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**EXCLUSIVE**

## 'Tough, long winter ahead' for the NHS, warns Wes Streeting

» Health Secretary reveals plans, including longer GP opening hours

P4



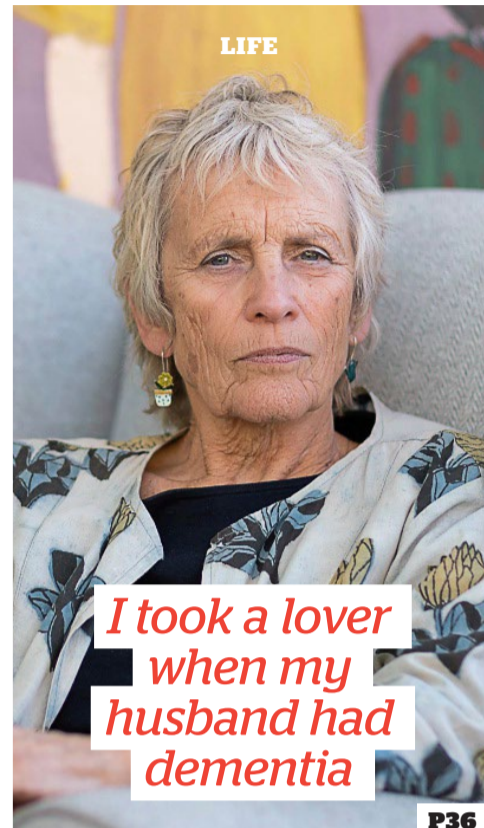
**WORLD**

## Battle of New York

» City braces for Mamdani vs Trump  
» President plots revenge against new socialist mayor

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**LIFE**



*I took a lover when my husband had dementia*

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**BOOKS**

*Mary Earps' bitter memoir has ruined her legacy*

by Katherine Lucas



P13

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

*Foden leads way in Dortmund demolition*



P56

# Manhunt for new missing prisoners as Deputy PM feels heat over blunders



» Justice Secretary and Deputy PM David Lammy faces questions after an Algerian sex offender in the UK illegally and meant to be deported is released from prison by mistake - and no one knew for a week

» Police are also searching for another inmate serving time for fraud who was accidentally set free from Wandsworth prison on Monday

» It follows the release of Epping sex offender Hadush Kebatu from Chelmsford jail two weeks ago, which sparked a three-day manhunt

» Lammy says he is 'absolutely outraged' by the latest blunders which 'expose deeper flaws' across the criminal justice system

» Ex-HMP Wandsworth security chief says: 'This is a prison in freefall'

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**LIFE**

*I'm a sex historian and dating is a nightmare*  
Kate Lister

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**OPINION**

*Reeves is showing what true leadership looks like. Yes, really*  
Ian Dunt

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**FAMILIES**

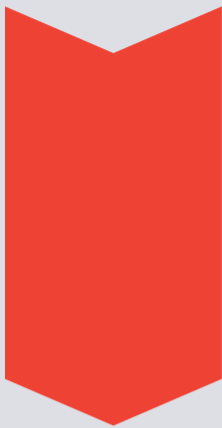
*Fathers and sons: when the boy becomes your equal*

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# The News Matrix

The day at a glance



THURSDAY

6

NOVEMBER

## Quote of the day



Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act  
TRUMAN CAPOTE



## Birthdays

Susan Calman (below), comedian, 51; Ethan Hawke, actor/director, 55; Thandiwe Newton, actress, 53; Cath Kidston, fashion designer, 67; Emma Stone, actress, 37; Maria Shriver, journalist, 70



## Anniversaries

**Tuesday 6 November 1860**  
The Republican Abraham Lincoln is elected the 16th President of the United States. His victory, without any southern electoral college votes, triggered the secession of southern states and ultimately led to the American Civil War, transforming the nation's future regarding slavery and unity.

## index

Crossword.....25  
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### CRIME

## Reports of online child abuse double

Reports of online child abuse in Scotland have more than doubled in a year. The chief constable, Jo Farrell, told MSPs that Police Scotland received 1,500 reports in 2024-25 compared with 700 the year before. She was making the case to a Holyrood committee for a £105m funding rise next year.

### NEPAL

## Bodies recovered following avalanche

Rescuers in Nepal recovered the bodies of two foreign climbers killed in an avalanche in the Himalayas as the search continued yesterday for five others. The remains of an Italian and a French climber were dug out of deep snow at the base camp of Mount Yalung Ri, north-east of the country's capital, Kathmandu.

### COURTS

## Man jailed for 18 years over stabbing

A man was jailed for 18 years yesterday for stabbing man to death seconds after shaking his hand. William Lewis, 57, knifed William Copeland, 36, multiple times in Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, on 21 October last year. The High Court in Glasgow heard that he then stabbed Copeland's disabled father, who fell out of his wheelchair.

### IRELAND

## Poultry confined to protect from bird flu

Compulsory housing orders for all poultry and captive birds will come into force in Ireland on Monday.

An outbreak of avian influenza was confirmed at a commercial turkey flock in County Carlow on Tuesday and Fota Wildlife Park in Cork has been closed because of an outbreak among its animals.

Similar measures are being put in place in Northern Ireland from today after two suspected cases at commercial poultry premises in Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Bird keepers must keep their flocks housed in a way that they do not have access to other poultry or captive birds, or with wild birds.

### UNITED STATES

## Shutdown enters record 36th day

The US government shutdown entered its 36th day yesterday, breaking the record as the longest ever and disrupting the lives of millions. Donald Trump has refused to negotiate with Democrats over their demands to salvage health insurance subsidies until they agree to reopen the government.



### CLIMATE

## Record wildfires 'threatening growth'

Record wildfires and rising temperatures are threatening decades of forest growth in the northern hemisphere, potentially turning vital carbon sinks into carbon emitters. If current trends continue, these forests could reach a tipping point by releasing more carbon than they absorb.

