. Somewhat surprisingly, Scotland's manager retained the back three that were not entirely convincing

during the September international window; Scott McTominay partnered Liam Cooper and Declan Gallagher. If perhaps through necessity - Christie would have been a certain starter - Clarke deployed Oli McBurnie alongside Lyndon Dykes for the first time in attack.

Fine play by Dykes, who knocked down a Callum McGregor cross, contributed to a terrific Scotland chance in the eighth minute. When composure was required, John McGinn instead blazed wildly over Ofir Marciano's goal. As Andy Robertson curled a free kick narrowly wide four minutes later, the hosts had cause for optimism.

Yet Israel were perfectly comfortable during the opening period. Only a crucial McGregor intervention prevented Hatem Elhamed from sending the visitors in front. Scotland had started to wobble before a glaring opportunity for McTominay from a Robertson corner. When in blissful isolation, the Manchester United player somehow headed wide. The shocked demeanour of Clarke - not typically one for demonstrative behaviour - said it all.

If cliché would state Scotland suffered from the absence of a noisy support, that there was nobody in the Hampden stands to transmit nervousness must also be recognised. Years in the international wilderness has not really blunted the widespread notion that Scotland *should* beat opposition such as Israel. Evidence here really showed there is little between the sides.

A scrappy start to the second half was improved by a curling shot from Eyal Golasa that only narrowly missed the Scotland goal's frame. That moment aside, neither team were doing much to suggest they could

make a meaningful contribution to the rescheduled Euro finals. Scotland howled in vain for a penalty after the ball flicked off the arm of Eitan Tibi. That it happened from a shanked Elhamed clearance rather summed up the standard of proceedings. The high stakes, of course, were a mitigating factor. Semi-finals are rarely memorable.

Clarke faced a dilemma. Israel's recent history of giving Scotland difficulty did not bode well. Neither, indeed, did the failure to present McBurnie and Dykes with chances to break the deadlock. The manager had to decide whether to stick or twist.

Manor Solomon raised Scottish pulses. The Shakhtar Donetsk player swung in a delightful 71st minute free-kick that somehow managed to evade all interested parties. Israel's confidence was further endorsed by Zahavi, who fired a long-range effort into the hands of Marshall. Clarke sent for Lawrence Shankland as McBurnie's 10th Scotland appearance concluded without a maiden goal. The Sheffield United man could rightly point towards the lack of openings for him.

Clarke's next trick involved introducing Ryan Fraser, who would be an automatic Scotland starter but for a glaring lack of club football, for the ineffectual Ryan Jack. From another teasing Robertson set play, Gallagher headed just wide. Elhamed came even closer, with a fierce shot McTominay had to deflect wide for a corner. This was to prove the final flurry in front of goal. If nobody could argue with the 90 minute outcome, Clarke had cause for frustration that his team could not swat aside average opposition. Maybe that 22-year wait should mean nobody watching on really had cause to expect anything else. Scotland are not accustomed to simple outcomes.

**Scotland**  
3-5-2  
Marshall; McTominay, Gallagher, Cooper; O'Donnell (McLean 113), Jack (Fraser 84), McGregor, McGinn, Robertson, Dykes (Paterson 90), McBurnie (Shankland 73)  
*Subs not used*  
McLaughlin, McCrorie, Porteous, Fleck, Taylor  
**Referee** Ovidiu Hategan (Rom)

**Israel**  
5-3-1-1  
Marciano; Dasa, Yeini, Bitton (Tibi, Elhamed); Natcho (Abu Fani 69), Solomon, Golasa (Elmkies 101); Dabbur (Weissman 83); Zahavi  
*Subs not used*  
Harush, Nitzan, Menachem, Dgani, Lavi, Seba, Karzav, Arad, Abu Hanna

## Agony for Ireland after Browne and Doherty miss from spot in Slovakia

**Slovakia** 0

**Republic of Ireland** 0

(aet; Slovakia win 4-2 on penalties)

**Paul Doyle**

The Republic of Ireland's European qualification campaign reached a painful conclusion as they lost a penalty shootout to Slovakia. Alan Browne had a spot-kick saved by the hosts' goalkeeper, Marek Rodak, before Matt Doherty struck an effort against the crossbar. Slovakia scored all their penalties to set up a showdown with Northern Ireland.

The defeat was all the more agonising for Stephen Kenny because his team had played brightly in the preceding 120 minutes but missed chances to clinch victory.

Slovakia's buildup had been disrupted by the absence of a couple of key players owing to Covid-19 and Irish preparations were upset immediately before the game when a member of their backroom staff found out he had tested positive for the virus. Two Ireland substitutes, Adam Idah and Aaron Connolly, were then removed from the teamsheet without official explanation. It is believed that was a precautionary measure as both players were thought to have been in close contact with the staff member.

Kenny was still able to start with a side close to full-strength and opted to change his attack. David McGoldrick led the line, flanked by James McClean and Callum Robinson.

The manager had insisted throughout the buildup that his team would not be coy visitors and they made good on his word. Robinson dispossessed Denis Vavro in the Slovakia box in the first minute as Ireland pressed high, but his shot was deflected for a corner. Then the home side showed their passing prowess, slickly playing their way forward before foundering on a vigilant Irish defence.

The two teams' ambitions were laudable but neither could follow them through well enough to worry the opposing goalkeeper in the opening half hour.

McClean gave McGoldrick a chance to do so in the 30th minute after pestering a defender into ceding possession, but the striker headed over from eight

yards. Ireland, though, were gaining the upper hand, regularly winning the ball high up the pitch and zipping it around. A high cross from the right by Doherty created an opening in the 36th minute, with Conor Hourihane taking it down before teeing up McClean, whose angled shot was blocked by Martin Valjent.

Slovakia looked toothless until first-half stoppage time, when Darren Randolph was called into action, flinging himself to his left to tip away a shot by Ondrej Duda. From the resultant corner Duda went close again.

Ireland began the second half the brighter, with Jeff Hendrick again involved in most of their positive interplay. Hourihane's deliveries also caused problems, with one almost triggering a spectacular blunder in the 50th minute, when a defender cut out a dangerous free-kick from the left but almost headed into his own goal.

Slovakia bucked up after that brush with embarrassment. With Marek Hamsek pulling the strings, they forced Ireland on to the back foot and won a series of corners. By the hour Kenny reckoned Ireland needed reinvigoration so he introduced Browne and Robbie Brady for James McCarthy and McClean.

However, Slovakia had found an ominous groove, albeit without suggesting they had a serious cutting edge. Then Browne got a chance to break through on a counterattack thanks to nifty work by McGoldrick and Robbie Brady, but Rodak batted away his shot.

Slovakia then went even closer, as Doherty got lost under a superb crossfield pass by Hamsik before being rescued by Shane Duffy, who cleared Lukas Haraslin's shot off the line.

McGoldrick then created a wonderful chance for Ireland to snatch victory, weaving through the Slovakia defence before Robinson and Browne combined to present the ball to Hourihane six yards from goal. The midfielder shot weakly, allowing Juraj Kucka to block on the line.

**Slovakia**  
4-3-3  
Rodak; Pekarik, Pavro (Gyomber 112), Valjent, Mazan; Kucka (Gregus 86), Hrosovsky, Hamsik (Rusnak 86), Duda (Bozenik 107), Mihalik (Haraslin 74)  
*Subs not used*  
Bero, Grieß, Koscelnik, Kuciak, Pauschek, Schranz  
**Referee** Clément Turpin (Fr)

**Republic of Ireland**  
4-2-3-1  
Randolph; Doherty, Egan, Duffy (Stevens); McCarthy (Browne 60), Hourihane (O'Dowda 100), Robinson (McClean 60), McGoldrick (Long 112)  
*Subs not used*  
Byrne, Christie, Kelleher, Molunby, Travers, Williams

◀ Republic of Ireland's Callum Robinson (left) tussles with Robert Mazan of Slovakia in Bratislava RADOVAN STOKLASA/REUTERS





Flying high on England debut

Dominic Calvert-Lewin rises unchallenged to score his first-half opener against Wales

TOM JENKINS/  
NMC POOL/  
THE GUARDIAN

# Calvert-Lewin hits new heights to increase Southgate's options

<b>England</b>	<b>3</b>
Calvert-Lewin 26, Coady 53, Ings 63	
<b>Wales</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>David Hytner</b>	
Wembley	

Gareth Southgate needed this. England needed this. And after all the focus on the squad's misbehaving players, on what Southgate had called the off-field "circus", how gratifying it was to see a cohesive performance and a clutch of dream-come-true moments.

There was a debut goal for Dominic

Calvert-Lewin, which embossed an assertive display from him, and first England goals for Conor Coady and Danny Ings on the occasions of their second and third caps respectively. Both were beautifully taken. Coady's joy knew no bounds.

To top it all, there was Jack Grealish, who stole the show, gliding with menace off the left of Southgate's 3-4-3 system, which functioned a whole lot better than it did in the 0-0 draw in Denmark last month.

Everything was better, with England threatening through Calvert-Lewin at the outset and shifting towards total control in the second half when a Wales team missing Aaron Ramsey, Joe Allen and Gareth Bale could not live with them. The movement, passing and pressing came to be

on point, which was not bad for such an experimental lineup.

Southgate had warned that the performance was not "going to be perfect" mainly because of his players' lack of familiarity with each other. The inexperience of his starting team was pronounced - there were just 54 caps between them at kick-off and Michael Keane, Joe Gomez and the stand-in captain, Kieran Trippier, had 41 of those. The manager wanted to keep the powder of his big guns dry for the Nations League ties with Belgium on Sunday and Denmark next Wednesday. It was not perfect but, at the same time, there was plenty to enjoy.

The buildup had been dominated by the Covid-19 breaches from Tammy Abraham, Ben Chilwell and Jadon Sancho, which had come on the heels of

## Covid forces U19s call-off

The Scottish FA has apologised after the Scotland Under-19 head coach, Billy Stark, returned a positive coronavirus test during a friendly against England, forcing the fixture to be abandoned. Players and staff from both teams tested negative before the game at St George's Park, but, with the sides scheduled to meet again on Sunday, a second round of testing was required. England led 3-1 when the game was halted. The SFA said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused." Sunday's match, and tomorrow's under-17 fixture, have been called off. **Guardian sport**

the errors of judgement by Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood in the previous camp, not to mention Harry Maguire.

Southgate's players shaped a different narrative here, with the other debutant in the starting XI, Bukayo Saka, overcoming a nervous start to almost get on the scoresheet - Wayne Hennessey denied him with one of a string of fine saves - and even the largely untroubled Nick Pope stepped up when needed. The goalkeeper left his line to block bravely at the feet of Kieffer Moore in the 30th minute. Southgate knows that defensive solidity is a prerequisite for tournament success and he could be pleased at what was a sixth clean sheet in succession.

Calvert-Lewin was determined to showcase the clever movement and power that has lit up the early weeks of the Premier League season and he had advertised the opening goal. From an early Trippier corner, he rose unmarked only to see his Everton teammate, Keane, stretch to reach the header in front of him and succeed in flicking the ball away from him. There was also the dart on to an Ings pass that enabled him to go round Hennessey only to find the angle was too acute to score.



▲ Jack Grealish, who teed up Calvert-Lewin's opening goal, runs clear of Wales defender Chris Mepham  
CHLOE KNOTT/THE FA/SHUTTERSTOCK

▼ Conor Coady races away to celebrate steering Kieran Trippier's free-kick past Wayne Hennessey  
GLYN KIRK/REUTERS

Although Wales looked comfortable on the ball in the first half, Jonny Williams catching the eye with his balance on the ball, Calvert-Lewin's breakthrough was a fair reflection of the first 45 minutes. Its creation was all about Grealish, who was the outstanding player on the pitch.

As he has done for Aston Villa so far this season, especially in Sunday's 7-2 win over Liverpool, Grealish sniffed out spaces and drove his team on with the ball at his feet. His balance in possession was lovely to watch and he bought himself a yard against Ethan Ampadu, having moseyed over from left to right, before whipping over a precision cross for Calvert-Lewin, who was already on the move. The downward-headed finish was a formality. All he really needed to do was to slow the thump of his heart.

Moore had half a chance after Saka had headed weakly out to him but he could not get hold of the volley and the big one came when Keane lost the flight of a high ball and he tore in on goal. Pope was alert, taking Moore's knee to his face as he smothered, and it was the striker who came off worse, picking up a knock that would force him off.

England's lead at half-time might have been greater had Coady been able to keep his shot down after a corner had been recycled by Keane, but he did score early in the second period. He sprinted on to Trippier's free-kick, in front of two Wales defenders, and the half-volleyed finish in the roof of the net was almost nonchalant.

Ings could also look back on a positive evening's work, his movement dangerous throughout, and his goal was a beauty, a well executed overhead-kick after the substitute Tyrone Mings had headed back a corner.

Southgate got Reece James and Harvey Barnes on for their first caps and Wales would have gone under had it not been for Hennessey. His saves at 3-0 denied Grealish, Saka, Ings and James Ward-Prowse.

#### England

3-4-3

Pope; Gomez (Mings 58), Coady, Keane; Trippier (James 58), Phillips, Winks (Ward-Prowse 76), Saka (Maitland-Niles 76); Ings, Calvert-Lewin (Mount 58), Grealish (Barnes 76)  
Subs not used D Henderson, Pickford, Rashford, Alexander-Arnold, Maguire, Rice  
Referee Bobby Madden (Sco)

#### Wales

4-3-3

Hennessey; C Roberts (Gunter 73), Mepham, Rodon (Cabango h-t), B Davies; Morrell (Levitt h-t), Ampadu (Vaulk 62), J Williams (Smith 73); T Roberts, Moore (N Williams 40), Matondo Subs not used Ward, A Davies, Johnson, Norrington-Davies, D James, Woodburn

**Analysis**  
**Jonathan Liew**

## England's No 9 cloud lifts after night of experiments yields positive results

**Y**es, it was only a throwaway friendly at an empty Wembley Stadium between a second-string England and a limited Wales, but ... well, maybe there is no "but". Maybe that's the end of the sentence. Not every football game has to mean something. Not every event has to be a learning opportunity. And as England scratched their way to a convincing if inoffensive win, the temptation was to wonder whether this lukewarm encounter had changed anything at all. Whether the fabric of the universe had been wrinkled one iota.

Still, if there's anything more tiresome than an England friendly it's people moaning about how tiresome England friendlies are, while setting aside their evening to watch them. And even if you accept the ephemeral, cobbled-together, Conor-Coady-as-captain feel to this contest, there was still plenty here to catch the eye. Jack Grealish was a swirling, silvery delight. Danny Ings's overhead kick was fitting reward for a bustling night's work. And Coady's first England goal - capped by a celebration of pure, unbridled disbelief - was a genuinely touching moment.

Most importantly: on a night of hopeful punts and half-baked experiments, Gareth Southgate now has viable competition at centre-forward. Step forward Everton's indomitable Dominic Calvert-Lewin, whose debut goal may have been elementary enough but whose energy, movement and influence more than justified Southgate's decision to treat this fixture as a laboratory.

"The stuff of dreams," Calvert-

Lewin beamed afterwards, and for the Premier League's current top scorer there is a feeling of planets aligning, of plans finally coming to fruition. Equally, of course, with Harry Kane on his own hot streak and England's likely first-choice No 9 for as long as he wants to be, there is a temptation to wonder whether any of this is really of any consequence.

Kane, Jadon Sancho, Raheem Sterling, with Marcus Rashford in reserve: this is Southgate's preferred front three, and everyone knows it. Is Calvert-Lewin really destined to be any more than a handy impact substitute? Perhaps, at this point, we should backtrack a little. England may have won handily enough, but there was no getting away from the paucity of their offering in the first half-hour, or the lack of creativity from midfield.

Of course, this has been a problem area for some years now. Here, as the midfield collapsed on to the defence, the attack collapsed on to the midfield, and the wing-backs were decidedly more latter than former, it was possible to glimpse in this new team some old failings.

Yet realistically, what did we expect from England's most inexperienced starting XI since 1980, when a B-team flew to Australia for an exhibition game later upgraded to international status? It was the sort of team you pick when you have no spectators to refund, and yet as the game opened out in the second half England looked much better: the various parts beginning to click, the runs and the glances and the passes finally beginning to synchronise with each other.

And though Calvert-Lewin took his leave before the hour, he had done as much as anyone to turn

the tide. There was little intricate or elaborate about his goal: a simple run, a tidy header, a goal that owed as much to an absent marker as to its own inspiration. But it was at the fringes of the game that Calvert-Lewin was at his most menacing: marshalling and coordinating the press, timing his runs into the channels, pulling and pushing defenders out of their comfortable zones.

This has been the real revelation of Calvert-Lewin in 2020-21. The goals are really just the tip of the iceberg: what has really impressed is the industry and intelligence. Under the tutelage of Carlo Ancelotti, he has curbed his natural roaming instincts and sharpened himself into a pure penalty-box killer. His pace and movement forces defences to sit a little deeper. His aerial ability punishes them for it. His leap is as good as any. And unlike Kane, who is really more of an auxiliary second-forward these days, he still has the sharpness and burst to play on the shoulder of the last defender and attack the spaces behind.