### PEOPLE

## Alopecia 'changed my idea of beauty'

This year's *Great British Bake Off* winner has said that living with alopecia "changed her perception of beauty". Jasmine Mitchell, from Edinburgh, won the Channel 4 competition on Tuesday night. The 23-year-old (left) has had the condition since she was 12 but chose not to wear a wig on TV.

### SPAIN

## Former king feels misunderstood

Spain's disgraced former king, Juan Carlos, feels abandoned and misunderstood, including by his son and other relatives, according to his memoir that went on sale in France yesterday. In *Reconciliation*, Juan Carlos, 87, said he understood why King Felipe VI needed to be "firm as king" in public but it was painful that "as a son he should be insensitive".

### PEOPLE

## Wrexham winger owns up to punch

The Wrexham footballer James McClean has admitted that he punched a Cardiff City fan in self-defence after being confronted before a match.

McClean, 36, who plays as a winger for the Championship side, said rival fans "started running their mouths off" at him as he was getting out of his car in the players' car park. The incident happened before the two clubs' fourth round match in the Carabao Cup on 28 October.

McClean told Talksport: "I'm in my workplace and I feel I should never feel threatened in that workplace... I wasn't waiting for him to make the first swing. So I did."



Who will be rekindling a romance that Mummy might like?  
See p.17

### ThePage3Profile

## CHARLI XCX, BOTHERED ABOUT 'BRAT' ALBUM

### Crisis of confidence?

Charli XCX has admitted that she thought her record label might drop her because of her 2024 album *Brat*, despite it earning her five Brit awards.

The 32-year-old British singer, whose real name is Charlotte Aitchison, spoke about her time making the record to Gwyneth Paltrow on the actress's podcast.

She said: "I actually made this record being like, 'OK, I'm just going to do this one for me. Maybe I'm going to get dropped by my label and that's fine'. That was kind of the head space that I was in."

The album scooped nine Grammy nominations and won three, with the LP's remix edition also going to No 1 in the UK.

### Bringing strings into pop...

After the success of the "brat summer" cultural movement, the pop star said that her next album would be "inherently" different.

"I really like to work in contrast. I think whatever I do next will just inherently be different to *Brat* because that's what feels natural. I'm exploring a lot of stuff with strings at the moment."

### Little brats?

Aitchison also touched on her recent marriage to George Daniel, the drummer with The 1975, whom she met through the band's lead singer, Matty Healy.

She said she realised that there was a "spark" between them while touring in Australia, adding: "It just sort of blossomed. It was very sweet, very innocent."

She also spoke about starting a family, noting the "stigma" around women who do not want children.

She said: "I swing between the two. Right now, I'm on the side of 'I'm not sure that's for me', but that could change."

Joe Coughlan



## The List

### Leading causes of friction in cars

Children getting upset about snacks and choosing where to sit are the cause of many family arguments in cars. Research for Vauxhall found that 69 per cent of drivers with children younger than 17 had argued with their offspring while travelling by car, with hunger being the top reason for disagreements. Friction is caused most often by:

- 1 Snacks/hunger (34%)
- 2= Arguing with siblings about space (31%)
- 2= Who sits where (31%)
- 4= Choosing what music or radio station to listen to (27%)
- 4= Windows up or down (27%)
- 4= Forgotten items (27%)
- 7 Asking 'are we nearly there yet?' (26%)
- 8 Arguing about toys (25%)



Newspapers support recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2024 was 37.2%.

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## CULTURE

**First win for diaries in non-fiction prize**

The Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction has for the first time been won by a collection of diaries. *How to End a Story: Collected Diaries* by Helen Garner charts the Australian writer's early life in bohemian Melbourne to her experience of a disintegrating marriage in the 1990s.

## ROADS

**New crossing fails to earn its stripes**

A new "zebra crossing to nowhere" has baffled locals because it leads to a locked gate. The crossing was installed by Coventry City Council as part of a new housing estate and paid for by the developer. But only residents in one part of the development can unlock it and continue their journeys.

## WEATHER

**Dogs seek sanctuary as floods hit home**

Twenty-eight dogs were trapped in a dog sanctuary's loft after a river burst its banks. Nine animals at Glanrhyd Dog Sanctuary in Carmarthenshire were rescued on Tuesday, leaving the "more reactive dogs" still stranded yesterday. Founder Alison Clark told the BBC: "They're safe. I kept them alive."

## PROPERTY

**Church that inspired novel is up for sale**

A 13th-century church which played a central role in one of Scotland's most-loved novels, *Sunset Song*, is up for sale. Arbutnott Church in Kincardineshire inspired the setting of the 1930s work, and the remains of its author Lewis Grassie Gibbon are buried in its graveyard. Offers in excess of £45,000 are being sought.

Letter from the Policy Editor  
**Jane Merrick**  
i@thepaper.com

**Does Streeting have a cure for the NHS?**

The revelation yesterday that another foreign prisoner has absconded after being mistakenly released from jail underlines how Labour is having to fight fires on several fronts.

Immigration and prisons are becoming toxic policy areas for Sir Keir Starmer's Government, while Chancellor Rachel Reeves is preparing the ground for probable tax rises in her Budget.

But it is the NHS – the policy area where Labour governments have traditionally flourished – that could become the leading success story by the next election.

Admittedly, things are not looking good. After a spell of waiting lists coming down under Labour, the number of people waiting for routine NHS treatment has risen for three months in a row, and figures out today could cement that trend.

Writing in *The i Paper* today, the Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, warns that the NHS faces a "long, tough winter", with doctors' strikes going ahead and the flu season arriving five weeks earlier than normal.

Anyone who has had to go to hospital recently will know how bad things are: the sight of patients on trolleys is routine and A&E waits are stubbornly high.

Despite these difficulties, Streeting and NHS executives have a plan to try to limit the worst of the winter crisis, including a ramped-up flu vaccination campaign with pandemic-style pop-up clinics, while NHS trusts are already stress-testing their winter resilience to identify weaknesses.

A winter crisis seems inevitable, yet Streeting believes that these measures will herald the start of "lasting change" in the NHS. Voters will be hoping he is right.

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## NHS

# 'Tough' winter ahead as Streeting vows to avoid health service crisis

**Exclusive**  
By Jane Merrick  
POLICY EDITOR

The NHS faces a "tough, long winter" as ongoing strikes and one of the longest and intense flu seasons for some years put pressure on services, Wes Streeting has warned.

In an article for *The i Paper*, the Health Secretary said the Government and NHS were already stress-testing the resilience of hospitals and the wider health service to prepare for the increased demand.

Streeting pledged that he would do everything possible to prepare for the winter crisis so that it would not be "another ordeal but the start of lasting change".

A rise in flu cases has begun five weeks earlier than normal this autumn, and the Government has stepped up activity for its vaccination programmes for older people, children and those with serious health conditions.

Flu vaccinations are being offered to people in pop-up clinics in fire stations as well as at traditional sites of GP surgeries and chemists to help combat the threat, Streeting said.

Focus today will be on the latest waiting list figures. Numbers have risen for the previous three months, putting a further strain on NHS resources as hospitals try to clear the elective backlog.

Yesterday the Health Secretary



Wes Streeting said that measures were in place to ease pressure on the NHS GETTY

also made a take-it-or-lose-it offer to resident doctors from the British Medical Association (BMA), who are preparing to stage a five-day strike over pay, starting next week.

While he did not offer to increase the headline rate of pay because Labour had already given resident doctors a pay rise of 28.9 per cent since coming to power, Streeting pledged to meet the cost of Royal College

exams and membership fees as well as increasing allowances for doctors in part-time training.

In a separate letter to the chairman of the BMA's resident doctors committee, Dr Jack Fletcher, Streeting said: "If further strikes were to go ahead, I would simply not be able to afford to offer the non-pay package again."

Fletcher responded in a state-

ment: "Even with this offer, thousands of doctors would still be unable to find a job."

It is also likely that the Chancellor will announce more money for the NHS in her Budget, taking place on 26 November. Rachel Reeves said during her pre-Budget address at Downing Street on Tuesday that cutting NHS waiting lists was one of her top priorities.

## Comment

## NHS faces challenges this winter – but we're more prepared than ever

**Wes Streeting**  
HEALTH SECRETARY



I've been told many times by NHS doctors, GPs, nurses and clinical staff that as winter arrives, it brings a mix of emotions. Determination, stoicism, but also rightful pride in their ability to deliver care under undeniable strain.

This year, I know staff are concerned about what's coming. They have faith in themselves but their confidence in the wider system has been shaken after decades of mismanagement, little investment and a general lack of forward-thinking.

With more British Medical Association-led resident doctor strikes looming and a longer, more intense flu season expected, staff and the services they run will come under a fresh bout of pressure. This will be a tough – and long – winter.

But with the changes we're making in the NHS, patients and staff can be confident that we're

doing all we can to weather that storm, not just for this winter, but for many to come.

Firstly, we've prepared the system in a way that hasn't been done in years. We're working hard with every trust to minimise reliance on last-resort workarounds. Across the country, winter plans have been stress-tested against three stages: preparation, staying ahead and response. That level of foresight and co-ordination did not exist before.

Too many politicians, leaders and staff simply closed their eyes, got through winter, and then tried to move on like it hadn't become an annual nightmare. Sadly, recent years have often made it feel like there is a winter crisis

**Across the country, winter plans have been stress-tested against preparation and response**

all year round. Secondly, we're helping patients and staff protect themselves through vaccination. With winter flu season starting five weeks earlier than normal, we know it's going to hit hard. We've ramped up activity to boost vaccination rates.

From booking flu, Covid and RSV jabs through the NHS app, to pop-up clinics in fire stations, mobile buses and pharmacies, we're using innovation and community outreach to bring vaccines to people's doorsteps.

We're also making it easier for staff to get the jabs and, for the first time, parents can get their two- and three-year-olds vaccinated against flu at local pharmacies.

Thirdly, true to our commitment in our 10 Year Health Plan, we're forging as many routes as possible to keep people away from A&E in the first place – changing how the NHS works so that we don't face the same problems year after year.

**£450m**

Funding boost to address emergency care, including 500 new ambulances by March

People will be able to see their GP more easily, with online access to GP surgeries and longer practice hours, so more patients get the care and support they need closer to home instead of heading to A&E.

Locally, NHS services are working more closely with councils, primary care and care homes to improve joined-up care and get people out of hospital beds when they do not need to be there.

We are investing in urgent and emergency care to help get it back on its feet, with a £450m boost to bring in 500 new ambulances by March next year; new urgent treatment centres and tougher performance standards.

And across the NHS, smart modernisation is making life easier for patients and staff.

We know there are risks we will not be able to control this winter. But we're confronting those challenges with open eyes, open minds and detailed plans.

Our 10 Year Health Plan would mean nothing if we left these things to chance.

With foresight, partnership and confidence in our NHS workforce, this cold season can mark not another ordeal, but the start of lasting change. This winter, we're putting preparation into practice – and building a stronger NHS for the future.

## CRIME

## Almost three in 10 adults suffered child abuse

By Aine Fox and Ian Jones

Almost a third of women and more than a quarter of men in England and Wales are estimated to have experienced abuse during their childhoods, according to new figures.

Around 13.6 million adults – almost three in 10 – suffered some form of emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect as children, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The estimates are based on responses collected for the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in the year to the end of March 2024 and are the first of their kind to use an expanded definition of childhood abuse.

The data suggests that around 7.5 million (31.5 per cent) women and 6.1 million (26.4 per cent) men experienced any of these forms of abuse before reaching adulthood at the age of 18.

ONS head of crime statistics Meghan Elkin said: "Child abuse is appalling in all its forms and affects some of the most vulnerable in society, but it is also something that is little understood.

The most commonly experienced type of abuse was emotional – defined as the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child that causes severe and ongoing adverse effects their emotional development – with more than a fifth (22.7

per cent or an estimated 10.6 million) of people having faced this.

An estimated 7.7 million people (16.5 per cent) said they had experienced physical abuse, which can include use of force such as hitting.