With its marauding wing-backs and sparse, economical midfield, Southgate's 3-4-3 formation seems like a team built for the counterattack rather than for long spells of possession. International football is a far simpler game than its club equivalent: a game of set pieces, half-chances, second balls, balls in behind. And if Calvert-Lewin can get through the season without blunting the thrilling edge to his game, he could become an indispensable tournament asset: not just an injury reserve or bench option but an alternative or even a complement to Kane.

And yes, it was only a friendly against Wales. But go back to that game against Australia in 1980, and sure, most of that XI sank without trace. Yet among the untried and the untested were a young defender called Terry Butcher and a promising midfielder called Glenn Hoddle. The moral? Sometimes experimentation is simply about throwing a few ideas at the wall and seeing what sticks.

## Manager sends out warning to absent trio

Gareth Southgate has warned his players to beware losing their place in his squad after an experimental England side shone against Wales, giving Tammy Abraham, Ben Chilwell and Jadon Sancho something to ponder following their breach of Covid-19 rules.

Although Abraham, Chilwell and Sancho have tested negative for coronavirus, the trio face a battle to regain their spots in the team after England demonstrated their strength in depth by securing the 3-0 friendly

win over Wales. Abraham and Sancho could return to face Belgium in the Nations League on Sunday but Chilwell is a doubt after feeling unwell.

Southgate does not have a shortage of options and he urged the newcomers to keep the shirt. Dominic Calvert-Lewin opened the scoring on his debut, Conor Coady and Danny Ings scored their first goals at international level, Jack Grealish impressed on his first start and Bukayo Saka had a fine debut at left wing-back.

"That is in essence the really big lesson for anybody in that situation," England's manager said. "You want to be involved, you want to be playing. When you've got the shirt or the place in the squad you don't want to allow other people the opportunity to take it."

"Whenever we give debuts or get guys who deserve their chance who

have been in the squad for a while time on the pitch there's opportunity for them to grab a place and push themselves up the pecking order. Several

did that tonight and there is competition for places. Not just the squad we named, other players are outside that."

Southgate hopes to have Abraham and Sancho available against Belgium. "Tammy and Jadon have trained independently - with us but in isolation this afternoon," he said. "All three players have tested negatively. Ben has had some illness which we think is minor but as a precaution we've kept him separate from the group at the moment. There's probably a strong chance he won't be with us for the Uefa testing in the morning, which would rule him out for Sunday. We would expect Tammy and Jadon to be available for that." Jacob Steinberg

## Swing go

Rugby fans can carry on singing England song at Twickenham



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## French Open

Kenin sets up final clash with teenager Swiatek

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The Guardian

Friday 9 October 2020



# Sport

### Taking to the air as Ings hits No 3

Danny Ings produces one of the moments of the night at Wembley, scoring a brilliant third against Wales

NICK POTT/REUTERS



### Match report

David Hytner  
Page 42 →



England



Wales

3

0

Calvert-Lewin 26,  
Coady 53, Ings 63

## Dragon slayers

Ings puts spectacular seal on England's victory

### Euro 2020 qualifying

Scots progress but all-Ireland play-off final hopes dashed

Mark Dobson

Scotland and Northern Ireland made it through to the Euro 2020 qualifying play-offs on penalties after a dramatic night but the Republic of Ireland tumbled out.

Scotland drew 0-0 with Israel at Hampden Park - despite Liam Cooper almost winning the tie in the very last seconds of the match, which went to extra time - while Northern Ireland came from behind away to Bosnia-Herzegovina and went through, while the Republic's 0-0 draw in Slovakia was in vain.

Steve Clarke had promised to "make the nation smile" and his Scotland side eventually did that to set up a Euro 2020 play-off final against Serbia next month.

It was all the more sweet for the Scots whose buildup to the key clash at Hampden Park was blighted by the positive Covid-19 positive test for Stuart Armstrong which also forced Ryan Christie and Kieran Tierney to isolate.

Kenny McLean scored the winning shootout penalty with Scotland going through 5-3 on penalties against a lively Israel side.

Scotland have not been at a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup but now have to get past Serbia in a one-legged final on 12 November.

Northern Ireland will be joining the Scots in the play-off finals after another shootout win. Rade Krunic had given the home side a first-half advantage. Niall McGinn's 53rd-minute equaliser kept the country's hopes alive but they could not force a winner and the game drifted into extra time and a penalty shootout.

Liam Boyce then slotted the winning penalty, with Northern Ireland going through to meet Slovakia, 4-3 on penalties. The night was a glorious one for the captain Steven Davis, who became the country's most-capped player with 120 appearances, overtaking the legendary goalkeeper Pat Jennings.

The Republic of Ireland drew 0-0 in Slovakia, again the match going all the way to a shootout. Alan Browne and Matt Doherty missed from the spot and Ireland lost the shootout 4-2.

Match reports Pages 40-41 →



G2

“Fear, anger  
and doubt  
live within us

# Kevin Bacon

on fame ...  
and Footloose

The  
Guardian

Friday 09/10/20

# Film

# & Music

## Diamond league

Sade's greatest  
songs - ranked!  
By Alexis Petridis  
*page 2*

**'Bikini Kill  
were gods'**  
Miranda July  
on her teenage  
obsessions  
*page 3*



# Ranked! Sade songs

By Alexis Petridis

**10**

**The Sweetest Taboo**  
(1985)

Sade's second album, *Pride*, was more autumnal than their summery-sounding debut: its lead single opens with the sound of rain and there's a distinct sadness about its chords and lyrics, as if the love it describes isn't fully required. Note also the 2011 live performance on YouTube, a masterclass in insouciant cool.



**8**

**Smooth Operator**  
(1984)

The band Sade most obviously resembled weren't their quiet-storm contemporaries, but early 80s Roxy Music. You can hear it on *Smooth Operator*, where a glossy, luxe-feeling sound coats a lyric that offers an ambiguous depiction of its jetsetting subject, its jaded tone clearer in the full-length album version: "Heaven help him when he falls."

**9**

**Soldier of Love**  
(2010)

Sade often seem like a band that exist in their own, hermetically sealed world, impervious to the vagaries of fashion, but there is a definite hint of contemporary R&B about the production on *Soldier of Love*'s title track. And yet it still sounds exactly like Sade, and Sade herself sounds completely imperious throughout.

**7**

**When Am I Going to Make a Living?**  
(1984)

When am I Going to Make Living? is Sade's equivalent of the Pet Shop Boys' Opportunities. Both could be misread as paeans to 80s greed and Thatcherite self-improvement, rather than a damning critique: their protagonists are at the bottom of the heap, scuffling to survive in an increasingly uncaring society.

**1**

**By Your Side**  
(2000)

There is a compelling argument that Lovers Rock is Sade's masterpiece: a collection of meditations on parenthood, loss and race, its tracks encompass everything from hip-hop to reggae to singer-songwriter folksiness. And, in *By Your Side*, it has Sade's greatest song: its hushed atmosphere not a million miles removed from *No Woman No Cry*, its melody so perfectly formed it feels instantly familiar. How this isn't the kind of modern standard that gets regularly murdered on *The X Factor* is a mystery, although the 1975's Auto-Tune-heavy cover is nice enough.

**2**

**No Ordinary Love**  
(1992)

You could call *No Ordinary Love* the distilled essence of Sade, in that it manages to pack a heavy emotional punch while maintaining an air of effortlessness and elegance. One anomaly: the chugging distorted guitar, which suggests someone had taken note of grunge and which perhaps accounts for the subsequent cover by, of all people, the Deftones.

**3**

**Is It a Crime?**  
(1985)

"It dives, it jumps and it ripples like the deepest ocean," run the lyrics, which is as good a description as any of this song: a six-minute saga of romantic obsession that keeps surging from a verse that's almost a whisper to a brass-heavy chorus, with a distinct toughness about the vocal.

**6**

**Bullet Proof Soul**  
(1992)

No one does small-hours heartbreak quite like Sade, and *Bullet Proof Soul* might be the supreme example: a vocal that's yearning and controlled; a lyric that suggests bad karma will get the errant object of her desires; a perfectly understated arrangement of meandering sax, melancholy piano and drum machine.

**4**

**Hang on to Your Love**  
(1984)

Sade's US debut single, and probably *Diamond Life*'s highlight, *Hang on to Your Love* is a beautiful song and the perfect demonstration of what a mature-sounding band Sade were on arrival, minting a sound that they have refined over the past 36 years.

**5**

**Love Is Stronger Than Pride**  
(1988)

Sade were a product of the pre-acid house London club scene dominated by the Wag, so it's probably just a coincidence that 1988's *Stronger Than Pride* album felt distinctly Balearic. *Love Is Stronger Than Pride* is like a song glimpsed through a heat haze: slivers of cooing synth and Spanish guitar topped with an exquisitely airy vocal.

**Playlist**



**1**

**Bicep**  
**Apricots**

Drawing on samples from Malawi and Bulgaria, Belfast's lords of the chords return with another track built for maximum poignancy at sunset - doubly so after our lost Ibizan summer.

**2**

**Mdou Moctar**  
**Chismiten**

Newly signed to the indie big leagues with Matador Records, the Hendrix of the Sahara is on peak form, threading gigantic soulful soloing through this rollicking number.

**3**

**Br3nya**  
**Bezerk ft Ivorian Doll**

The west London rapper is "classy with a hit of ratchetness" on Bezerk, a track cooler than its name suggests, Br3nya dominating the smeary, twinkling beat with nonchalant confidence.

**4**

**Ghetts**  
**IC3 ft Skepta**

Named after the infamous code used by police to describe black suspects, two of the UK's great MCs turn it into a statement of black pride, shrugging off the beat's claustrophobia.

**5**

**Overmono**  
**Everything U Need**

The UK's other current hot dance duo extract serious mileage out of an insistent, imperceptibly bending three-note motif, before some skull-massaging chords arrive to roll your eyeballs back.

**6**

**Chai**  
**Donuts Mind If I Do**

The Japanese four-piece take a dreamier approach on their first for Sub Pop, a city pop-inspired haze that bobs like a kite floating through a bright pastel sky.

**7**

**Iris DeMent**  
**Going Down to Sing in Texas**

The Grammy-nominated songwriter channels Randy Newman on this engaging piano ramble in which she indicts Trump and gun ownership, celebrates the Chicks and Palestine, all to a warm Wurlitzer swell.

# Teenage kicks

Film-maker **Miranda July** on her youthful passions from her brother's woodwork to sex, lies and videotape

## Unidentified honey artwork

I can't cite the artist, but my parents took me to see this performance in Berkeley, California, where I grew up. It was rare that we saw art - my parents were writers, and we didn't spend a lot of time in museums. It was a bag hanging from the ceiling, it must have been made out of resin, filled with what turned out to be honey. Picture a cow's udder as big as your arms can stretch. And very slowly, it thinned at the bottom with the weight of the honey and then broke and the honey slowly came pouring out. It's not abstract because it's an actual bag of honey - but it was certainly abstract in that a lot of what I was feeling I couldn't put into words, though it was strong and specific nonetheless. It was a kind of longing. It's luxurious and you wanna be part of it or touch it; it reminds you of something that makes you wanna cry. That you could communicate that way rather than intellectually, like my parents were so good at doing, was very radical to me.

At that time, I was making fanzines with my best friend in high school. They were filled with our writing, but I remember a page where we had a picture of two mountains, and we wrote our name on each one. I was like, we've just broken it wide open. It was a bag-of-honey-level of: who knows what we're saying? Are we these mountains? We're this big? I remember just beginning to touch the idea that not everything could be explained. When I think of abstraction in my own work, like the wall of bubbles in *Kajillionaire*, I go back to that formative bag of honey. I know that if I ask [my parents about it], they're not gonna have the slightest idea of what I'm talking about and maybe will suggest that I'm making it up.

## Jane Campion's short films

I liked her longer films, too, but when I saw her early series of films - like *A Girl's Own Story* - I could really relate to them as an artist. They're short and clearly made with not much money, and very deeply feminine in a complex way. They felt within the realm of the kind of thing I could do. At the time I was also inspired by independent film-making like [Spike Lee's] *She's Gotta Have It* and guys charging movies to their credit cards and then making it at Sundance. It's not like Jane Campion was part of that, she was off in New Zealand. But I think it was those two things that formed the basis of me thinking that I wanted to be a director.

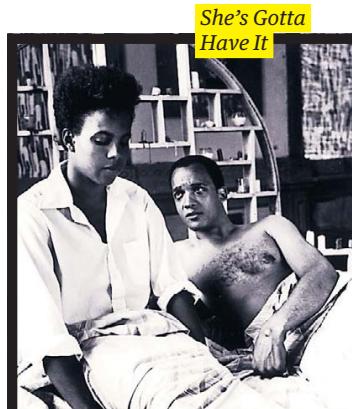
## sex, lies, and videotape

There are movies within the movie - where women talk to the camera about their early sexual experiences



Clockwise  
from far left:  
Miranda  
July, Bikini Kill,  
Jane Campion  
and James  
Spader

**Bikini Kill's brand was so tight aesthetically - it was all just so edible**



She's Gotta  
Have It

- that James Spader's character makes so he can get off because he can't come in the presence of anyone else. It's essentially his own porn, but it's nuanced, it's just talking. I really loved those movies and saw the women in them as quite empowered: they're dressed, they seem very interested in thinking about their formative sexual experiences.

The origin for *Joanie 4 Jackie*, my own distribution network for women film-makers, [was that] I was so desperate to see homemade movies by women - to my mind the equivalent of DIY punk movies; more intimate, less pretending to be interested in the mainstream reasons for film-making. I thought that if they made those movies themselves, then I could put them on a tape and distribute them. I was being influenced by sex, lies, and videotape, even though of course it was Steven Soderbergh making them. But I'm pointing out that if you need it badly enough, you'll get it, you'll find it.

## Robin Grossinger's woodwork

I have an older brother, Robin, who was a child genius woodworker. He started making things out of sticks and pine cones and glue - these little creatures, little log houses for them. He made me a dollhouse with wood, and we decorated all the rooms, and then he made me a playhouse. As a teenager, he started to make fine furniture, but because he was also still a kid, he would build in intricate, secret compartments as only a child

would do. People love to say to me, "Oh, your parents were writers", and yes, my parents were writers, but maybe more importantly my brother was a woodworker. That was much more accessible to me. Two adults typing, it's hard to do much with that, but I held things while they were gluing and I sanded things, and I watched things go from just a sketch to a thing that really existed and it was made by a fellow child. You never unlearn the idea that you can make something from start to finish, and it can be real. We still have a lot of that furniture.

## A found book on sexuality and disability

I grew up a block below Telegraph Avenue, the most famous street in Berkeley. It was the home of a lot of radicalism that predicated me, but what was still there was the Center for Independent Living - a hub for disabled people. It was quite radical in terms of allowing them to live independently and with full personhood. They had a free box out in front sometimes where there'd be old books. I picked up one about sex surrogates for people with disabilities. I'd thought about sex long before this, but as a formative book for an able-bodied person who was coming of age, it really brought out what was important about sex: why pleasure was a right and part of your humanness, and it is also, of course, entirely about communication. Physically, you have to be able

to communicate somehow with someone who's maybe not able to verbally speak and give their consent. This was long before any issue of consent - girls around me were being molested and raped right and left, and it was normal. So I feel grateful to that book for introducing an entirely different vocabulary and worldview.

## Bikini Kill

I knew Kathleen [Hanna] and yet they were still gods. More than any other band for me at that time, they managed to do what we would now think of as branding: their brand was so tight aesthetically. Kathleen is also a visual artist, and everything from writing "slut" on her tummy to her hair, her clothes - it was all just so *edible*, it could go straight into your veins. And they're loud, and they're singing "revolution girl-style now" - really yelling it - and she's beautiful. There were bands that were much more radical that I was also a fan of - Tribe 8 was a band of lesbians and Lynn Breedlove [who has since transitioned] would sing with his shirt off and his breasts swinging around, kind of droopy, amazing bag-of-honey breasts. But there's something to be said for Bikini Kill's perfect confection of radicalism. Like the Sex Pistols, there are certain bands that for all their defiance manage to convey their message pretty accessibly.

## Interview by Laura Snaps

*Kajillionaire* is in UK cinemas from 9 October



# 'We all have darkness in our souls'

**Kevin Bacon has spent 35 years living down his Footloose heart-throb status. 'I couldn't care less about being handsome or heroic,' he tells Ryan Gilbey**

**A**larm bells would ring for most couples if one partner suggested marriage as the perfect subject for a horror film. Kevin Bacon does not seem perturbed, though, that his latest, *You Should Have Left*, was inspired by just such an idea that his wife, the actor Kyra Sedgwick, came up with.

"I'm drawn to dark things," he says down the phone from their farm in Connecticut. "On some level, it's therapeutic. I have a marriage that works and I didn't have a tremendous amount of trauma as a child and yet I feel all human beings

have darkness in their souls. Fear and anger and doubt live within us. Part of what I like about my job is tapping into those demons. I became an actor because I wanted to explore all sides of the human condition. Being heroic or handsome or winning the big game - I couldn't care less about those things! But to go into the darker corners of a man's psyche is an interesting thing to do."

It is in this discomfort zone that he has played, among other things, a menacing killer (*The River Wild*), a sadistic warden (*Sleepers*) and a paedophile (*The Woodsman*). Theo, his character in *You Should Have Left*, is initially nothing more than an understandably jealous husband: his much younger wife (Amanda Seyfried) is an actor whose latest project demands some intimate love scenes. Theo's paranoia is bad enough, but when the couple move to rural Wales, they encounter ghosts, mysteriously unpredictable topography and other problems far beyond the remit of *Relate*.

Bacon, who wears his 62 years lightly, is genial and laidback during our conversation. It is a different matter in the movie: raddled and jittery, his boyish looks show signs of corrosion. The script is littered with references to his character's advancing years and declining virility. "We acknowledge from the start that Theo's wife is too young for him," says the writer-director David Koepp, who also worked with Bacon on the chilling, underrated *Stir of Echoes*. "I told Kevin: 'To do that, I'll have to make jokes about your age. Right away. And frequently.' He said: 'Great! I'm all for it.'"

Even when it emerges that Theo has some skeletons, possibly literal

ones, in his closet, Bacon remains a stubbornly sympathetic presence. How is that? "His light characters have darkness in them and his dark ones have light in them," Koepp explains. "I've always found him unique in that way. You can see it going back to his early movies like *She's Having a Baby*. It's this delightful John Hughes comedy but there's something in him, a sliver of darkness, that makes you wonder whether he'll follow the rules."

Bacon relishes Theo's humiliation most strongly in the scene in which he visits his wife on set, gets mistaken for her father and then stands around with the crew listening to her moans of sexual pleasure. "When David sent me that, I said: 'That is so fucking perfect! The one day you show up, your wife is in the middle of a sex scene!' The other thing he captured so well is when you visit someone on set and you

always feel like *persona non grata*. You're always the third wheel." Even him? "Even me. If you're in a relationship with an actor, you learn pretty quickly that when they go off to work, there is an emotional intimacy that's created in the acting workspace that you wouldn't find in an office. People say: 'Oh, it was like a family' and if you're not part of that family you can feel insecure. I've definitely experienced that."

He first stepped on to a set at the age of 19 in the frat comedy *National Lampoon's Animal House*. "I'd only ever worked on stage so to be thrown into this - all the people, cameras, cranes, dolly tracks, walkie-talkies - my jaw absolutely dropped. But I also fell in love with it. Every piece of it felt so magnificent to me." Was the raucousness of *Animal House* reflected off-camera? "It was pretty raucous, yeah. It did kind of spill over."



**My wife said:  
'Listen, old man.  
Leave yourself  
open to some  
new ideas'**



Fresh meat...  
Bacon makes his  
film debut in the  
1978 frat comedy  
*Animal House*

Convinced that he was going to be a star after that movie, Bacon quit his waiter's job in New York, then sat back as the months rolled by without offers. Eventually he landed a small role in Friday the 13th - his character was killed by a post-coital arrow through the throat - and had a spell on a daytime soap. What sort of actor was he back then? "I was incredibly cocky and unwilling to take any kind of advice. Even though I was in acting school, a part of me thought it was kind of a waste of time. That I knew pretty much everything there was to know about acting and life and love and the world."

These days, he says, he feels that he has got more to learn than ever. In 2017, he starred in the Amazon series *I Love Dick*; several episodes were directed by the British film-maker Andrea Arnold, who sometimes asked the cast to perform silent takes, moving through a scene without saying their lines. "I loved Andrea's silent-take thing," he says. "I went into that show knowing there would be what I thought of as hippy-dippy shit. It was my wife who said: 'Listen, old man. You need to leave yourself open to some new ideas.'"

It is not widely remembered that Bacon is a director himself - Helen Mirren won a Golden Globe for her performance in his 1996 TV movie *Losing Chase* - and actors who work with him in the future, he says, can expect Arnold's silent treatment.

To anyone unfamiliar with Bacon's early stage work, it was his turn in Barry Levinson's buddy movie *Diner*, set in the late 1950s and released in 1982, that hinted at his complexity. As Fenwick, the grinning prankster first seen punching windows, he conveyed the inner hurt of a young man who hides his true intelligence until he is alone. Perhaps Bacon would have stuck to more parts like that had he not been sent hurtling in another direction after landing the lead role in the 1984 teen hit *Footloose*, where he played a jiving rebel in a town where dancing is forbidden.

For six years or so, he was essentially waylaid while he tried to reconcile the actor that the industry wanted him to be with the one he knew he was. There was the odd decent picture during that period (the glorious B-movie *Tremors*, the film-business comedy *The Big Picture*) but *Footloose* had tripped him up. "That film was kind of

an anomaly," he says. "Look, I'm basically a character actor."

To help Hollywood get the message, he asked the influential agent Paula Wagner, whose clients included Sean Penn and Val Kilmer, to represent him. Her first step was to introduce him to Oliver Stone, who was preparing *JFK*. It is Bacon's brief turn in that picture as Willie O'Keefe, the gay jailbird with a flat-top, a twinkle and a salty turn of phrase that he identifies now as the turning point in his career.

"*JFK* gave me the chance to take what I'd learned as a stage actor and put it on screen," he says. The roles that came his way subsequently were smaller than he had been used to, but infinitely more interesting.

"I have such respect for him for taking that chance," says Wagner. "He liberated himself from the pressure of what you have to do if you're a movie star."

Bacon has hardly stopped sizzling since, appearing in movies both prestigious (*A Few Good Men*, *Apollo 13*) and gleefully trashy (*Wild Things*, *Hollow Man*) as well as the occasional blockbuster (*X-Men: First Class*). Recently, he was compelling as a corrupt FBI agent in the Showtime series *City on a Hill*.

The parlour game Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon, through which he can be linked to any actor in history, is proof of his ubiquity, longevity and range. Koepp, though, would like to see him do more comedy. "Both our movies together are a bit dour by nature but I would love to do something with him where he gets to be funny on screen."

What would Bacon himself like? "I don't get hired twice by directors all that often," he reflects. "I love it when you see that relationship, that Scorsese, De Niro-type thing. I've never had that but I'd love it." Nor has he ever been nominated for an Oscar, despite surely coming close for *The Woodsman*.

"Well, he should be!" says Wagner. "It's an elusive thing, the Oscars, and he doesn't play that game. But he certainly deserves one."

Not that Bacon feels he has anything to complain about. "I'm grateful that the parts that come to me are sort of all over the map," he says. "All I ever wanted was to not be pigeonholed."

*You Should Have Left* is available on Blu-ray and DVD on 12 October

# Lights, cameras, cacophony!

Fifty years ago, radical jazzers stormed US TV talkshows to demand visibility. It's a protest that still resonates, says Michael Stewart Foley

**F**ifty years ago this week, all hell broke loose on Dick Cavett's US talkshow. The host was asking the British actor Trevor Howard what he missed about New York. When the actor replied: "There's no more jazz", the studio exploded in cacophonous sound: a pre-planned protest from the Jazz and People's Movement. Dozens of men and women, led by Atlantic recording star Rahsaan Roland Kirk, whipped out small instruments and police whistles and wailed so loudly that Cavett ran from the stage, his hands over his ears.

For the next hour, the insurgents crowded the stage with protest signs: ("Hire more black artists on TV"; "Stop the whitewash now"). Five decades on, the issues still haven't been solved. "There has been some progress, but not nearly enough," says Archie Shepp, the 83-year-old saxophonist, composer and playwright who participated in Jazz and People's Movement actions. Although some black hip-hop artists have obviously been very successful, "comparatively few" jazz artists have received recognition or reward, he says.

Even today, few are focusing on the role of network television in obscuring African American culture. The Jazz and People's Movement demanded visibility and respect. Kirk, the movement's primary founder, drew inspiration from Rev Jesse Jackson's Operation Breadbasket, which aimed "to bring about a fair participation in this country's economic system by the black community".

For Kirk, a multi-instrumentalist and one of jazz's foremost historians, the Jazz and People's Movement marked the culmination of many years of preaching the importance of what he called "black classical music". He chastised his audiences for spending their money on Beatles

Kirk, saxophone in hand, said:  
'Open that door or  
I'll blow it down'

and Motown records; for forgetting that none of that music would have been possible if not for the blues and jazz geniuses who came before it. TV also angered Kirk because it erased black creatives by deciding which artists would be beamed into US living rooms.

Further disruptions were made to the Merv Griffin Show and the Tonight Show; when security stopped activists from entering the latter's studio, Kirk, sax in hand, shouted: "Open that door or I'll blow it down!" The Jazz and People's Movement circulated a list of demands to network shows, threatening similar actions. The activists called for a "board of jazz musicians" to "coordinate production of at least three to four jazz specials per season, designed to educate the public to jazz, R&B, gospel, etc". Moreover, the movement demanded the regular appearance of black musicians on weekly talkshows and other programmes; not only playing music but featured as interviewees.

It seemed like it might work. The Dick Cavett protest ended only when the producers promised to invite some of the musicians on to the show the following week. When Freddie Hubbard, Cecil Taylor, Andrew Cyrille and others appeared, Cavett acknowledged his "guilt" for not knowing more about the full range of jazz. The movement hit its high-water mark when the Ed Sullivan Show invited Kirk to bring on an all-star band. Kirk recruited Archie Shepp, Charles Mingus and Roy Haynes, but instead of playing Stevie Wonder's *My Cherie Amour*, as promised, Kirk led the band in a six-minute medley, the centrepiece of which was Mingus's *Haitian Fight Song*.

Despite these breakthroughs, the Jazz and People's Movement made few long-term gains, and the giants of jazz remain a rare sight on US TV. Even the nightly appearances of the Roots as the Tonight Show's studio band is, according to emerging free-jazz star Angel Bat Dawid, just tokenism. "They don't consider us serious composers," she says. "To me, it's just like: 'We got your black people here, so why are y'all still upset?'"

Shepp and Dawid agree that any future Jazz and People's Movement needs to be expanded. Black kids need equal access to music education, instruments and scholarships, says Shepp.

"We're sitting on so much talent," agrees Dawid, but it needs to be cultivated like it is in resource-rich, white schools. Like Kirk's band of protesters, they will wail and play until they blow down the structures of racism.

The way ahead  
... Angel Bat  
Dawid and  
Archie Shepp





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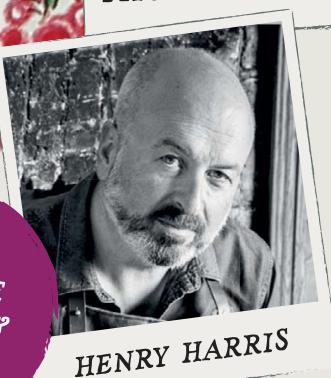
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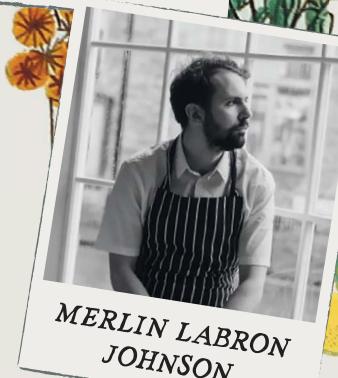
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# Future proof

Future Islands' Letterman performance shot them to fame before a 'condescending' album deflated them. The band tell **Derek Robertson** how they rediscovered their mojo in Sweden

**I** have definitely done some journaling up here," says Samuel T Herring. "A lot of lyrics, too. It's a great place for letting the mind wander." We're sat on a rocky ledge overlooking a swimming hole near the house in rural south-east Sweden that Herring - frontman of US synthpop band Future Islands - increasingly calls home. A former quarry, the pool is deep and clear, with sheer granite cliffs rising 10 metres in places. At dusk, he says, red kites swoop through the air and skim the water. So inspired was Herring that he named a song after the bird - Glada, Swedish for kite - on the band's sixth album, *As Long As You Are*.

"Glada is representative of that swirling freedom," says Herring. "That song is a reopening of myself in a new space, and I was clear that I really wanted it to open the album." The song hangs around one line: "Do I deserve the sea again?" It is Herring's reckoning with his turbulent past. "Pushing good things away because you feel you don't deserve them, but you do," he says. "Julia showed me that, and gave me love and peace."

This is Julia Ragnarsson, a renowned Swedish actor and Herring's partner of three years.



No man is an island ... Michael Lowry, William Cashion, Gerrit Welmers and Samuel T Herring

"Meeting Julia was liberating," says Herring. "I'll definitely follow her wherever she wants to be, because that's where my heart is."

But domestic bliss is just one of the themes that shaped *As Long As You Are*. It's also a reaction to burnout, unrealistic expectations and fame following the success of 2014 album *Singles*, which was boosted by a glorious viral performance of *Seasons (Waiting on You)* on David Letterman's talkshow, with Herring twisting, beating his chest and delivering its climactic lyrics in a death metal roar.

"Playing the game" after that success, as Herring puts it, didn't suit them and caused tension; writing and recording their next album, *The Far Field*, left them disappointed and unsatisfied. "We lost ourselves," Herring says. "That

record is condescending because I wasn't honest in my writing." Written over just a few months following the mammoth two-year *Singles* tour, it was rush-recorded in three weeks in LA. The reason for the tight schedule was Coachella 2017 - with a prominent slot booked, a new record was required, one that would cement Future Islands as one of the world's most in-demand live acts.

"Fucking embarrassing," says the bassist, William Cashion, of the idea now. "Rushing to make that deadline was bullshit." The band talk of unwanted compromise - acquiescing and "putting trust in others", as Cashion puts it - that they now regret.

For *As Long As You Are*, a decision was made to take their time and "do it right", says Cashion. Being off the road helped, as did "getting our heads back on straight and just

living a normal life," according to the keyboardist and programmer, Gerrit Welmers. Over a year, the band spent hours in the studio just jamming and working through ideas. Herring worked on lyrics feverishly, sitting in his favourite spot in the garden or by that swimming hole. The result is a record with a relaxed, easy vibe that harks back to *Singles* and their earlier work; a "strut tempo" as described by the drummer, Mike Lowry, now officially a fourth member. From the breezy, top-down chug of road trip song *Hit the Coast* to the euphoric rush of *Plastic Beach*, they sound re-energised just by being themselves.

"There's definitely a looseness to it," says Cashion. "New and fresh," adds Welmers, noting that the band were all "in a more comfortable space in our private lives, more mature as well. That translated to the music."

For Herring, the difference is stark. "We've dealt with that fear of losing the dream we'd worked so hard to achieve," he says, "and we put art before commerce. It's us being open to the possibilities of personal growth, and not being constrained by what people think we are. That's where real art comes from."

*As Long As You Are* is released on 9 October on 4AD

## HEADIE ONE

THE DEBUT ALBUM

FEATURING DRAKE,  
SKEPTA, STORMZY,  
AJ TRACEY, AITCH,  
FUTURE AND MORE...

R RELENTLESS





## Peter Bradshaw's film of the week

### Saint Maud



### Nursing a nightmare of erotic intimacy

★★★★★

Dir Rose Glass

Starring Morfydd Clark, Jennifer Ehle, Lily Knight

84 mins Cert 15

Last year, Morfydd Clark appeared in Armando Iannucci's new version of David Copperfield playing both David's mother and the woman he's in love with - a Freudian-doppelganger performance so coolly understated that many didn't realise it was happening, or quite why they found Clark's appearance(s) so disquieting. Well, there's nothing understated about her now, and what a sensational breakthrough in this extraordinary horror melodrama

from first-time feature director Rose Glass. Clark gives an operatically freaky turn that knifed me in the kidneys, and her final split second on screen is the equivalent of brutally pulling out the knife to start the internal bleeding.

It's a scary movie that is also a satirical nightmare about the physical and erotic intimacy of nursing. The setting is the seaside town of Scarborough, where Maud is a lonely young woman living in a scuzzy bedsit, employed as a private agency nurse and palliative caregiver. She prays often, asking to be delivered from incessant stomach pains. It seems at first that Maud is a cradle Catholic, but it is only when she bumps into an old nursing colleague, Joy (Lily Knight), that we realise that her persona is not what it seems.

Maud is yearning for some moment of revelation or exaltation, some great reckoning or trial that will make sense of her life and faith. And this seems to have arrived when she is assigned to look after Amanda Köhl, terrifically played by Jennifer Ehle, a once brilliant dancer and choreographer who now has

a neurological disease that means she uses a wheelchair. Amanda is angry, cynical and cantankerous. She has become what an exasperated friend calls a "Norma Desmond" figure, and this hardly bodes well for the relationship with the prissy, prudish Maud when Amanda's other caregiver comes by - Carol (Lily Frazer), whom Amanda pays for sex.

The tragic-ironic point is that Maud is a good nurse (for a while). She is utterly devoted, and her physical therapy sessions with Amanda are good for them both. Clark's performance shows how there is something in these experiences that speaks to a need that has been thwarted or denied in Maud. But a terrifying flashback conflating a sexual experience with psychotic violence and a CPR episode gone horribly wrong shows how the physical touch of nursing now means something different for her.