Almost one in 10 (9.1 per cent or 4.3 million people) suffered sex abuse, with women more common victims (13.9 per cent, or around one in seven) than men (4.1 per cent, or just under one in 20).

The vast majority of the perpetrators of child sex abuse were men, with 91.3 per cent of all victims saying their abuser was male and 94.2 per cent of female victims saying they were abused only by males.

Most of those sexually abused as children knew the perpetrator.

Last month, a key figure in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) warned a failure to enact recommendations could risk some people taking their lives.

The data also suggested someone who is bisexual or gay, transgender, disabled, from a mixed ethnic background or who grew up in a single-parent household was more likely to have faced any of the four forms of abuse as a child.

For confidential emotional support, Samaritans is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call for free on 116 123, email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

**91.3**  
Percentage of victims who said that their abuser was male

## MILITARY

# Harry writes poignant tribute to 'stoic spirit' of British veterans

By Laura Elston

The Duke of Sussex has expressed his pride at fighting for his country and his love of the "things that make us British" – while warning how easy it is for veterans to be forgotten "once the uniform comes off".

Harry, who undertook two front-line tours to Afghanistan with the Blues and Royals and the Army Air Corps, has penned a passionate essay ahead of Remembrance Day, in which he describes the privilege of serving alongside men and women from all four corners of the UK.

He called on people to remember "not only the fallen, but the living" who carry the "weight of war" – and urged them to knock on veterans' doors and "join them for a cuppa... or a pint" to hear their stories and "remind them their service still matters".

In a 647-word essay "The Bond, The Banter, The Bravery: What it means to be British – by Prince Harry", released yesterday, the Duke paid tribute to the "stoic spirit" of self-deprecation and humour of "us Brits".

He described remembrance as "not simply a minute's silence" but "a call to collective responsibility".

Harry wrote at the start of his reflective piece: "Every November, the world, for a moment, grows quieter. We pause, together, to remember.

"Remembrance has never been about glorifying war. It's about recognising its cost: the lives changed forever and the lessons paid for, through unimaginable sacrifice. It's also about honouring those who, knowing that cost, still choose to serve."

Writing of the "resilience" and "fierce determination" of the Ukrain-

ians he met while visiting the war-torn country in September, Harry (*inset*) added: "There is a similar stoic spirit of self-deprecation and humour in Ukrainians, that I recognise more than any other, in us Brits.

"Though currently, I may live in the United States, Britain is, and always will be, the country I proudly served and fought for.

"The banter of the mess, the clubhouse, the pub, the stands – ridiculous as it sounds, these are the things that make us British. I make no apology for it. I love it."

Paying special tribute to former servicemen and women across the UK, he wrote: "I've had the privilege of serving alongside men and

women from all four corners of the UK; from Antrim to Anglesey, Lancashire to London, Wrexham to the East Riding, Belfast to Bedfordshire and beyond.

"I saw courage and compassion in the harshest conditions imaginable.

"But I also saw how easy it can be, once the uniform comes off, for those who gave everything, to feel forgotten."



It is understood that Harry's words were released yesterday to avoid drawing focus away from his brother William's major speech at the COP30 climate talks in the Amazon today, and from events such as the Field of Remembrance memorial garden, the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, and commemorations at the Cenotaph on Sunday.

## CHARITY

## Blind veteran and dog will lay wreath

By Claire Hayhurst

A blind veteran will be the first to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph alongside her guide dog this weekend, according to a charity.

Kelly Ganfield, 45, from Trowbridge, Wiltshire, will march in London on Remembrance Sunday with her guide dog Archie, an eight-year-old golden Labrador cross retriever.

She joined the Army in 1998 and served with the Adjutant General's Corps but suffered a

stroke at the age of 23 – resulting in the loss of her sight and career.

In 2006, she began receiving support from Blind Veterans UK and will now lead

a contingent of 40 other blind veterans supported by the charity on Sunday.

Adrian Bell, the chief executive of the charity, said yesterday: "Kelly is the first blind veteran to lay a wreath at the

Cenotaph alongside a guide dog. She and Archie should be rightly proud that they are the first."



Prince William was in Brazil for the Earthshot Prize awards ceremony  
CHRIS JACKSON/PA

## MONARCHY

## Prince recreates Diana Rio photo

By Tony Jones

The Prince of Wales followed in his mother's footsteps and posed for a photo in the shadow of Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue.

William stood yesterday in the spot where Diana, Princess of Wales, took in the stunning views of the city hundreds of metres below from the summit of Mount Corcovado.

The heir to the throne is making a

five-day visit to Brazil, his first to the South American country, to stage his Earthshot Prize – a global environmental competition to find solutions to "repair" the planet.

Five winners were set to collect £1m at last night's awards, with performances from singers Kylie Minogue and Shawn Mendes also on the bill.

William will also travel to Belém for the COP30 climate change summit.

## MUSIC

## Minogue's Christmas song was 10 years in the making

By Jenny Garnsworthy

Kylie Minogue will release a 10th anniversary Christmas album, which includes a brand new song she says has been a decade in the making.

The new track, "Xmas", was played for the first time on Scott Mills's BBC Radio 2 breakfast show yesterday, with Minogue as a guest.

The new album, *Kylie Christmas (Fully Wrapped)*, includes the songs "At Christmas" and "100 Degrees", as well as covers of festive favourites such as "Santa Baby" and "It's The



Kylie Minogue's new album will be released early next month

## TECHNOLOGY

## As AI takes over, 'vibe coding' is the word of 2025

By Jenny Garnsworthy

Vibe coding, an emerging software development which turns natural language into computer code using artificial intelligence (AI), has been named the word of the year for 2025.

Lexicographers at Collins Dictionary monitor the 24 billion-word Collins Corpus, which draws from a range of media sources including social media, to create the annual list of new and notable words that reflect our ever-evolving language.

The term was coined by Andrej Karpathy (*inset*), a former director of AI at the electric car maker Tesla and a founding engineer at OpenAI, to describe how artificial intelligence can enable someone to create a new app while being able to "forget that the code even exists".