The film punches out its warped drama with amazing gusto, and Clark is lethally assured: not Saint Maud really, but Saint Joan, a spectacular horror heroine.  
*In cinemas.*

### Kajillionaire

★★★★★

Dir Miranda July

Starring Evan Rachel Wood, Debra Winger, Gina Rodriguez

105 mins Cert 12A

Miranda July floats you along on a cloud of weightless, dreamy inconsequentiality in this deader-than-deadpan comedy shot in a hard, blank, bleachy LA light. I have taken some time to acclimatise to her distinctive, affectlessly sentimental film-making, but it is growing on me,



and Kajillionaire is intriguing. It is the story of a dysfunctional and poverty-stricken family trio of scammers, whose daughter, played by Evan Rachel Wood, is only just beginning to realise in her mid-20s that something is very wrong with the way she has been brought up and the

way they all live their lives together - and the people they are tricking know something she doesn't.

Her sociopath parents Theresa (Debra Winger) and Robert (Richard Jenkins) have given her the name Old Dolio, for absurd and demeaning reasons revealed some way into the action. They have trained her to sneak into the post office to steal mail for any possibly valuable contents, or to pretend to have found it to get a reward from the intended recipient. Then Old Dolio devises a scam that involves them flying to New York City, where they meet Melanie (Gina Rodriguez), a charming, bored young woman who takes a liking to this band of grifters and decides she wants in - becoming a rival quasi-

### Beyond the Visible - Hilma af Klint

★★★★★

Dir Halina Dyrschka

94 mins Cert U

This documentary makes a pretty convincing case for the admission of the Swedish artist Hilma af Klint into the boys' club of abstract art, alongside Kandinsky, Mondrian et al. Born in 1862, Af Klint was an outsider in her lifetime, and when she died in 1944 her paintings gathered dust in her nephew's attic. Today, her work is a nuisance to art history: to acknowledge her would require rewriting the entire chapter on abstract art.

After graduating from the Royal Academy in Stockholm, she worked as a portrait painter and illustrator before turning to radical abstract works from 1906. A maverick free-thinker, she was fascinated by modern scientific discoveries as well as by spiritualism and seances, covering her paintings in an esoteric language of signs and symbols. Her mystical beliefs gave the art world an excuse to dismiss her as a kook when the work later came to light.

Female art historians and writers interviewed in the film point out that the history of art is the history of male genius. Women don't fit the narrative. Depressingly, anonymity followed Af Klint to her grave - literally. Her nephew had her buried with her mother and father but didn't bother to update the headstone. Director Halina Dyrschka asks: "How would you ever know she was here?" She could be talking about female artists full stop. **Cath Clarke**  
*In cinemas.*

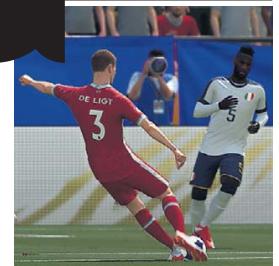


daughter to the creepy old couple, to Old Dolio's resentment.

The place where they are living is almost hypnotically squalid and nasty: a condemned office building, where every day they have to clean off the overflow of foamy water from the wall of what is perhaps a laundrette next door, although this bizarre spectacle is never explained.

Kajillionaire has a harder edge than July's earlier pictures, with something bleaker and more ironic in the surrealism. Wood, although maybe channelling Kurt Cobain in her slouchily withdrawn performance, has something interesting in her gradual awakening. There is real style here.  
*In cinemas.*

### Games



#### Fifa 21

PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PC

★★★★★

Never mind football coming home; this year football had to work from home. Every major competition shut down at the height of the pandemic, and EA Sports was in a similar position. Could a game cranked out on kitchen counters deliver on the expectations of the football-starved masses?

The short answer is yes. First impressions point to a subtle update of the kind you might expect under such strained conditions, but extended play reveals a game that is fast, fluid and full of ways to score spectacular goals.

Fifa 21 is pandemonium. Goalkeepers are no longer easily beaten at the near post, but they can barely save anything else. Finesse shots are back! Headers are viable! You can even chip the keeper. In fact, you can probably chip the keeper too much. Close control while dribbling with elite players is a dream, and you can direct off-the-ball runs using a suite of contextual controls that prove fun to master. Overpowered tactics have been reined in cleverly.

Football fundamentals feel stronger, too. Moving the ball around has always been zippy, but is now clearly tied to players' real-world capabilities. Christian Eriksen has been at the heart of my team, delivering perfectly timed through balls, and attackers help passers shine even more by making better runs. This attacking emphasis puts the onus on learning to defend, where the odds are stacked against you.

If you've played Fifa in the last few years, you'll have no trouble picking this up and scoring for fun, and if you want to dig deeper, there's a ton of new stuff to learn. Football has been hard to enjoy in 2020, but Fifa 21 certainly makes it easier. **Tom Bramwell**

## Alexis Petridis's album of the week

### D-Block Europe The Blueprint - Us vs Them



## Fridge-magnet rap in need of fresh ideas

Rap

Label Self-released

★★★★★

Last year, Young Adz, one half of D-Block Europe, claimed that the Lewisham duo had amassed a cache of 700 unreleased tracks. On the face of it, that sounds like the kind of expansive myth-building you too might indulge in had you just sold out two nights at London's 10,000-capacity Alexandra Palace. But then you look at the duo's release schedule and think: well, maybe they have. The Blueprint - Us vs Them is heralded as D-Block Europe's debut album but it's their fourth full-length in 12 months. At 29 tracks and 93 minutes, it's their longest yet, but only just: 2019's mixtape PTSD also featured 29 tracks, but clocked in at a more economical 88 minutes. You could never accuse Young Adz and partner Dirtbike LB of lacking a work ethic.

More than any of their UK rap peers, their sound looks to America for inspiration. Their US connections have been strong from the start. Their name is a reference to the neighbourhood in Yonkers regularly mentioned by Jadakiss, who attempted to sign Young Adz when the latter was 15 years old; the big hit from their 2018 collaborative mixtape with Yxng Bane was called Gucci Mane, and the Atlanta trap in which said rapper deals is clearly a primary musical and lyrical inspiration. Indeed, the lyrics are so thick with US influence that the occasional British reference feels jarring among the stuff about bandos and double cups. "I was trappin' in Dorset" offers The Blueprint's opener, Destiny - or at

least, that's what it appears to say behind a slathering of Auto-Tune.

The rest of The Blueprint suggests one reason why D-Block Europe might be so productive: the vast majority of its 29 tracks give every impression of having been written to a formula. The music tends to a pretty strict pattern: melancholy figure picked out on guitar or piano, overlaid with icy, ghostly-sounding electronics. It's effective in conjuring a bleak, stoned haze, although it makes the occasional moments of deviation, however minimal, leap out: when Last Night in Marbella concludes by going into reverse, or the bass line on Whistle, so overdriven that it takes on a satisfyingly percussive quality.

The lyrics have flashes of wit - there's a good line on Last Night in Paris about not being able to pronounce the name of the road where your hotel is located - and a certain British bathos winningly intrudes: "Don't take no drugs like me," cautions Top Thai, "I find it hard to pee." There are glancing references to Black Lives Matter and coronavirus on Codeine & Fashion, but The Blueprint largely seems to be an extended exercise in saying



the same things over and over again as if rearranging a fridge-magnet poetry set, albeit a fridge magnet poetry set that contains the words "lean", "Percocet", "Louis Vuitton", "Gucci" and "eating pussy". You start to wonder whether it's simply down to a lack of fresh ideas or something more deliberate: if the repetition is intended to echo the grinding relentlessness of the life the songs describe; if the listener is supposed to feel as numb as the characters in the lyrics, hiding their doubts and fears behind an anaesthetising wall of drugs. Alternatively, it might be an album deliberately made for the streaming age, where it's held to be a good thing if one track blends into another as it plays in the background: nothing to jolt the listener into switching to something else.

Certainly, you find yourself zoning out, then zoning back in again to discover nothing's changed: "I drink lean in the Louis store."

The best moments come when the music shakes off its listlessness: Ferrari Horses has an impressive poppy sparkle; the chorus of UFO is strong; when the lyrical mask slips, the vocals become pained, the subject matter delves affectingly into mental health ("If the streets don't get you or put you in jail, then you might get sectioned") or absent parenthood. Proud offers reassurances that the money dad's accumulating will come as recompense to a daughter he rarely sees, but it doesn't sound terribly convinced of the argument. For the most part, however, The Blueprint is an album content to stay in its self-imposed lane. And why wouldn't it? If it's music made to a formula, it's a formula that's proved hugely successful thus far - mixtape PTSD peaked at No 4 - and the YouTube figures for its singles thus far suggest there's no let-up in their audience's enthusiasm for what D-Block Europe do. But, despite their work ethic, the feeling that they could do more haunts The Blueprint.



Folk album of the month

Artist Linda Buckley

Album From Ocean's Floor

Label NMC

★★★★★



Contemporary composer Linda Buckley has a track record of doing unusual, interesting things: her previous releases include a luminous green, limited-edition cassette of Moog compositions and a song cycle about the supernatural feminine in Irish folklore. Here she combines these interests with a deep dive into the ancient art of Irish *séan-nos* singing, a style of ornamented solo lines that moves slowly and measuredly. Buckley's vocalist is Iarla O'Lionaird, whose tender voice handles these songs about love and loss, stemming from ancient Gaelic poetry, with directness and care. Buckley creates an immersive sound world of electronic and acoustic drones, while Irish contemporary chamber group Crash Ensemble add the soft scrapes of their bows on cello and violin strings. Together, they conjure an arrestingly melancholic mood, a sonic impression of erosion smoothing a seabed, and of change being as inevitable as it is imperceptible. **Jude Rogers**

Metal

Artist Venom Prison

Album Primeval

Label Prosthetic Records

★★★★★



With their gleefully hardcore, socially astute take on death metal, Venom Prison have been responsible for some of the most energising extreme music of recent years. On Primeval, the Welsh band look back to their earliest material, beefing up caustic gear from their EPs Defy the Tyrant and The Primal Chaos. Examining the violent legacy of colonialism in the name of religion, the track Defy the Tyrant exudes sheer hardcore energy, twin guitars chugging against blast beats, while Babylon the Whore moves between swaggering groove and crusty grind. The Primal Chaos has shades of vintage Slayer and cranky black metal, while new songs Defiant to the Will of God and Slayer of Holofernes point to melodic dynamism amid the aggression. As ever, it's disgust rather than titillation that drives their sound. This is blistering death metal rooted in the horror of everyday violence and injustice. **Harry Sword**

Classical

Artist Emiliano Gonzalez Toro/I Gemelli

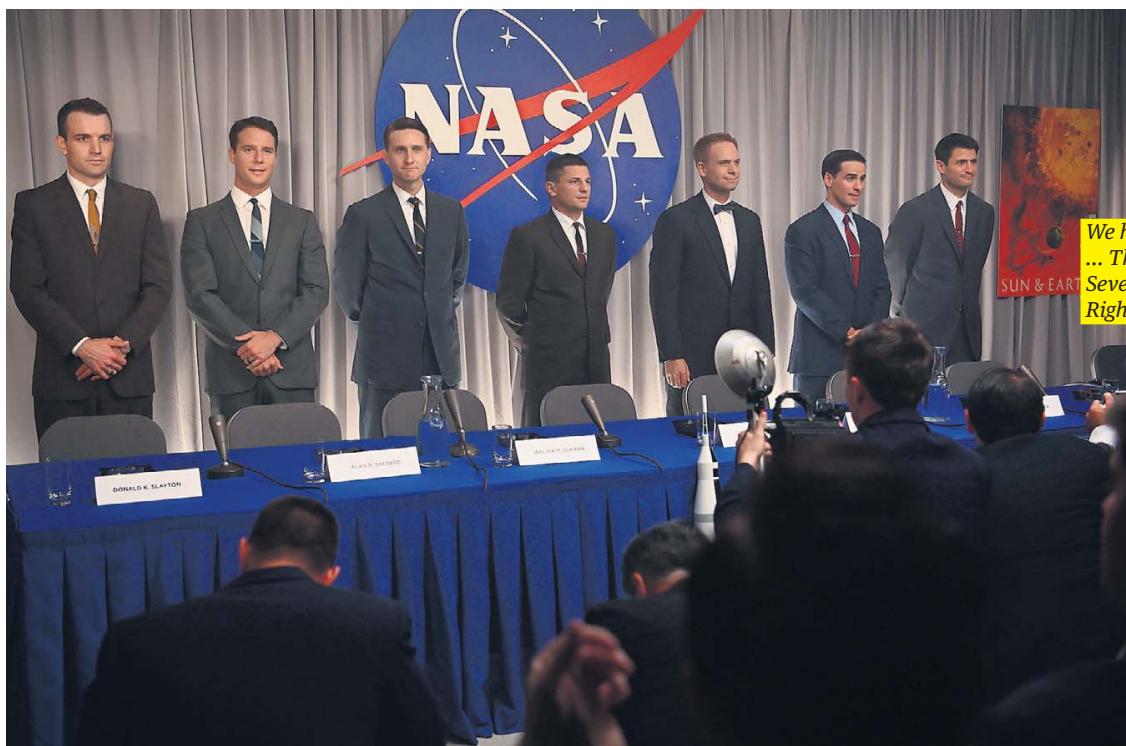
Album Monteverdi: L'Orfeo

Label Naïve; two discs

★★★★★



What marks this L'Orfeo out is that the tenor Emiliano Gonzalez Toro, who takes the role of Orfeo, also conducts. It is a qualified success. In the liner notes he explains his interpretation, in which he relates the tempo for every number to the score he chooses for Orfeo's great third-act aria Possente Spirto, about which the whole drama pivots, and insists that all ornamentation of the vocal lines is kept strictly in time. That perhaps explains the extremes: the first act is taken so fast some of it hardly registers, while Possente Spirto begins at a funereal pace. His range of expressive colour is wide, but Toro makes some phrases seem too smooth and glib. There's a sparkly Messenger from Natalie Pérez, but Emóke Baráth's Euridice is less convincing, and the bass Jérôme Varnier makes a surprisingly light-toned Caronte. The score is finely played by the 31 instrumentalists of I Gemelli. **Andrew Clements**



**Review** *The Right Stuff*, Disney+

## An earthy look at the space race that dazzles with derring-do

★★★★★

Lucy Mangan



**I**t's Mad Men in Space, almost. Disney+ marks its first anniversary with *The Right Stuff*, an eight-part drama based on Tom Wolfe's non-fiction book of the same name (and the 1983 film that was based on that) about the astronauts of Nasa's Project Mercury, the Mercury Seven.

Like *Mad Men*, it is set in the late 1950s and early 60s and everything – especially the suited-and-booted, would-be conquering heroes at its core – looks slick and gorgeous. That much you might expect from a Disney-made tale of real life derring-do, but what is unexpected is that the show concentrates on what a mess everything was, including the astronauts (apart from John Glenn, apparently), behind the scenes. It is a particularly bold departure from the more tempting and traditional template at a time when commissioners, makers and viewers alike could all be forgiven for wanting to wallow in nostalgia and revisit what still count, however gilded the narrative has become, as past glories.

After a brief scene establishing hostilities between Glenn (Patrick J Adams) and fellow Mercurial Sevener Alan Shepard (Jake McDorman) over breakfast on the day of the first Mercury launch in May 1961, we flash back to 1959. We are two years into the space race sparked by the Soviet successes with Sputniks 1 and 2, the US president has promised to put a man in space before the end of the decade and Nasa is freaking out at its chances.

We meet the head of the Space Task Group, Bob Gilruth (played by Patrick Fischler, the actor for all

your buttoned-up-but-charismatic-leaders-of-a-certain-age-who-still-need-to-look-good-in-uniform needs, who is searching down the back of sofas for funding at Edwards Air Force Base. He takes delivery of a list of 110 of the best of the best of the best, the most manly of manly men from the armed forces, from which he will choose the seven to be trained as – and who will come to define the image of – astronauts for Project Mercury. One of them will become the first American in space.

We first meet them as individuals who have no idea how their destinies are being shaped by a couple of guys poring over eight sheets of potential candidates for an era-defining job. Gordon Cooper is waking up with a busted hand amid the shards of a whisky tumbler after the funeral of a friend, with whom he was Topgunning. As Gilruth doesn't quite put it, test pilots are childish idiots so they get killed a lot. Glenn is quietly raging that his distinguished career seems to be over at 38. And Shepard is zipping up his pants after his latest extra-marital fling.

The main focus is on Cooper's guilt-laden grief and the domestic problems that threaten his fitness for the mission, and the rivalry between Shepard and Glenn. At first, it is merely professional, then expanding as they become celebrities, frontmen and effective fundraisers for the space programme entire – a second job, at which Glenn excels and the volatile Shepard does not. Into this loose triumvirate's story is interwoven an impressive amount of detail about the politics of the space programme, the media construction of a modern archetype, and the technical difficulties that beset Project Mercury. But it doesn't leave much room for any of the characters who aren't the top three of the top seven of the top 110.

Unexpectedly – again – it does slightly better than one has learned to hope for with the wives in tales of Men Doing Manly Things, Especially in the Past. I wonder if some deliberate punching up went on to head off accusations of letting more pale male staleness fill our screens. If so, it worked, within the limits set by a story ineluctably about seven men and the men who put them into space. Annie Glenn (Norah Zehetner) is a devoted housewife with, nevertheless, a perspicacious take on their life, its circumscriptions and the stresses to come. Trudy Cooper (Eloise Mumford) was a pilot herself when they met and is shown wrestling with Gordon's need for her and her own desire to return to flying, which his success might make possible, and Louise Shepard (Shannon Lucio) is not left simply to absorb her husband's hound-dogging with a saintly smile.

*The Right Stuff* doesn't reach for the stars, but looks back to the Earth from which the phenomenon of astronauts and space travel, the glamour and the myths grew, along with the appetites they fed, and is all the more interesting for that.



**And another thing**  
The anticipatory glee I feel about watching what by mainly accounts is a certifiably monstrous creation, *Emily in Paris*, is so delicious I may never end it by actually pressing play.

## Lennon: The Last Weekend

1.45am, Sky Arts



This week marks what would have been John Lennon's 80th birthday. To commemorate the occasion is this moving documentary charting his final interview in December 1980, with BBC Radio 1 DJ Andy Peebles, before he was murdered only 48 hours later. Having not spoken to the media for five years previously, Lennon opens up on the breakup of the Beatles, his fraught relationship with the US government and his poignant plans for the future.

Ammar Kalia

### Between the Covers

7.30pm, BBC Two

Sara Cox heads up this new BBC book club series, gathering a celebrity panel each week to discuss one work of fiction and a book written by one of the panellists. Tonight, comic Sara Pascoe talks about her non-fiction book *Sex Power Money*, alongside panellists Tom Allen, Sophie Ellis-Bextor and Phil Wang. AK

### Mountain Vets

8pm, BBC Two

Impossibly hearty and wholesome fare as this series following the work of a veterinary practice in the beautiful Mourne mountains of Northern Ireland continues. It's late winter and as the first lambs of the year venture out into the snow, there are crises with cows in labour and a beloved dog with a tumour.

### Phil Harrison

Friday on the Farm

9pm, Channel 5

Presenters Helen Skelton and Jules Hudson chart the rural delights of autumn in this series from Cannon Hall farm in South Yorkshire. We

open with the return of Orchid the shire horse from his summer stay at the stud farm, while JB Gill, the former JLS member and now farmer, travels to the largest greenhouse complex in the UK. AK

### Five Guys a Week

10pm, Channel 4

Not a new kind of hamburger-based diet, but another edition of "saucy Snow White", in which a woman chooses five potential boyfriends to live with her for a week, dumping one a day until bingo. Recent events have rendered this even more surreal than it already was. Still, will Charlotte find true love? Ali Catterall

### The Graham Norton Show

10.45pm, BBC One

It might not be quite the same without the big red communal couch, but Norton's safeguarded studio with a live audience feels more conducive to bonhomie than just a Zoom room. Tonight's guests include Ewan McGregor, Diversity's Ashley Banjo and Miley Cyrus. Graeme Virtue

BBC One	BBC Two	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5	BBC Four
<b>6.0 Breakfast</b> 9.15 Rip Off Britain <b>10.0</b> Homes Under the Hammer (R) <b>11.0</b> Critical Incident <b>11.45</b> Paramedics on Scene <b>12.15</b> Bargain Hunt Toy Special (T) <b>1.0</b> News <b>1.30</b> Regional News (T) <b>1.45</b> The Indian Doctor (T) <b>R</b> <b>2.30</b> Hairy Bikers' Best of British (T) <b>R</b> <b>3.0</b> Escape to the Country (T) <b>R</b> <b>3.45</b> Garden Rescue (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.30</b> The Repair Shop (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.15</b> Pointless (T) <b>6.0</b> News (T) <b>6.30</b> Regional News (T) <b>6.55</b> Party Political Broadcast (T) <b>7.0</b> The One Show (T) <b>7.30</b> A Question of Sport (T)	<b>6.30 Escape to the Country</b> (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.15</b> Critical Incident <b>7.20</b> <b>8.0</b> Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (T) <b>R</b> <b>9.0</b> News at 9 (T) <b>10.0</b> News <b>T</b> <b>1.0</b> Decimate (T) <b>R</b> <b>1.45</b> Flipping Profit (T) <b>R</b> <b>2.30</b> 800 Words (T) <b>R</b> <b>3.15</b> The Great British Sewing Bee (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.15</b> The Bear Family and Me (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.15</b> Flog It! (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.0</b> Richard Osman's House of Games (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.30</b> Fish Town (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.0</b> Simply Nigella (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.30</b> Between the Covers (T) New series. Sara Cox and guests share the pleasure of reading.	<b>6.0 Good Morning Britain</b> (T) <b>9.0</b> Lorraine (T) <b>10.0</b> This Morning (T) <b>12.30</b> Loose Women (T) <b>1.30</b> News (T) <b>1.55</b> Local News (T) <b>2.0</b> Judge Rinder (T) <b>3.0</b> Tenable (T) <b>R</b> <b>3.59</b> Local News and Weather (T) <b>4.0</b> Tipping Point (T) <b>5.0</b> The Chase (T) <b>6.0</b> Local News (T) <b>6.25</b> Party Political Broadcast (T) <b>6.30</b> News (T) <b>7.0</b> Emmerdale (T) Victoria is intrigued to find a parcel on her doorstep <b>7.30</b> Coronation Street (T) Eileen keeps quiet about her appointment with Todd.	<b>6.30 Mike &amp; Molly</b> (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.50</b> Mike & Molly (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.10</b> Cheers (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.40</b> Cheers (T) <b>R</b> <b>8.10</b> Everybody Loves Raymond (T) <b>R</b> <b>9.35</b> Frasier (T) <b>R</b> <b>10.05</b> Frasier (T) <b>R</b> <b>10.35</b> Undercover Boss USA (T) <b>R</b> <b>11.30</b> News (T) <b>11.35</b> Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) <b>R</b> <b>12.30</b> Steph's Packed Lunch (T) <b>2.10</b> Countdown (T) <b>3.0</b> A Place in the Sun (T) <b>4.0</b> The Great House Giveaway (T) <b>5.0</b> Couples CDWM (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.0</b> The Simpsons (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.30</b> The Simpsons (T) <b>R</b> <b>7.0</b> News (T)	<b>6.0 Milkshake!</b> <b>9.15</b> Jeremy Vine (T) <b>11.15</b> Can't Pay Special: Agents Under Attack (T) <b>R</b> <b>12.10</b> News (T) <b>12.15</b> Police Interceptors (T) <b>R</b> <b>1.10</b> Access (T) <b>1.15</b> Home and Away (T) <b>R</b> <b>1.45</b> Neighbours (T) <b>2.15</b> <b>Film</b> Body of Evidence: Darrow & Darrow (Mel Damski, 2018) (T) <b>4.0</b> Friends (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.30</b> Friends (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.0</b> News (T) <b>5.30</b> Neighbours (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.0</b> Home and Away (T) <b>R</b> <b>6.30</b> News (T) <b>7.0</b> The Gadget Show (T) Three printers that promise to take the hassle out of getting ink on to paper.	<b>7.0 Top of the Pops: 1990</b> (T) 1990 double bill. First up, 4 January with music from the Quireboys and Sonia, then 11 January with New Kids on the Block among others.
<b>8.05 Would I Lie to You?</b> (T) <b>R</b> With Kevin Bishop, Brian Blessed, Josh Widdicombe and Kate Williams. <b>8.35 EastEnders</b> (T) The prosecution grills Whitney. <b>9.0 Have I Got News for You?</b> (T) Adil Ray hosts. <b>9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys</b> (T) (R) Agnes receives news from beyond the grave.	<b>8.0 Mountain Vets</b> (T) Lambing and calving keep the team busy out on the farms. <b>8.30 Mountain Vets</b> (T) Patrick is called out to help a farmer whose cow has been struggling with labour. <b>9.0 Gardeners' World</b> (T) Monty Don gives advice on what plants need to be taken under cover now.	<b>8.30 Vera</b> Blood and Bone (T) (R) <b>1/4</b> The unorthodox but brilliant detective investigates when charred human remains are found in an abattoir furnace, and attempts to deduce how and why they got there in the first place. The bones are identified as belonging to a fellow police officer.	<b>8.0 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice</b> (T) Jo Brand is joined by Paul Hollywood, Judi Love and Aisling Bea. <b>9.0 Gogglebox</b> (T) The armchair critics share their opinions of what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions.	<b>8.0 Secret Scotland With Susan Calman</b> (T) The comedian explores the Borders region, heading to a secret area of woodland in Galloway Forest. <b>9.0 Friday on the Farm</b> (T) New series. Helen Skelton and Jules Hudson say goodbye to the summer and welcome in the autumn.	<b>8.0</b> <b>Film</b> <b>A Hard Day's Night</b> (Richard Lester, 1964) (T) Musical comedy. <b>9.30</b> <b>TOP2: John Lennon Special</b> (T) Celebrating the music of John Lennon. <b>10.00</b> <b>Lennon: The New York Years</b> (T) Alan Yentob tells the story of John Lennon and Yoko Ono's move to New York City in 1971.
<b>10.0 News</b> (T) <b>10.30 Regional News</b> (T) <b>10.45 The Graham Norton Show</b> (T) With Ewan McGregor, Ashley Banjo and Miley Cyrus. <b>11.30 Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens</b> Savage Valley & Paperwork (T) <b>R</b> . <b>12.15 The Apprentice Best Bits</b> (T) (R) <b>1.15</b> Weather for the Week Ahead (T) <b>1.20</b> News (T)	<b>10.0 Later... With Jools Holland</b> (T) With Sam Smith, Koffee and Shirley Collins. <b>10.45 Newsnight</b> (T) Weather <b>11.20 Battlestar Galactica</b> (T) <b>R</b> (9 & 10/13) <b>12.50</b> <b>Film</b> <b>Southside With You</b> (Richard Tanne, 2016) (T) <b>2.05 Panorama</b> (T) <b>R</b> <b>2.35</b> Louis Theroux: Life on the Edge (T) <b>R</b>	<b>10.20 News</b> (T) <b>10.50 Local News</b> (T) <b>11.10 Jonathan Ross's Comedy Club</b> (T) <b>R</b> With Huge Davies, Sikisa, Rosie Jones and Katherine Ryan. <b>11.40 Sorry, I Didn't Know</b> (T) <b>R</b> Panel show hosted by Jimmy Akingbola. <b>12.05 Ideal World</b> <b>3.0</b> 1,000 Heartbeats (T) <b>R</b>	<b>10.0 Five Guys a Week</b> (T) Five men compete for the affections of health and diet consultant Charlotte. <b>11.05 First Dates</b> (T) <b>R</b> <b>12.10</b> <b>Film</b> <b>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part One</b> (Francis Lawrence, 2014) (T) <b>2.15</b> CDWM (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.30</b> Vet on the Hill (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.25</b> Coach Trip: Road to Barcelona (T) <b>R</b>	<b>10.0 Guessable: A Guessing Game Show</b> (T) A new comedy panel show, hosted by Sara Pascoe. <b>11.05 Greatest TV Moments of the 80s</b> (T) <b>R</b> <b>1.0 Live Casino</b> (T) <b>3.10</b> Can't Pay?... (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.0</b> Yorkshire Vet (T) <b>R</b> <b>4.45</b> Wildlife SOS (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.10</b> Great Artists (T) <b>R</b> <b>5.35</b> House Doctor (T) <b>R</b>	<b>11.20 The Beatles: Made on Merseyside</b> (T) How US rock'n'roll and R&B turned postwar Liverpool into a vibrant musical city. <b>12.45 Sings the Beatles</b> (T) Includes Sandie Shaw's Day Tripper. <b>1.45</b> Smashing Hits! The 80s Pop Map of Britain and Ireland (T) <b>2.45</b> Sounds of the Sixties (T) <b>3.15</b> TOTP2...

## Other channels

**Dave**  
**6.0am** Teleshopping  
**7.0** Don't Say It, Bring It Double Bill **8.0** American Pickers **9.0** Storage Hunters UK Double Bill **10.0** American Pickers Double Bill **12.0** Red Bull Soapbox Race **1.0** Top Gear Double Bill **3.0** Rick Stein's Long Weekends **4.0** Top Gear Double Bill **6.0** Cars of the People **7.0** House of Games **7.40** Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits **8.20** Would I Lie to You? **9.0** **Film** Casino (1995) **12.40** Mock the Week Double Bill **2.0** Have I Got a Bit More News for You? **2.55** Not Going Out Bloopers Special **3.25** Comedians Giving Lectures **4.0** Teleshopping

**Film4**  
**11.0am** **Film** The Turning Point (1952) **12.40** **Film** Anna and the King (1999) **3.30** **Film** Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) **6.20** **Film** Only the Brave (2017) **9.0** **Film** Layer Cake (2004) **11.10** **Film** Carrie (1976) **1.20** **Film** Stoker (2013)

**ITV2**  
**7.0am** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **8.0** Emmerdale **8.30** You've Been Framed! Gold Funniest Ever **9.25** Superstore Double Bill **10.25** Dress to Impress **11.25** Dinner Date **12.25** Emmerdale **12.55** YBF! **2.0** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **2.55** Ellen's Game of Games **3.50** The Masked Singer US **4.50** Dress to Impress **5.50** Take Me Out **7.0** YBF! Gold **8.0** Two and a Half

**Favourites** **7.30** The Goldbergs **8.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine Double Bill **9.0** **Film** Dirty Grandpa (2016) **11.0** Buffy the Vampire Slayer **12.0** Angel **1.0** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **2.0** Rick and Morty **2.25** Gogglebox **3.20** First Dates **4.15** The Big Bang Theory Double Bill **5.0** How I Met Your Mother Double Bill

**Film4**  
**11.0am** **Film** The Turning Point (1952) **12.40** **Film** Anna and the King (1999) **3.30** **Film** Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) **6.20** **Film** Only the Brave (2017) **9.0** **Film** Layer Cake (2004) **11.10** **Film** Carrie (1976) **1.20** **Film** Stoker (2013)

**Sky One**  
**6.0am** Futurama Double Bill **7.0** Monkey Business Double Bill **8.0** Animal **9.95** Double Bill **9.0** Road Wars **10.0** Air Ambulance ER **11.0** NCIS: LA Double Bill **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **3.0** Highway Patrol Double Bill **4.0**

**Men Double Bill** **9.0** Love Island USA **10.0** Love Island USA: The Final **11.0** Family Guy Double Bill **12.0** American Dad! Double Bill **1.0** The Cleveland Show Double Bill **1.55** Two and a Half Men Double Bill **2.50** The Stand Up Sketch Show **3.15** ITV2 Nightscreen

**More4**  
**8.55am** Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It Double Bill **12.05** Escape to the Chateau **1.10** Building the Dream **2.15** Four in a Bed. Five episodes.

**Sky Arts**  
**6.0am** Darbar Festival 2017 **7.0** Royal Ballet: MacMillan - Anastasia **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **10.0** Otis Redding: Music Icons **10.30** Video Killed the Radio Star **11.0** Discovering: Marilyn Monroe/ Frank Sinatra **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **2.0** Master of Photography **3.0** The South Bank Show Originals **3.30** Auction **4.0** The Ramones: Music Icons **4.30** Video

**Modern Family Double Bill** **5.0** The Simpsons **5.30** Futurama Double Bill **6.30** The Simpsons Triple Bill **8.0** Modern Family Double Bill **9.0** Brave New World **10.0** A League of Their Own **11.0** The Russell Howard Hour **12.0** An Idiot Abroad **2.10** The Force: Essex **2.0** Road Wars **3.0** Brit Cops: War on Crime **4.0** Highway Patrol Double Bill **5.0** Supergirl

**Sky Atlantic**  
**6.0am** The British **7.0** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **8.0** CSI: Crime Scene... **9.0** Ray Donovan **10.10** Twin Peaks: The Return Double Bill **12.40** Riviera Double Bill **2.40** CSI: Crime Scene... **3.40** CSI: Crime Scene... **4.40** The Leftovers **5.50** Euphoria **7.0** Riviera Double Bill **9.0** Gangs of London Double Bill **11.20** Oz Double Bill **1.45** I'm Dying Up Here Double Bill **4.05** Urban Secrets Double Bill

**Sky One**  
**6.0am** Futurama Double Bill **7.0** Monkey Business Double Bill **8.0** Animal **9.95** Double Bill **9.0** Road Wars **10.0** Air Ambulance ER **11.0** NCIS: LA Double Bill **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **3.0** Highway Patrol Double Bill **4.0**

**of Oasis** **11.15** Oasis: Live By the Sea **12.30** John Lennon: Imagine **1.45** John Lennon: The Last Weekend **3.15** Gimme Some Truth: John Lennon **4.30** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **5.30** The South Bank Show Originals

**Sky Arts**  
**6.0am** The British **7.0** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **8.0** CSI: Crime Scene... **9.0** Ray Donovan **10.10** Twin Peaks: The Return Double Bill **12.40** Riviera Double Bill **2.40** CSI: Crime Scene... **3.40** CSI: Crime Scene... **4.40** The Leftovers **5.50** Euphoria **7.0** Riviera Double Bill **9.0** Gangs of London Double Bill **11.20** Oz Double Bill **1.45** I'm Dying Up Here Double Bill **4.05** Urban Secrets Double Bill