Other words on the list include "bio-hacking", defined as the activity of altering the natural processes of one's body in an attempt to improve health and longevity.

Another is "clanker", a derogatory term for computers, robots or sources of AI, which was popularised by *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and is often used to express people's frustrations with, and distrust of, AI chatbots and platforms.

Another term of disapproval, the word "glaze", meaning to praise or flatter someone excessively, has also gained traction this year.

Another is "aura farming" – described as the deliberate cultivation of a charismatic persona – essentially the art of looking cool.

A rise in the use of the term "Heenery", an acronym for "high earner, not rich yet" is also named by Collins.

Alex Beecroft, the firm's managing director, said: "The selection perfectly captures how language is evolving alongside technology."



Most Wonderful Time Of The Year". She told Mills that she recorded the album during breaks on her *Tension Tour* earlier this year.

"I probably should have been doing nothing but, no, I went to the studio and worked on some new Christmas songs because it's the 10th anniversary of my Christmas album and I thought, 'why not', the 57-year-old said.

"I had one song that I needed to exercise. I needed to get it out. It's been 10 years in the making and that song is 'Xmas'."

Minogue said she recorded the album in the summer but used a stocking that she was given when she read a CBeebies Christmas story to get her in the festive spirit.

## ECONOMY

# Public warned to prepare for 'nasty set of tax rises' as Reeves aims to balance books

By Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Households should brace for a "nasty set of tax rises" in the Budget, the former head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has warned, as he branded the Government's growth plan unclear.

Professor Paul Johnson, provost of Queen's College, Oxford, also described the Chancellor's speech on Tuesday when she rolled the pitch for tax increases as "strange".

Johnson predicted Rachel Reeves would seek to give herself greater fiscal breathing space at this month's Budget, on top of filling the £20bn-£30bn black hole in the country's finances.

"My sense is that things have deteriorated by up to £30bn – but the problem is, I think she'll raise taxes by more than things have deteriorated," he told the ICAS Annual Conference in London yesterday.

And he warned against hitting businesses with further tax increases after Reeves raised £40bn



Rachel Reeves is said to be looking into scrapping the 5p cut in fuel duty

in taxes last year, largely from the business sector.

"If you do need to increase taxes then you need to do it on income tax or VAT not on businesses or employers. So, the politics and economics crash up against each other," Johnson said.

Reeves is widely expected to raise

income tax after she told the nation this week that "we will all have to contribute" and "do our bit" to mend the country's finances.

While no final decisions have been made, the Treasury is understood to have been instructed to look at raising income tax.

Business leaders added their voice to calls on Reeves to break Labour's manifesto commitments rather than heap taxes on businesses to balance the country's books.

The business lobby group warned raising taxes for firms further would risk "stalling" the Chancellor's drive for economic growth.

The CBI chief executive Rain Newton-Smith said: "Sticking rigidly to manifesto commitments may be politically laudable, but it is only economically viable if material conditions remain unchanged. The fact is they are not."

In its submission to the Treasury before the Budget, the CBI said higher costs were already holding back business investment, with the share of tax paid by firms at 30.5 per cent –

the highest rate for 25 years and set to increase further.

The Chancellor is also eager to try to ease the cost of living and is believed to be considering cuts to green levies on energy bills to help bring them down.

But in a sign of the difficult balancing act the Chancellor faces, she is also reportedly looking at scrapping the 5p cut in fuel duty introduced in 2022 to help alleviate the soaring cost of petrol and diesel in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The combined cost of the cut as well as the 14-year freeze in fuel duty amounts to around £3bn a year. But there are figures within Whitehall who worry that scrapping the fuel duty relief will spark a backlash and add to the cost of living.

Businesses are now paying £308.6bn in taxes – more than the budgets of the NHS, schools and defence combined, the CBI said.

## 2p or not 2p? The options available to the Chancellor

Rachel Reeves has signalled that she is prepared to become the first Chancellor to raise income tax in 50 years as she warned voters "we will all have to contribute" to bolster Britain's economy.

The Chancellor used a speech in Downing Street to warn that "we all need to do our bit" as she refused to commit herself to Labour's election manifesto pledges in the forthcoming Budget.

The party previously promised not to raise income taxes, but Reeves is reportedly considering a 2p rise in income tax.

Another report by Sky News has suggested that Reeves could instead target income tax rises for those earning more than around £46,000.

Here is how much more you could pay in each potential scenario:

### 2P INCOME TAX RISE ON ALL RATES AND 2P CUT TO NI

The Resolution Foundation has advocated for an increase in income tax by 2p across all three rates, offset by a 2p cut in employee NI.

The think-tank said this would raise £6bn while "protecting most workers" from the tax rise.

The money would be raised mostly from pensioners, who do not pay NI currently, as well as some other groups, such as landlords.

Currently, the basic rate of income tax is 20 per cent, or 20p in the pound. This rises to 40 per cent for earnings over £50,270 and 45 per cent over £125,140 per year.

For employees, NI is charged at 8 per cent on earnings below £50,270

### 2p tax rise and 2p NI cut How it would affect you

Income	Current pay	After	Change
£25,000	£21,520	£21,520	£0
£50,000	£39,520	£39,520	£0
£75,000	£54,057	£53,563	£495
£100,000	£68,557	£67,563	£995
£125,000	£78,057	£76,313	£1,745
£150,000	£91,286	£89,040	£2,246

and 2 per cent above this salary, so assuming the 2 per cent rate remained the same, some higher earners would also pay more, as outlined below.

If income tax rises by 2p for all three rates and the basic rate of NI is cut by 2p, workers earning £25,000 and £50,000 would not see a change in their take-home pay, but higher earners would.

Someone earning £75,000 would pay an extra £495 per year, while someone with a £100,000 salary would pay £995 more.

Shaun Moore, tax expert at wealth manager Quilter, said: "This approach softens the blow for most workers and could be spun as only 'bending' a manifesto promise."

### 2P INCOME TAX RISE ON ALL RATES

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, another think-tank, said a 2p rise on the 20p basic rate of income tax was expected to be the minimum needed to repair

Britain's public finances, raising around £20bn.