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**Radio 3**  
**6.30 Breakfast** Petroc Trelawny presents. **9.0** Essential Classics. With Ian Skelly. **12.0** Composer of the Week: Beethoven (5/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, the soprano Louise Alder and the pianist Roger Vignoles perform works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Berg, Bizet, Poulen and Satie. **2.0** Afternoon Concert: The BBC Philharmonic. Schubert: Symphony No 5. Conductor Juanjo Mena. Tchaikovsky: Entr'acte (Act IV, Hamlet). Conductor Ben Geroni. Gipsy: Symphony No 3. Conductor Rumon Gamba. Tchaikovsky: Serenade. Conductor Ben Geroni. Ben-Haim: Symphony No 1. Conductor Omer Meir Wellber. **4.30** (FM) Daily Service. Book of the Week: Tom Stoppard - A Life, by Hermione Lee. (5/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour. **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Housing Lark (R) **11.0** A Good Read: Ruth Jones & Dominic Cooke (R) **11.30** 50 More Things That Made the Modern Economy: Bonsack Machine (R) **29.11** **11.45** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Four Thought (R)

**Radio 4 Extra**  
**6.0** Cast, in Order of Disappearance (5/6)

**Radio 4**  
**6.0** Today **8.30** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** Desert Island Discs (R) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Tom Stoppard - A Life, by Hermione Lee. (5/5) **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Housing Lark (R) **11.0** A Good Read: Ruth Jones & Dominic Cooke (R) **11.30** 50 More Things That Made the Modern Economy: Bonsack Machine (R) **29.11** **11.45** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Four Thought (R)

**Radio 4 Extra**  
**6.0** Cast, in Order of Disappearance (5/6)

**6.30** Three Act Tragedy (5/5) **7.0** Alone (6/6) **7.30** Dot (4/4) **8.0** Share and Share Alike (8/9) **8.30** Patterson (1/8) **9.0** The Personality Test (3/6) **9.30** Ballylemon (1/6) **10.0** The House in Paris (3/3) **11.0** Podcast Radio Hour **12.0** Share and Share... **12.30** Patterson (1/8) **1.0** Cast, in Order... **2.0** The Personality Test (3/3) **3.0** The House in Paris (3/3) **4.0** Podcast Radio Hour **5.0** Alone (6/6) **5.30** Dot (4/4) **6.0** Orbit One Zero (5/6) **6.30** Off the Page (2) **7.0** Share and Share... **7.30** Patterson (1/8) **8.0** Cast, in Order... **8.30** Three Act Tragedy (5/5) **9.0** Podcast Radio Hour **10.0** Dot (4/4) **10.30** Tom Parry's Fancy Dressed Life (3/4) **10.45** Charlotte and Lillian (3/4) **11.0** The Flight of the Conchords (1/6) **11.30** Simon Evans Goes to Market (2/4) **12.0** Orbit One Zero (5/6) **12.30** Off the Page (2) **1.0** Cast, in Order... **1.30** Three Act Tragedy (5/5) **2.0** The Personality Test (3/6) **2.30** Ballylemon (1/6) **3.0** The House in Paris (3/3) **4.0** Podcast Radio Hour **5.0** Alone (6/6) **5.30** Dot (4/4)



Carrie, Film4



For millions, the arts are a lifeline, not a decadent hobby *Tim Burgess, page 3*

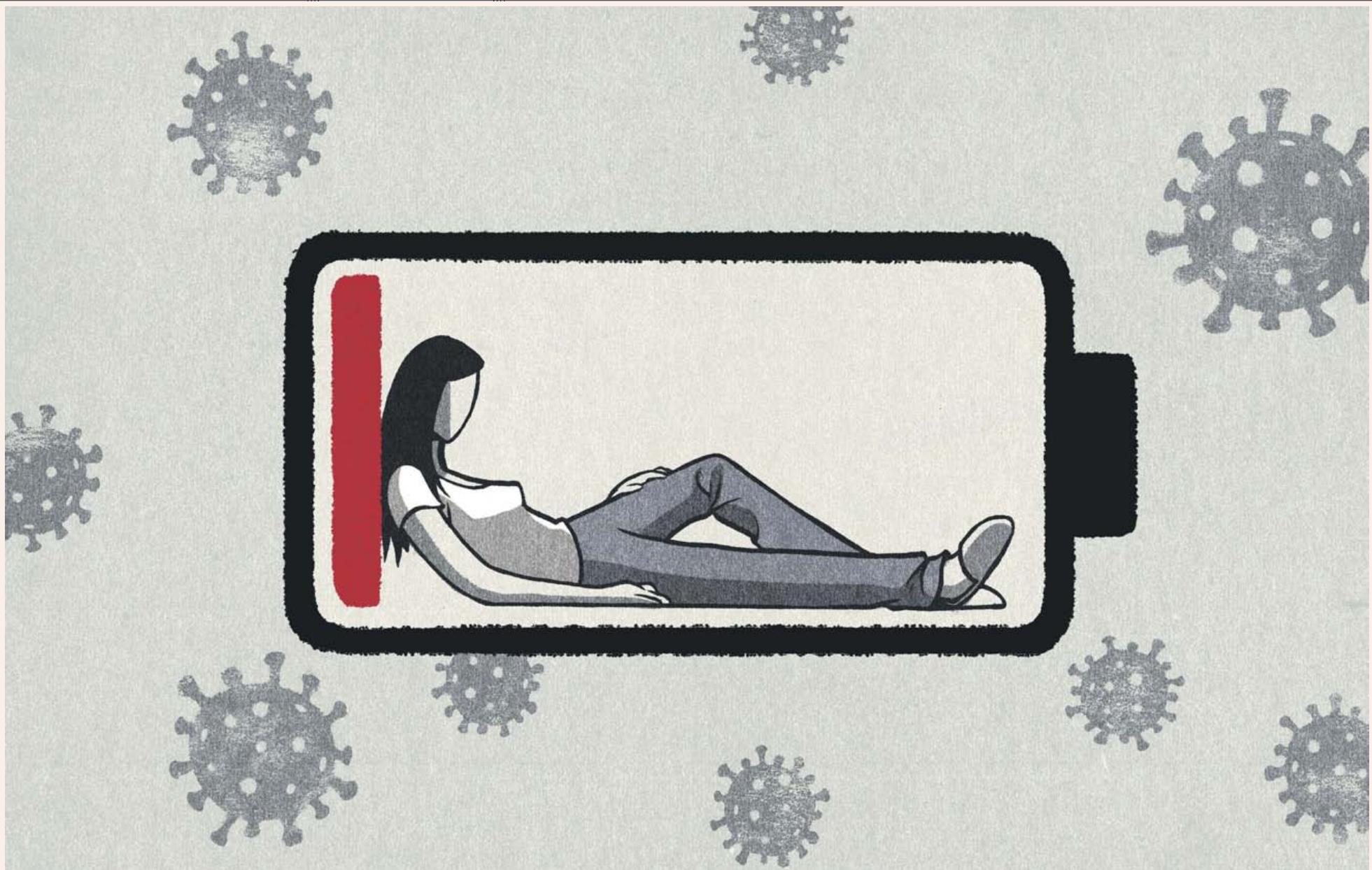
We all pay for Trump's toxic masculinity *Rebecca Solnit, page 4*

Johnny Nash, singer and writer of I Can See Clearly Now *Obituaries, page 6*

The Guardian Friday 9 October 2020

Opinion  
and ideas

# Journal



## As pandemic fatigue sets in, what we need is leadership

**Gaby Hinsliff**



**I**t starts with an overwhelming tiredness. As the condition takes hold, sufferers may start to feel demotivated, even angry. In England, it may already be endemic in those parts of the north where this year has felt like one endless lockdown - in those places where fresh restrictions were reimposed within weeks of everyone emerging from hibernation this June, and people woke on Thursday to news that the government may now follow Scotland's lead in shutting pubs and restaurants.

And no, this mystery illness isn't long Covid, the symptoms that linger long after the fever subsides. It's what the World Health Organization this week called "pandemic fatigue", a Europe-wide phenomenon where people get so tired of living like this that they simply stop following the rules. The battle this winter is no longer just against a virus. It's against an encroaching sense of hopelessness, exhaustion and resentment setting in as it becomes clear that eradicating the virus isn't going to work, and "light-touch" local lockdowns are no longer keeping a lid on it.

In Calderdale or Newcastle now, you can still teach a class of 30 potentially infectious children, serve customers in a shop all day long, or work in a factory that might be harbouring the seeds of the next outbreak. But

you can't visit your elderly mum, have a glass of wine with a friend in their garden or plan a weekend away with any certainty. It's all the slog, but none of the joy - "this is no life for people to be living", as the Manchester MP Lucy Powell put it in parliament last week.

Some of her older constituents are getting desperately lonely, she says, while parents are feeling the strain of not getting a break this summer. Others ask angrily whether London-based policymakers would make such choices for them if they had to live like this themselves. When ministers first suggested back in spring that something called "behavioural fatigue" might undermine compliance with long, drawn-out lockdowns, scientists scoffed that there was no such term in the research literature. Yet what's happening now in some northern cities is a living experiment in testing the thesis.

Powell still hopes her city, where hospitality isn't regarded as a key route of transmission, won't be singled out for further restrictions. Yet local politicians remain in the dark, even as Downing Street briefs friendly newspapers about what might happen on Merseyside and the vague-sounding "other parts of northern England". What's the plan, the grand strategy, the theory of why local lockdowns haven't worked as planned? Powell is not

ILLUSTRATION:  
BEN JENNINGS

As pandemic fatigue sets in,  
what we need is leadership

**Gaby Hinsliff**

← Continued from front

 impressed by talk of “circuit breakers”, or brief suspensions of normal life supposedly intended to break chains of transmission. Manchester’s experience, she says, is that lockdowns that were only ever supposed to be temporary become “a club you just never leave. Once you’re in, you’re in, and the only way forward is deeper in.”

Say what you like about Nicola Sturgeon, but at least her position is crystal clear. There was little attempt to sugar the pill on Wednesday as she spelled out measures she must know will make people miserable – shutting hospitality in central Scotland and curbing alcohol sales elsewhere – but which she now deems necessary. Cancelling next year’s National 5 exams, Scotland’s equivalent of GCSEs, also suggests that families can’t just assume things will be back to normal by spring. While Boris Johnson can’t help sticking a jaunty cocktail umbrella on everything he tells the public, Sturgeon serves her bad news straight up. Yet voters seem to respect her for it, rewarding her over the summer with approval ratings Downing Street would kill for.

**T**he success is defined in nationalistic terms as doing better than England – leading more decisively, intervening before things get out of hand – that popularity is easy to understand. Sturgeon has stepped in when Scotland’s big cities are still barely warm by English hotspot standards. And Sturgeon was careful to show her working, publishing detailed papers linking an uptick of Covid cases from August to hospitality reopening in July.

But if success is defined as a gradual but steady emergence from lockdown into the light, then Scotland has arguably failed. We have heard much about its pursuit of “zero Covid”, a New Zealand-style holy grail that over summer seemed briefly within reach. Britain’s best hopes of a successful exit from lockdown seemed pinned on Sturgeon, widely praised for not rushing headlong to reopen, as England did, and for prioritising human health and wellbeing over the economy.

But now deaths, hospital admissions and ICU cases are all trending ominously upwards even here. Some may argue Scotland could still have eliminated the virus if Britain had had a better national test-and-tracing system. But without such a system or a vaccine, the realistic choice across Britain is now between the full lockdown that nobody wants; letting the virus rip, in vague hopes of achieving a herd immunity that may not even exist; or the uncertain road Scotland and Wales now seem to have chosen, of rolling partial lockdowns leavened by small gestures to make them easier to live with.

Younger children were exempt from Scottish social distancing rules over the summer holidays, in recognition of their need to play. Where pubs are shutting, Sturgeon said cafes could stay open in daytime so that those who are lonely could meet a friend for coffee. It seems someone may have read the WHO’s report on combating pandemic fatigue, which advises governments to avoid this sag in national morale by using all the evidence they can muster, acknowledge how hard this is on people, and let them live their lives wherever possible, while reducing risk. To keep people on track, it argues, policies must be transparent, consistent, predictable, fair and avoid mixed messages. Compare that with Boris Johnson’s baffling 10pm curfew on English pubs, a compromise seemingly cobbled together after the cabinet couldn’t agree on anything else, which city mayors fear is simply encouraging pubgoers to congregate at the off-licence before carrying on the party at home.

The lesson we should be taking from Scotland isn’t about when to call last orders, however. It’s about leadership, and levelling with people; knowing how to take your country with you, and win its trust for whatever lies ahead, even when all the options are bad.

History may ultimately judge Sturgeon to have made the wrong calls, or even to have ordered a partial lockdown too early in what will be a very long winter. As the WHO puts it, “wide-ranging restrictions may not be feasible for everyone in the long run”. But at least Scotland is clear where its leader stands. England’s battle against Covid will not be won until it can say the same.

# The Guardian

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‘Comment is free... but facts are sacred’ CP Scott

## Covid-19

### Failure to control the second wave is deepening the north-south divide

Boris Johnson’s hopes of containing the second wave of Covid-19 through local lockdowns have failed. The failure has many causes, some of which are deep-seated. The fact of failure is, though, not in doubt. Covid cases in Britain rose by a shocking 17,540 yesterday. The test-and-trace system recorded its lowest daily contact rate since the pandemic began. Hospitals are warning that they could be overwhelmed by the end of October if cases continue to climb at current levels.

Not all of these failures should be placed at the Johnson government’s door, although many of them must be. The speed and scale of the pandemic would have been a hugely demanding challenge to any government, even to a more obviously competent and focused one than this. Nor is it fair to pretend that Britain’s failure to contain the second wave is unique. Other and better governments in western Europe, as well as the UK devolved administrations, are struggling too. France, Spain and Ireland, among others, are facing comparable surges. Even Germany has warned that infections are spiralling out of control.

Even so, the Johnson government has presided over what the political scientist Professor Sir Ivor Crewe, in a new essay for the Reform thinktank, calls “the most egregious failure of British governance in living memory”. It is now faced with the urgent need to reset its Covid goals and policies once more. New measures to combat the virus in England are being widely trailed. A tiered system of controls, based on local threat levels, will be applicable across the whole of England, but applied locally. The tiers will cover such things as the circumstances in which pubs and restaurants should be closed, families be permitted to meet up, and people be allowed to take overnight stays in at-risk areas.

Tiers of this kind make sense and could be an improvement on the increasingly confusing tangle of

restrictions now in place. Tiers would, though, have been more effective if they had been introduced months ago. In the short run, they will seem to many people like just another damned thing, adding a further layer of regulation and causing confusion, not clarifying matters. Moreover, they will come at a time when many existing local lockdowns are not working. With considerable justice, they will be seen as further evidence that the government is flailing about in the face of the pandemic.

Covid has shone lights on divisions in British society on the basis of age, race, wealth and region. The last of these, in particular, is now feeding directly into pandemic politics in an important new way. With its Brexit-derived sense of itself as an insurgency against the establishment, the Johnson government would like to take all the pandemic policy decisions itself. It would like to redesign and deliver the public services that must bear the weight of the fight on the front line. It has no time for local government and other agencies that raise objections or want to do things differently.

Earlier on, it became clear that the devolved governments would not put up with this. Now it is the turn of local governments in northern England. Councils, mayors and MPs from the north are indignant about the lack of consultation, information and resources. The second wave is bringing this indignation to a head. The imminent end of the furlough scheme makes new shutdowns far more damaging. Local bodies know what is needed better than Whitehall. They need the powers, the money and the trust to help deliver for their areas. National and local should work together, not against one another.

This is not solely about Covid-19. Conservatives and Labour are now battling for political ascendancy in northern England. This is not necessarily helping. “The problem of the north isn’t going away any time soon,” concludes Tom Hazeldine in his recent book *The Northern Question*, which is subtitled “a history of a divided country”. The 2020 iteration of that division, underpinned by the tensions between the north’s post-industrial economic decline and its exclusion from effective political agency, has been supercharged by Covid-19. Ignored politically for so long, the north is now more urgently in need of a fair and democratic local resolution than ever.

## Greece

### The Golden Dawn trial shows the far right can be defeated. Now it must be

The cheers that rang out from the tens of thousands gathered outside an Athens court on Wednesday spoke of the relief and joy sweeping through Greece and beyond. The verdict that the leaders of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn were guilty of running a criminal organisation ended a marathon case. With 68 defendants, this was the biggest trial of fascists since Nuremberg. Other members or supporters were found guilty of murder, attempted murder, assault and the illegal possession of weapons.

The court case puts a judicial seal upon a political judgment by the Greek people. Together they are welcome evidence that such groups can be challenged and defeated. In the aftermath of the worst economic crisis in modern times Golden Dawn rose to become the third-largest party, with 7% of the vote, as it exploited the anger and desperation bred by EU-mandated austerity and the failings of the Greek state. Its success inspired far-right groups internationally, including the (banned) National Action party in the UK. Yet in last year’s general election, they failed to win a single seat in parliament.

The celebrations, however heartfelt, are partial. They are shadowed by the facts that such a party could

prosper and entrench itself, especially in a country that suffered so bitterly under the Nazi occupation in the second world war; and that it took so long for authorities to act. Hundreds of vicious attacks on immigrants, trade unionists, gay couples and others took place – including murders – before the stabbing of the anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas finally triggered action. Even now, Greeks for the Homeland, a recently formed breakaway party, has garnered 1.5% of the vote in a poll.