If all three rates of income tax were raised by 2p without the NI cut, a worker earning £25,000 would pay £249 more per year.

Someone with a £50,000 salary would face a £749 tax rise, while those with incomes of £75,000 and £100,000 would pay an extra £1,249 and £1,749 respectively.

### 1P INCOME TAX RISE ON ALL RATES

A 1p income tax rise seems less likely than the other options but is still possible. Someone earning

**£45,000**

The maximum wage that 'working people' earn, according to the Treasury's definition

### High rate How lower threshold would affect you

Income	Current pay	After	Change
£25,000	£21,520	£21,520	£0
£50,000	£39,520	£38,960	£560
£75,000	£54,057	£53,460	£598
£100,000	£68,557	£67,960	£598
£125,000	£78,057	£77,460	£598
£150,000	£91,286	£90,689	£598

£25,000 would pay an extra £124 per year, while those on £50,000 and £75,000 would pay another £374 and £624 respectively.

### HIGHER RATE INCOME TAX THRESHOLD DROPS TO £46,000

Reeves previously pledged to protect "working people" in the Budget.

Sky News obtained the Treasury's internal definition of "working people", which it defines as those earning £45,000 or less.

This is likely to rule out increases to the basic rate of income tax and NI, but could mean those earning more than £46,000 will be targeted, the broadcaster reported.

One way of doing this could be to lower the higher rate threshold of income tax from £50,271 to £46,000.

The table here shows how workers would be affected if this were to happen, and assumes that the threshold at which the NI rate is lowered from 8 per cent to 2 per cent also moved to £46,000.

If Reeves does this, someone earning £50,000 would pay an extra £560, while those on incomes of above £50,271 would see their tax bill go up nearly £600. **Alexa Phillips**

Source: Analysis by Quilter for The i Paper

## Starmer's a great, big Guy

Adjustments are made to an 11m (36ft) Sir Keir Starmer effigy. Each year Edenbridge Bonfire Society in Kent creates a celebrity figure to burn alongside Guy Fawkes on Bonfire Night. Previous "Guys" include Boris Johnson and Donald Trump. TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS



## TREASURY

## Blair institute says it backs 'temporary' rise in taxes

By Sophie Wingate

Any major tax rises imposed by Rachel Reeves must be "temporary" and coupled with reforms to help businesses that were left "bruised" by the last Budget, Sir Tony Blair's think-tank has said.

A report from the Tony Blair Institute (TBI) called on the Chancellor to bring businesses "back onside" by moving beyond "the caution of the Government's first year in office" in her 26 November Budget.

The TBI said any manifesto-breaking tax rises must be accompanied by bold growth-boosting pro-business reforms that "break Britain's tax-and-spend doom loop" and allow the Government to roll back the tax rises as the economy improves.

It rejected the Government's proposal of giving workers "day one" protection against unfair dismissal, recommending instead a six-month qualifying period.

In its paper, the TBI backed "decisive" action such as raising a major revenue-raising levy instead of more incrementalism that "creates pain but rarely momentum".

"If the Chancellor opts for a larger revenue-raising step – particularly a manifesto-breaching increase in income tax or VAT – she should make clear that it is temporary and conditional: a short-term measure to stabilise the public finances," the TBI said.

It added that Reeves should announce a "big initial wave of pro-business reforms".

The Treasury was contacted for comment.

## SOCIETY

## Brown warns of consequences of child poverty

By Aine Fox

Child poverty across the UK is both the biggest cause of social division and biggest threat to the country's long-term economic future, the former prime minister Gordon Brown is to warn.

The ex-Labour leader is set to ramp up the pressure on the Chancellor Rachel Reeves to raise taxes on gambling firms to cover the cost of lifting the two-child benefit cap.

Brown, who has spoken out repeatedly on the issue of child poverty, will brand the problem a "shameful epidemic" in a speech today to mark the 60th anniversary of the Child Poverty Action Group.

"What has become a UK-wide child poverty emergency is not only the biggest cause of social division in our country but it is also the biggest threat to our long-term economic future," he is expected to say.

## Analysis

## Benefit reforms could save cash and win support

Chloe Chaplain

SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Rachel Reeves has repeatedly said that she is not prepared to leave welfare "untouched" during this Labour Government. So, what should we be expecting Reeves to announce on welfare in her Budget?

## CUTS TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT HEALTH - WITH YOUNG PEOPLE HARDEST HIT

Ministers announced plans earlier this year to restrict the health element of universal credit (UC health), which is paid to those out of work due to sickness.

The Universal Credit Act 2025 legislated for changes which will "rebalance" the rates from April 2026 by increasing the basic standard allowance that all claimants receive, while reducing the additional payments for new claimants with health conditions or disabilities.

Rates for those with "limited capability" to work due to a health condition will be cut from £432.27 a month to £217.26 a month.

Meanwhile, the Government is considering going further and banning under-22s from being eligible for UC health – with the exception of those with some severe conditions – under plans to tackle youth unemployment.

## TAX BREAKS FOR EMPLOYERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO CUT THE BENEFITS BILL

Ministers are looking at the possibility of introducing financial incentives to subsidise the cost of hiring younger workers.

The idea is that getting more young people off benefits would cost the Government less in tax breaks than it would in welfare payments.

Tax incentives in the form of national insurance contribution rebates are already available for employers hiring under-21s and for apprentices. But officials are now looking at proposals that could see a similar exemption to include all workers up to the age of 24.

## INCREASE IN STANDARD ALLOWANCE FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT

As noted above, the standard rate of universal credit will increase by higher than expected next year.

The standard allowance will be increased above inflation over the four financial years from 2026-27

– meaning that it will eventually have increased at a higher rate than relying on the consumer prices index inflation increases.

Other universal credit benefits will continue to be subject to the usual annual uprating process based on inflation figures.

And the Chancellor may use the Budget to confirm that other working-age benefits will be increased by the 3.8 per cent inflation figure.