Internationally, many far-right groups scorned Golden Dawn’s open fascism and praise for Hitler even when the party was at its height. But they too pose a threat. Across the continent, they are prospering and making alarming connections, while physical attacks are rising. The Brothers of Italy took a second regional seat, Marche, in elections last month. Portugal has recorded a record surge in racist violence. This week, a German government report said that in three years authorities had recorded more than 1,400 cases of suspected far-right extremism among soldiers, the police and intelligence services. In the US, of course, the president has praised white supremacists and urged them to “stand by”.

Defeating extremism requires tackling the real economic grievances that feed it as well as confronting its ideology and organisation. In the case of Golden Dawn, it took years of committed activism and then mass anti-fascist protests before the government took action. The hope is that this week’s verdicts may be the death knell for the movement in Greece and perhaps the catalyst for improvements abroad. But as the activist DeRay Mckesson has written: “Hope is not magic. Hope is work.”

# Opinion



## For millions, the arts are a lifeline, not a decadent hobby

**Tim Burgess**



When ITV News tweeted on Tuesday that Rishi Sunak had said that “musicians and others in [the] arts should retrain and find other jobs”, the arts world figuratively saddled up its steeds and prepared to descend on 11 Downing Street with flaming torches. But then came what is known in the music world as a big “rewind in the house”.

After much uproar, ITV deleted the tweet and said it had been misleading – but thespians were already orating, and Liam Gallagher was already halfway out of his jacket, looking for a scrap. What had Sunak actually said?

“It’s a very sad time ... I can’t pretend that everyone can do exactly the same job that they were doing at the beginning of this crisis. And that’s why we’ve put a lot of our extra resource into trying to create new opportunities for people.” Asked whether he was really telling people from the arts and music world to simply go and get a new job in a different sector, he said: “That fresh and new opportunity for people – that’s exactly what we should be doing.” No further questions, your honour. He didn’t say it as bluntly as some soundbites put it. But yeah, it’s in there, isn’t it? He didn’t *not* say it.

We totally understand that everyone is facing hardship at the moment, but there was something offhand in Sunak’s words – people felt dismissed and undervalued. What Sunak didn’t seem to take into account was that musicians and actors have been working other jobs for years – as baristas, chefs, roadies, graphic designers or bartenders, and in so many roles in the ironically named “gig” economy – to fill the time between, well, gigs. When I tweeted that many musicians and artists already had second jobs, the writer and journalist Ravi Somaiya nailed it with his reply: “Nobody remembers Renaissance accountants.”

It’s said that in certain parts of Shoreditch, in London, or Manchester’s Northern Quarter, you’re never more than 12 feet from a singer in a band. But it’s a long time since the heady days when you could write a song, release an album and live off the income from royalties

Stormzy on stage at Glastonbury last year

PHOTOGRAPH:  
RICHARD ISAAC/REX/  
SHUTTERSTOCK

and record sales – nowadays you’d need well over 1,000 streams just to be able to buy a coffee (unless, of course, you’re working as a barista, in which case you can probably just make yourself one); and increasingly music is being offered for free via streaming platforms. Even before the pandemic, it wasn’t looking good for any artists who were just starting out.

Live music was the final place where most bands could still earn enough to follow their dream. And six months ago that disappeared, with no return in sight. An entire summer of music festivals cancelled, along with the worlds of standup comedy, West End theatres and touring shows – all gone.

The worry is that the next generation of performers will come only from certain sections of society. It felt as if the chancellor was rebranding the arts sector as some sort of luxurious, decadent hobby, and now it was time for everyone to get their hands dirty – perhaps literally, as we are very short of people to pick fruit. Is that part of his masterplan: to plug the gaps left by the exodus of migrant workers with people from bands? We could divide them according to skillsets – drummers keeping a steady beat as they scoop up handfuls of berries, bass players keeping locked in step with them and working to a rhythm, while the singers wander around randomly picking selective items of fruit when the mood takes them.

Acting, creating art and playing music have buoyed the UK’s economy for decades. In 2018 alone, the music industry contributed more than £5bn to the UK economy, and the Conservatives’ own figures show that in the same year 296,000 people were working in music, performing and the visual arts. The government has even been happy to persuade tourists to head to our shores via pictures of the Beatles, Florence Welch, Shakespeare, Stormzy, beautiful theatres and aerial photos of fun being had on an industrial scale at Glastonbury. Has all this been forgotten?

I’m guessing Sunak wasn’t suggesting Ed Sheeran should become a plumber’s mate. But what happens when the Ed Sheerans or Adeles of the future abandon their dreams, and we’re left without artists bringing in those billions and inspiring others? Other countries have found a way to protect their citizens who work in the arts world – and when we somehow get back to a version of normal, won’t it be the bands, the musicals and the plays that provide an escape? Just as books and music have been a beacon of light in the darkness of lockdown.

Perhaps it’s harder for us to question the order that we should get second jobs when so many MPs already lead by example. Last year the public standards committee found that 119 MPs declared an annual total of £3.35m from second jobs, and there have been calls to tighten the code of conduct around payments from organisations that might hold “undue influence” over our elected representatives. So, yeah, no coffee shops or delivery-driver jobs for them. Maybe members of disbanded bands could be given MPs’ extracurricular occupations.

Just in case you think I am retraining as a journalist, that’s not the case. When I left ICI Runcorn in 1989, I was called into the office on my last day and told, that if things didn’t work out “with the music thing”, my job would be kept open. That was more than 30 years ago, but it looks like I may be making that call.

## When the Adeles and Ed Sheerans of the future abandon their dreams, those artists won’t bring in billions for Britain



## THAT THREE TIER SYSTEM, EXPLAINED...

- Belltoons.co.uk -

# We all pay for Trump's toxic masculinity

**Rebecca Solnit**



**E**verybody was told to wear a mask. Why did the first family and the chief of staff believe that the rules for everybody else didn't apply to them," host Chris Wallace asked on Fox News on Sunday, and the answer is obvious. Throughout the pandemic the Trump administration, alongside rightwingers in the US and elsewhere, have found that the laws of science are offensive to their sense of impunity and irresponsibility. Their attitude has been: "This doesn't affect me - and I don't care how it affects you."

The pandemic has focused and intensified the need to recognise the interconnectedness of all things - in this case the way that viruses spread and the responsibility of those in power and each of us to do what we can to

limit that spread, and to recognise the consequences if we do not take care of ourselves, and of each other. In other words, that we are not separate, and that inseparability is a basis for making decisions on behalf of the common good. But Republicans have long denied this reality.

The contemporary right has one central principle: nothing is really connected to anything else, so no one has any responsibility for anything else, and any attempt to, say, prevent a factory from poisoning a river is an infringement on freedom. Freedom as they uphold it is the right to do anything you want with utter disregard for others (and, taken to extremes, to believe anything you want, as they have about climate).

According to their logic, poverty must be caused by individual failings, not by systematic inequality and obstacles. Gun deaths must be disassociated from the deregulation and proliferation of guns. Taxes are a form of oppression, since no one owes anyone anything. Those who benefit from the system that taxes underwrite - infrastructure, law enforcement, education of workers - deny that their success has anything to do with anything but their own bootstrapping virtue and hard work. The climate crisis's underlying message, that what we do has longterm planetary consequences, outrages their sense of autonomy.

And despite the rhetoric of freedom and equality of opportunity, it's always been about preserving a hierarchy and codifying notions of masculinity. Masks have been a sort of litmus test for all this. If you wore a mask to protect yourself, you admitted that you, too, were vulnerable. Former Arkansas governor and Trump loyalist Mike Huckabee recently declared: "We are the party of the Emancipation Proclamation, not the emasculation proclamation." If you wore a mask to protect others, you admitted the systemic nature of this disease. You knew that each of our actions can affect others - and took responsibility for others.

Responsibility is caring, and caring was cast as emasculating women's work, and this made clear another underlying idea: it's men who should not be expected to do anything for others. With schools and childcare closed, the added burden at home has fallen disproportionately on women, because many men have managed to opt out by various means, including tradition and strategic obliviousness and incompetence.

Casting the wearing of masks as a form of infringement on individual liberty has made them the focus of rage and protest over the past six months. Donald J Trump reportedly mocked and discouraged the wearing of masks in the White House. "I don't agree with the statement that if everybody wears a mask, everything disappears," he said to Chris Wallace in July.

Authoritarianism is always inseparable from ideas of masculinity, and in the Trumpworld version, facts, laws, historical records and science are other things to which a real man need not submit. He can have his own version of reality as part of his endless entitlement to freedom, and so Trump spewed out his own version of how this disease worked and what the response should be, as medical experts shook their heads. Now this has caught up with him, and with the staff who were left exposed by his recklessness.

"Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life," the president tweeted from hospital amid conflicting reports on his condition. Taking precautions, respecting the dangers, protecting others: these were all now cast as "being afraid". The tweet came a day after he wilfully exposed Secret Service agents to his disease so he could take a self-promoting joyride outside the hospital. And a day after 757 Americans' lives were lost to a disease whose spread he did so little to prevent. All this discredits not only the Trumpian response to the pandemic, but the ideology that underlies it, which has always been as dishonest as it is cruel.



**Rebecca Solnit**  
is a Guardian US columnist

# Letters

Established 1906

## Country diary

Purwell Ninesprings,  
Hertfordshire

There's a spring-fed sliver of alder carr shaped like a thought bubble near the source of the River Purwell. Before the pandemic, I volunteered at this nature reserve with the local wildlife trust, and I'm often drawn back to this swampy woodland in search of solace and inspiration. Alongside the holloway that skirts the carr's eastern edge, I learned to lay a hedge, or "plash" it, to use an old Hertfordshire term. On a raised bank unceremoniously named The Dump, I've coppiced elder and hazel to allow light to reach the understorey and, when life is too loud and angular, I sit with the mosses, or settle in the sedges on the riverbank and watch the little egrets fly by, trailing their washing-up-glove feet behind them.

As I dip into the wood on this hazy autumn morning, the lopsided basketry of the laid hedge looks familiar and welcoming. After several grim housebound weeks recovering from Lyme disease, the act of walking into the carr feels like an exhalation, a gentle homecoming. In front of me, as if anticipating my return, the wood's last surviving black poplar has lowered a drawbridge - a vast plank of riven bark, taller than a woman, now lying across the path. The top half has fractured, sending corky chunks drifting off into a sea of dog's mercury and hedge woundwort like a disintegrating life raft. This poplar's days are numbered; already the wood is reclaiming its bare trunk in alder, elder and bittersweet spirals.

Mired in glassy black pools at the heart of the carr, titanic common alders rise 20 metres above the water. I walk across the spongy woodland floor, picking my way warily through the marshy areas, leaving a fenny trail in my wake as each footprint fills behind me. In the waterlogged soil, alder roots are engaged in symbiotic relationships with mycorrhizal fungi and the nitrogen-fixing bacterium *Frankia alni* in a mutually beneficial exchange of nutrients. I rest my head against the nearest alder trunk, feel the rasp of lichen on my cheek. I stand rooted here for a long time, transfixed by the fecundity of life beneath my feet and its invisible impact on the superficial layer - the tip of the iceberg - that we call wood.

Nic Wilson

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## The speech of a leader we can't take seriously

I agree with most of what Martin Kettle says about Boris Johnson's speech (Johnson tells a good story, but it's the results that will count, Journal, 8 October) and it may be that it's the kind of speech that "most political leaders with their backs against the wall would have given". But that doesn't excuse the fact that he left out what we most needed to hear. Although an enormous amount of scholarship has been produced over the last 30 years about what leadership is, in the end we recognise a good leader when we see one.

The difference between Jacinda Ardern, for example, and Johnson is that the former can speak into her country's hopes and fears, not just their hopes. Yes, it is incumbent upon a leader to be able to describe a better tomorrow, but in order to earn the right to do so, they have to say something about what preoccupies those they are leading today, so that people can recognise themselves and what they are enduring. They need their experience to be taken seriously. How could I trust a leader to realise a better tomorrow if I have no sense that he is dealing adequately with today and how I figure in it, even if he were to admit

the truth that it would be a struggle for anybody to deal with?

**Chris Mowles**  
Oxford

● In Boris Johnson's speech to the Tory party conference (From Brexit to 'getting back his mojo', 7 October), he was characteristically selective in his use of history. He said that in 1942 the government "sketched out a vision of the postwar new Jerusalem that they wanted to build. And that is what we are doing now - in the teeth of this pandemic".

In fact, the Tory-dominated national government refused to commit itself to implementing the Beveridge report (which is what Johnson is referring to) and thus provoked a huge revolt of Labour backbenchers. Churchill's defeat in the 1945 general election owed much to his lukewarmness over Beveridge.

It was Attlee's government that attempted to build the new Jerusalem, making the state responsible for the welfare of its citizens on an unprecedented scale. Johnson did not acknowledge this since, despite the failures of Serco, Capita and the rest to cope with the present crisis, he hankers for

the state to "stand back and let the private sector get on with it".

**Dr Piers Brendon**  
Cambridge

● As Boris Johnson is so fond of invoking Winston Churchill and the second world war, surely it is time for him to emulate his hero and set up a national government, with Keir Starmer as deputy PM?

**Anne Kirkman**  
Willingham, Cambridgeshire

● In his speech, Boris Johnson asserted that his government is stopping the criminal justice system from being hamstrung by lefty human rights lawyers and other do-gooders. This is, on one level, meaningless pap masquerading as morale-boosting rhetoric. But it is more than that. It is offensive to all those barristers, solicitors, judges, probation officers and others who strive daily to ensure that people are dealt with fairly in court, according to the rule of law.

It is dangerous that we have a prime minister who demonstrates his contempt for such professionals who, regardless of their own political persuasion, fearlessly work to preserve our hard-won freedoms. Fortunately, such people are made of stern stuff. Unlike politicians, they do not crave popularity. Johnson will take them on at his peril. That he appears to contemplate doing so shows a lack of judgment.

**His Honour Michael Heath**  
Retired circuit judge, Lincoln

## Caution and optimism over climate pledges

Re Barbara Finamore's article (What would Xi Jinping's carbon-neutral China look like?, Journal, 6 October), it would be a mistake to get too excited about China's announcement of carbon neutrality by 2060.

First, the date is far too late to limit global warming to 2C, let alone 1.5C. Reductions of 7.6% are required every year of the coming decade if we wish to stay within the 1.5C limit: China is planning to increase its emissions over the same period. They may now peak before 2030, but this is small comfort as China already contributes 28% of global carbon emissions.

Second, China's Belt and Road Initiative is exporting an energy programme that relies on coal-fired power stations, with more than 300 planned or under construction.

Finally, it is looking increasingly inappropriate to define China as a developing nation, since emissions of carbon dioxide per capita already exceed that of the UK (7.0 versus 5.8 tonnes per year using the production-based emissions published by the Global Carbon Project).

The truth is that President Xi has picked a date out of the air

that is far enough into the future that it allows China to continue with business as usual for at least another decade, if not longer.

**Dr Robin Russell-Jones**  
Chair, Help Rescue the Planet

● Boris Johnson pledges that offshore turbines will make Britain a world leader in clean energy (Report, 6 October). Great, but we may have some catching up to do when, according to Barbara Finamore, China is by far the largest investor, producer and consumer of renewable energy. Maybe, however, we are in with a chance: as the world's second-largest producer and exporter of armaments we clearly have considerable transferable resources.

**Kit Hill**  
Sheffield

● You can't imagine how reassuring it was to read that your open, independent environmental journalism will continue reporting, analysing and galvanising protest and resistance, and especially putting pressure on government and industry to make changes (The Guardian's promise: We will keep raising the alarm on global heating, 5 October). Knowing that your journalists are committed to making change gives some hope at a time when it would be all too easy to give way to despair.

**Penny Kent**  
Nailsworth, Gloucestershire

## ICC's work blunted by petty campaign

Your report (Human rights lawyers sue the Trump administration for 'silencing' them, theguardian.com, 1 October) sheds much-needed light on an unprecedented effort to undermine and dismantle global efforts to fight impunity.

Carrying on the legacy of my late father at Robert F Kennedy Human Rights involves holding perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable before the international criminal court (ICC). In recent months, our work has focused on holding government officials accountable for enforced disappearances in Venezuela and calling for the ICC to prosecute members of the Myanmar military who recently admitted involvement in the slaughter of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority.

These efforts have been blunted by the US state department's petty and political campaign against the ICC, which includes imposing sanctions last month on its chief prosecutor and another key staff member. While we are not named plaintiffs in this lawsuit, we echo its complaints. Our international team of lawyers, too, has had to alter research, and its ways of helping victims of atrocities, due to fear of these ridiculous sanctions.

**Kerry Kennedy**  
Robert F Kennedy Human Rights

## Corrections and clarifications

● It was incorrect to report that Fenella Morris QC called hormone blockers "experimental" during a legal case; rather she accepted that their long-term impact was not fully known (Children cannot consent to use of puberty blockers, court told, 8 October, page 5).

● Heparin is used for blood thinning, not blood clotting as we said in an article (The trouble with China's hi-tech 'pork miracle', 8 October, page 5, Journal).