## DISABILITY BENEFITS: PIP CUTS PAUSED

The Chancellor is not expected to announce any immediate changes to personal independence payments (PIP) – designed to help with the extra living costs for people with a physical or mental health condition.

The Government sought to restrict eligibility for PIP earlier this year, but reforms were watered down after a backbench revolt.

## MOTABILITY RESTRICTIONS

People who receive PIP to help pay for costs of getting around are able to use some of that money to pay into the scheme and lease an adapted car.

£1bn

The amount that could be saved by scrapping the VAT exemption on the Motability scheme

Reeves is understood to be looking at whether to scrap the VAT exemption from the scheme, which could save around £1bn, and limit the availability of "luxury" car makes.

And she is poised to cut back perks offered under the programme, such as overseas breakdown cover and insurance that covers up to three different drivers.

## TWO-CHILD BENEFIT CAP

The Government has been going round in circles over what to do with the two-child benefit limit.

Campaigners argue reversing it would be the most effective way to reduce child poverty – and this has the support of many Labour MPs.

But, despite dropping hints that they will reverse the policy, Sir Keir Starmer and Reeves have resisted sustained political pressure to scrap the cap so far, a move which would cost more than £3bn.

The Chancellor is expected to make some kind of announcement on this policy, to go alongside the child poverty strategy due to be published this autumn.

Sources said Reeves is still looking at how to change the limit and whether to introduce some kind of taper.

But the Government said scrapping the cap entirely is still not off the table. Could this be the rabbit Reeves pulls out of the hat in order to win over backbenchers?

## OPINION

# Why slowdown in luxury housing may be good news

**Hamish McRae**



The mansion tax hasn't happened yet, but fears that Rachel Reeves will bring one in have already hit the upper end of the London property market, and the effect of that will be to cause a slump in prices across the rest of the UK.

The big change in the capital is the fall in the number of properties being sold in the prime areas. Sales volumes are falling everywhere, but the biggest declines are in six boroughs. In Mayfair, where the average sale price is £1.5m, transactions are down 60 per cent.

In Chelsea it's 47 per cent down, Belgravia 44 per cent, Westminster 28 per cent, Hampstead 23 per cent, and Kensington 21 per cent.

As for prices, they have been broadly flat across the capital as a whole, but down 3.8 per cent in central London.

All this has happened before the recent rumours of an additional tax on high-value properties. Knight Frank, the estate agents, blames the changes in the tax rules for non-doms, many of whom have moved abroad.

The point here is that what has happened already in London could be a foretaste of a similar collapse

in the number of transactions in higher-value homes across the rest of the country.

This has implications for prices. While falling transactions do not immediately affect these because would-be sellers tend to withdraw their homes from the market or hold off selling, there are always some people who have to sell and that eventually feeds through into a decline in the market overall.

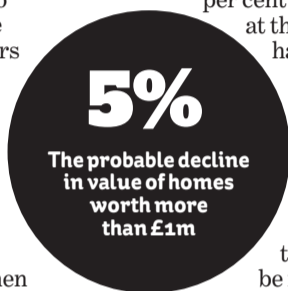
Were interest rates to rise rather than fall, the numbers of forced sellers would inevitably rise, but even without this there is a lagged response to a decline in activity. Would-be sellers often have unrealistic expectations for the value of a home, and when faced with a weak market it can take a while for them to realise they have to cut their asking price.

The next question is how extensive the downturn in prices might be. We have no real idea of the scale of the increases in taxation that are likely to come through.

But we do know that a fall at the top end of the market pulls down the price of properties further down. Higher taxation will inevitably result in lower prices



**A fall at the top end of the market pulls down the price of properties further down**



further down the scale. With one exception, the housing market has not experienced a sudden increase in taxation such as seems likely. That exception is second homes in areas where the council tax on these has been doubled or more.

In Gwynedd in north-west Wales, the average house price dropped by more than 7 per cent in the second quarter of this year. But while prices in Wales as a whole are 4.6 per cent lower than they were at their peak in 2022, they have recovered in recent months and there hasn't been any recent fall in the number of transactions, in fact the reverse.

My guess is that at the bottom end of the market there will be no significant impact.

At the top end, for properties of more than £1m, there is likely to be a decline of at least 5 per cent in values over the next two to three years, maybe much more if the tax increases are severe. And in the middle, there could be a decline of up to 5 per cent.

That gives an indication of the sort of short-term impact that might take place. There is no question that some wealth would be destroyed, and the question is really how substantial the blow would be.

However, to take a more positive view, houses would become more affordable as incomes continued to rise. For anyone trying to climb up the bottom rungs of the housing ladder that's good news. And if general inflation does take off again, owning a home will still be a good financial decision.



## Comment

### Bold approach needed for council tax and triple lock

Theo Bertram



Rachel Reeves made an important point in her speech on Tuesday: she is willing to break promises, and become even more unpopular, rather than risk longer term economic stability.

But will Labour still tackle some of the tough things facing the British economy?

At the top of that list would be scrapping the triple lock on pensions. If you keep increasing the amount the state pays out in pensions by more than employees gain in their earnings then eventually – like France – you reach the point



where the average pensioner earns more than the average worker, and the financial cost to the state becomes unbearable.

This week Nigel Farage (*inset*) confirmed that Reform UK is not committed to the triple lock. In doing so, could he have given the Chancellor some political cover to scrap the triple lock too? Council tax should be high on the list as well. It is how we fund social care. Or, more accurately, how we fail to fund social care: last winter, 81 per cent of councils expected to overspend on their 2025 social care budgets.

Perversely, communities with the highest needs, rather than the greatest means, pay the highest tax. At the

Social Market Foundation, we believe that funding social care through a mandatory social insurance model, similar to those in Germany or Japan, would take the cost burden off local authorities.

This would in turn allow more radical, progressive reform of council tax: by taking the cost of social care out of council tax, everyone's bill can be cut and the tax can be redesigned, so that the burden is more fairly shared across the country.

Economic stability does not have to mean sticking to the status quo, or meagre incrementalism. Yet it would require boldness and vision.