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## Sad goodbye to my Guardian toaster

I went to university from 1994 until 1997. During that time, the Guardian gave little booklets of vouchers that gave students a discount on the paper. When the booklet was finished, it could be exchanged for some Guardian goodies. I collected them all - mug, bag, kite, and for the final booklet I got a toaster. It had "Guardian" written on its side but that disappeared after a few years. Anyway, with much sadness, I have to announce that it no longer works. Thank you for the many years of toast. Any other readers have one?

**Lindsey Ingham**  
London

● Re readers' weirdest meals (G2, 8 October), the first two - lasagne toasts, and peanut butter beans on toast - rang a bell with me, but you really should spread the toast with peanut butter first and then top with beans which have been gently warmed in butter and oregano. Standard uni lunch circa 1978.

**Mike Haddrill**  
Wantage, Oxfordshire

● Zoe Williams (Journal, 6 October) reminds me that I really do need to establish just how fit a butcher's dog actually is. Can anybody help?

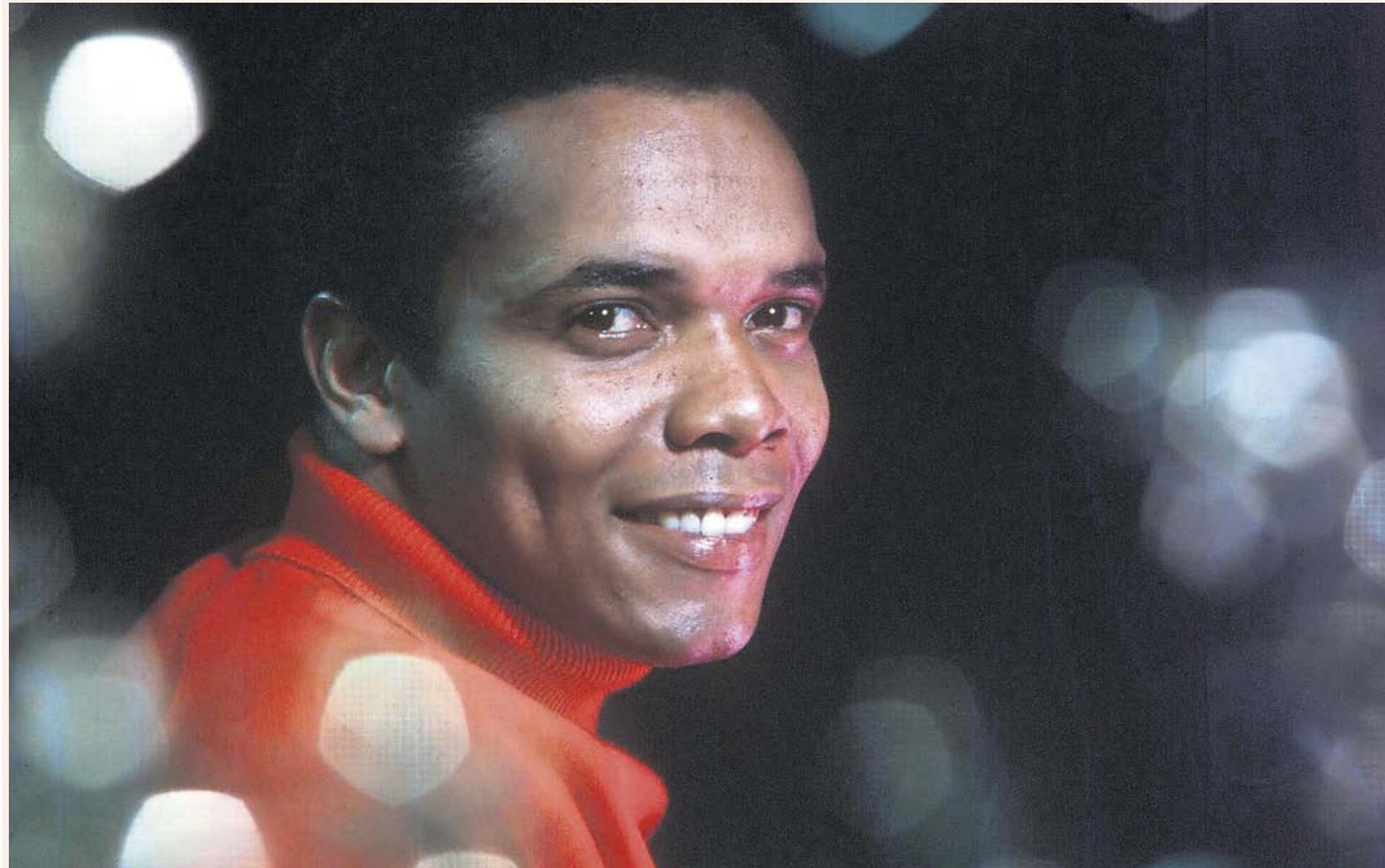
**Ian Ferguson**  
Thornton Dale, North Yorkshire

● Given the increasing lockdown restrictions across the country, perhaps the holiday destination of choice (Letters, 8 October) should be the Glaswegian option: Hamelldae (pronounced hay-mill-day-me).

**Ronnie McNeil**  
Perth

● Asked where we were going on our holidays, my dad would say we were going to Argate. To the inevitable question "Where's Argate?", he'd reply: "At the bottom of our garden."

**Kev Crocombe**  
Northampton



## Johnny Nash

### Singer and writer of the enduringly popular I Can See Clearly Now

In the decades since the song *I Can See Clearly Now* was written and recorded by Johnny Nash, many have used its uplifting lyrics to help themselves out of a period of sadness or introspection. Nash, who has died aged 80, appears to have had no particular episode of personal hardship in mind when he composed the tune in the early 1970s, but over the years it has struck a firm chord with generations of listeners who appreciate its feeling of new hope emerging from the gloom: "I can see clearly now the rain has gone / I can see all obstacles in my way / Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind / It's gonna be a bright, bright, sunshiny day."

If many people recognise little of Nash's other work, a far larger number will know those lines by heart. A staple of radio play and hugely in demand for film and television soundtracks (with more than 60 credits so far), it is difficult to imagine its popularity waning.

Best described as soulful pop, *I Can See Clearly Now* – which was a No 1 hit in the US and No 5 in the UK in 1972 – also had undertones of the user-friendly reggae sound with which Nash coloured many of his songs during the period of his greatest fame in the late 60s and early 70s.

Although he was American, Nash had spent time living in Jamaica in the mid-60s, and the island's influence on his music came to the fore in 1968, when his rock-steady compositions *You Got Soul* and *Hold Me Tight* were Top 10 hits in the UK, helping to kickstart a period of mainstream interest in reggae in Britain that remains to this day.

Nash's reggae-fied version of Sam Cooke's *Cupid* made it to No 6 in the UK the following year, followed by *Stir it Up*, written for him, and later reclaimed, by his friend Bob Marley, which was a UK No 13 in 1972, a few months before the release of *I Can See Clearly Now*. In 1975 he had his last big hit, *Tears on My Pillow*, a UK No 1, before eventually moving into deliberate obscurity.

*Nash in 1965, the year he went to Jamaica and met Bob Marley*

PHOTOGRAPH: DEZO HOFFMAN/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Nash was born in Houston, Texas, to Eliza (nee Armstrong) and her husband, John Nash, a chauffeur. A sweet-mannered, good-looking and well-behaved child, though a little shy, Johnny went to Jack Yates high school and was brought up on gospel music at the Progressive New Hope Baptist Church in the city, where he soon became renowned for his beautifully smooth voice, which also made an impact at talent shows.

At 13, after Nash had been caddying at a golf course for a retired businessman, Frank Stockton, he was urged to get up and sing in the clubhouse. Stockton was so impressed that he arranged an audition for a local afternoon TV programme, and for the next three years the young Nash earned more money than his father by singing regularly on the show after school.

Record companies soon became interested and in 1956, at 16, he released his first single, *A Teenager Sings the Blues*. Although it made little impact, his next single, *A Very Special Love*, made it to 23 in the US charts. His first album, *Johnny Nash*, was issued in 1958, and at 18 he was invited to take the lead role in a film, *Take a Giant Step* (1959), as Spence Scott, a black high school student struggling to come to terms with life in a white, middle-class neighbourhood. In 1960 he appeared as a gang member in *Key Witness*, starring Dennis Hopper.

Thereafter concentrating on his singing, Nash continued with a steady release of singles and a handful of albums, mainly in the vein of a crooning balladeer. As a church-going youth and former

**Reggae was for me a layer of rhythm that was really infectious. I could do my ballads on top of it**

boy scout, he preferred to ignore rock'n'roll, which in any case did not suit his vocal style. But as a result his relevance and popularity began to wane, and in the years after his 1961 album, *Let's Get Lost*, his impetus and direction foundered.

Salvation came with a move to Jamaica in 1965, where he and his manager-cum-business partner, Danny Sims, believed they would benefit from some time out. There Nash first met Marley, who was at that point largely unknown. Struck by the Jamaican's huge songwriting talent, he took him to see Sims, who became Marley's manager for the next six years.

For Nash, who found the relaxed rock-steady vibe of mid- to late-60s Jamaican music perfectly suited to his singing style, the link-up with Marley was also helpful. "Reggae represented to me a layer of rhythm that was really infectious. I could lay on top of the rhythm and do my ballads," he said.

Inspired by the new possibilities, in 1968 he wrote *You Got Soul*, a fine, fully-fledged rock-steady tune that was issued in the UK by Trojan Records and reached No 5 in the singles charts. Later in the year Nash followed up with *Hold Me Tight*, in similarly rich rock-steady vein: it got to No 6 in the UK and was among the first Jamaican records to cause a stir in the US, making No 5.

In 1970 Nash was invited to Sweden to write the soundtrack for a film, *Love is Not a Game*, in which he also acted opposite Christina Schollin. Nash took Marley and Sims with him, and they were away from Jamaica for almost a year. The film was a damp squib, but the sojourn in Scandinavia brought Nash and Marley into a musical collaboration that bore fruits in Nash's 1972 album *I Can See Clearly Now*, to which Marley contributed *Stir it Up*, *Guava Jelly*, *Comma Comma* and *You Poured Sugar on Me*, the last of which they jointly wrote.

The relationship had been useful for both, giving Nash a new direction and grooming Marley for his eventual hook-up with Island Records and superstardom.

As it turned out, Nash had essentially begun to abandon the music business by the time Marley came to global attention. He decided to move back to Houston in 1974 for a quieter life, buying a ranch there and embarking on his third marriage, to Carlie Collins.

By 1980, though he was still only 40, his recording activity had ground to a halt, and while there was one more album, *Here Again*, in 1986, much of his attention was by then focused on family life, church activities and helping local causes. For many years he politely refused all interview requests.

He is survived by Carlie and by two children, John and Monica.

**Peter Mason**

*John Lester Nash, singer-songwriter, born 19 August 1940; died 6 October 2020*

# Mary Baines

## Doctor who set up the UK's first home care team for the dying

Mary Baines, who has died aged 87 from Parkinson's disease, was the doctor responsible for setting up the UK's first home care team for the dying, based at St Christopher's hospice, Sydenham, south-east London, in the 1960s. Its pioneering model of palliative care at home, involving healthcare workers supporting patients and their families, has since been replicated and adapted around the world. In the UK more than three-quarters of palliative care is now provided in the community and there are nearly 300 similar care teams.

Baines had been working in general practice for seven years when in 1964 she heard Dame Cicely Saunders, who founded St Christopher's, on the radio, appealing for money for her new hospice. Baines had trained in medicine at St Thomas' hospital with Saunders.

"At this time, doctors had no interest in people who were dying – they were only interested in people who could be cured," she later said. "I thought it was very odd, this idea of caring for the dying." Nonetheless, she made a donation of £3 to the radio appeal and did not anticipate further involvement.

When Saunders then got in touch and invited her to join the hospice, Baines's medical friends advised against it for the sake of her career. But inspired by her Christian faith, she went ahead, and spent the next four decades involved in research, teaching and mentoring doctors in the new field of palliative care.

Born in Wallington, Surrey, Baines was the daughter of John Silver, a teacher, and his wife, Marjorie (nee Tripe). From Croydon high school she went to Newnham College, Cambridge, where she gained a first in natural sciences. She completed her medical training at St Thomas', qualifying in 1957, and went to work in the hospital's casualty department. From there she became a general practitioner in Norwood, south London.

Not long after she joined the medical staff at St Christopher's in 1968, the need for home care became apparent to Baines and Saunders. A woman in her 50s with advanced breast cancer asked to go home after being treated at St Christopher's,

but had to be readmitted to the hospice 10 days later because her GP had reduced and then stopped her pain-relieving drugs, believing, as many did at the time, that she might become addicted.

Baines later explained: "It was this incident that prompted Cicely Saunders to say 'We must start hospice care at home now.'"

The textbook that Baines wrote with Saunders in 1983, *Living With Dying: The Management of Terminal Disease*, criticised the practice of giving pain relief only when patients asked for it as indefensible and said oral morphine should be given regularly every four hours.

The first palliative home care team started work in 1969, combining the skills of GPs, district nurses and cancer nurses, who went into patients' homes, administering pain relief and supporting families, on a 24-hour basis.

"Mary was a meticulous researcher and this helped in the early days when medical colleagues tended to see hospice care as tea and sympathy with the odd drug thrown in," said Gillian Ford, former deputy chief medical officer at

*Baines with a patient at St Christopher's hospice in Sydenham, south-east London, in 1976*

PHOTOGRAPH:  
DEREK BAYES

the Department of Health, who was seconded to St Christopher's from 1985 to 1989 to help develop palliative medicine as a speciality.

Gifted with empathy and a gentle manner, Baines was determined that hospice practice should be evidence-based. Taught by Saunders that patients preferred doctors to sit on the bed, rather than stand over them, she was gratified when a study proved this to be the case. "It is necessary for everyone to review their clinical practice and ask whether the things they do are based on hunch or proof," she said.

Baines travelled widely, promoting the development of hospice care in India, South America and eastern Europe. She also gave talks to schools. She once described herself as the "doctor with the longest experience of a hospice in the world". In autumn 2019, at the age of 86, she travelled to a conference in Buenos Aires. She was appointed OBE in 1991.

After retiring from St Christopher's in 1997, Baines became part-time medical director at the Ellenor hospice, Gravesend, Kent. But she returned regularly to Sydenham to greet groups of professional visitors, explain the history and give them a tour of the hospice, where she also died.

Her husband, Ted Baines, an Anglican clergyman whom she married in 1958, died in 2017. She is survived by their children, Rachel, Tim and Stephen, and eight grandchildren.

**Joanna Lyall**

*Mary Jean Baines, palliative care physician, born 29 October 1932; died 21 August 2020*



## Birthdays

**Andy Atkins**, former executive director, Friends of the Earth, 60; **Brian Blessed**, actor, 84; **Jackson Browne**, singer-songwriter, 72; **Sally Burgess**, opera singer, 67; **David Cameron**, former prime minister and Conservative party leader, 54; **Geoff Cook**, cricket manager, 69; **Guillermo del Toro**, film director, 56; **Lady (Rita) Donaghy**, former chair, Acas, 76; **John Doubleday**, sculptor, 73; **Kenny Garrett**, jazz saxophonist and flautist, 60; **Sir Nicholas Grimshaw**, architect, 81; **PJ Harvey**, musician and songwriter, 51; **Abdullah Ibrahim**, pianist and composer, 86; **The Duke of Kent**, 85; **Eamonn Martin**, athlete, 62; **Sir Don McCullin**, photographer, 85; **Steve McQueen**, artist and film director, 51; **Sharon Osbourne**, music manager and broadcaster, 68; **Asisat Oshoala**, footballer, 26; **Steve Ovett**, athlete, 65; **Jess Phillips**, Labour MP, shadow minister for domestic violence and safeguarding, 39; **John Pilger**, journalist, author and film-maker, 81; **Tim Radford**, science writer, 80; **Sir Hugh Robertson**, chair of the British Olympic Association and former Conservative MP, 58; **Sir John Rose**, former chief executive, Rolls-Royce, 68; **Peter Saville**, graphic designer, 65; **Sir Stephen Sedley**, former lord justice of appeal, 81; **Annika Sörenstam**, golfer, 50; **Prof John Sutherland**, emeritus professor of English, University College London, 82; **Bill Tidy**, cartoonist, 87.

## Letter

The obituary of Sir Harold Evans (25 September) mentioned his weightier publications; can I add *We Learned to Ski*, published in 1974? In the more socially mobile 1970s it was an invaluable guide through the mystique of the sport for newcomers whose parents could never have afforded it for their children.

**Stephen Herring**

## Announcements

### Deaths

**BLAKE**, Charles Graham, died 24 September 2020. Despite a long, disabling illness he retained his passion for the law. A fine legal mind, an engaging teacher and a strong sense of social justice. An immigration judge with an astute understanding of his field. Kind, generous, amusing, thoughtful; he will be remembered with admiration and great affection by his partner, his family and his wide circle of friends. Charles, we journeyed together for so long; my loss is immeasurable, Alison.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, email us at [announcements@theguardian.com](mailto:announcements@theguardian.com) including your name, address and telephone number or phone 0203 353 2114.