It is on the PM himself to define more clearly his purpose and on the Cabinet to set out their ambition for reform.

Without that, the Chancellor's steadfastness risks looking like treading water.

Theo Bertram is the director of the Social Market Foundation

## POLITICS

# Firefighters warn of strike action if Reform UK tries to cut pensions

By Arj Singh

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Firefighters have warned they could go on strike if Reform UK wins power and tries to cut "gold-plated" public sector pensions.

Richard Tice, Reform's deputy leader, yesterday unveiled plans to scrap defined benefit pensions schemes for public sector workers.

Ahead of a speech on financial de-regulation at Bloomberg's offices in the City of London, he suggested defined benefit pensions would be "on the table because we cannot allow our country to go bankrupt".

So-called "gold-plated" defined

benefit pensions give retired workers a guaranteed income, usually based on a portion of their wages, for as long as they live.

This differs from defined contribution pensions, which see people pay into a pension pot that is invested, and then take responsibility for making that money last for their later years.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) said that its members would "fiercely resist" any attempts by Nigel Farage's party to cut retirement packages they have already paid into. *The i Paper* understands that such resistance could include strikes and other industrial action.

## Turning tide on water pollution

Burcu Yesilyurt, who was fined £150 by Richmond-Upon-Thames council for pouring coffee down a drain, holds a jar of water from the River Thames to promote The Royal Society of Chemistry's campaign urging the Government to introduce a "polluter pays" principle. It would require firms that produce or use problematic chemicals to contribute to their clean-up. ED HILL/PA



The FBU's general-secretary, Steve Wright, accused Reform of being a "party led by millionaires".

"Firefighters will be shocked that the multi-millionaire deputy leader of Reform UK wants to raid the pensions of firefighters and other public sector workers," he said.

"Firefighters put their lives and their health on the line day-in and day-out to protect the public. Farage and Tice are threatening firefighters' hard-earned pensions. The FBU will fiercely resist any attempt to cut the pensions that firefighters have already paid into.

"Firefighters' pensions have been systematically attacked by various governments over the years, and Reform UK, while professing to be different, are clearly demonstrating that they are no different at all from those who have previously attacked firefighters' pensions.

"In fact they intend to go further than previous governments ever did by getting rid of defined benefit pensions for public sector workers.

"In the forthcoming Budget, Chancellor Rachel Reeves must urgently introduce a wealth tax to properly

fund public services, pensions and increase pay for all workers."

Separately, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) said Reform's plans would mean cutting the pensions of nurses and teachers among other public servants.

The TUC general secretary, Paul Nowak (*inset*), added: "Once again Nigel Farage has shown his true colours. It's laughable that he claims to be on the side of working people.

"This is the man who wants to cut the pensions of nurses, teachers and other hardworking public servants, deliver more austerity for our hard-pressed public services and keep workers on zero hours contracts."

Tice told *Times Radio*: "The liability of the unfunded pension schemes in the public sector is so enormous, no one actually knows how big it is.

"The OBR [Office for Budget Responsibility] says it's about £1.5trn, but it could be as high as two and a half. It's heading north at a colossal rate every single year. It's off balance sheets. So no one sort of sees it, but we all know it's a major, major problem, and we've got to deal with it."



## POST OFFICE

# Sub-postmasters hit out at compensation for second IT scandal

By Steve Robson

NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

Victims of a second IT scandal at the Post Office have slammed the Government's compensation scheme as "not fit for purpose".

Hundreds of sub-postmasters are believed to have lost money as a result of using Capture, a primitive piece of accounting software rolled out to branches in the 90s.

An investigation by *The i Paper* last year revealed how the Post Office knew Capture was capable of producing accounting shortfalls, but pursued sub-postmasters over the alleged losses anyway.

In a precursor to the Horizon scandal, which began in 1999, some victims were privately prosecuted by the Post Office.

The Government now acknowledges that Capture was faulty and has launched a new compensation scheme in addition to the £1bn put aside for Horizon claims.

But victims have told *The i Paper* they are unhappy that the scheme will involve a banding model of payouts between £10,000 and £300,000, with awards beyond this only to be considered in "exceptional circumstances".

Capture victims will only have a single opportunity to appeal their offer if they think it is unfair.

It comes after Horizon victims have had multiple opportunities to appeal offers after deeming the initial offers unsatisfactory.

Sir Alan Bates, who led the campaign against the Post Office for many years, has reportedly reached a seven-figure compensation settlement, having previously complained that he was given a "take it or leave it" offer that amounted to less than 50 per cent of his claim.

"The scheme does have to have



Sir Alan Bates reportedly received a seven-figure settlement

the backing of the group and at the moment it is not acceptable to a large amount of people," said Capture victim Lee Bowerman, from Ebbw Vale, South Wales.

"Look at what Alan Bates supposedly ended up with and there are people involved in Capture who had much larger offices. We can't have a dual track process whether it's Capture or Horizon – the circumstances mirror each other."

The Capture compensation scheme was unveiled unexpectedly last week, with Post Office minister Blair McDougall hosting a meeting with victims in London.

McDougall is now the third minister to have dealt with the Capture scandal, having taken over from Gareth Thomas in the Government's reshuffle in September.

Compensation funding was first approved under former Conservative business minister Kevin Hollinrake last year.

"They've had 15 months to get this scheme up and running and it's just not fit for purpose," Bowerman, 67, added.

He said Capture victims had been left dissatisfied by their meeting

with McDougall, adding he believed that the minister appeared "out of his depth".

*The i Paper* understands that at least 20 Capture victims have written to McDougall expressing concern about the scheme, calling for the £300,000 upper band limit to be bypassed.

Those who were criminally prosecuted by the Post Office using Capture evidence will not be eligible to claim compensation until their convictions are overturned.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission confirmed the first case, the prosecution of former sub-postmistress Patricia Owen, has now been referred to the Court of Appeal and lawyers are awaiting a hearing date.

Owen was found guilty of theft in 1998, despite insisting she never stole from her Post Office in Kent.

She fought to clear her name for years, but died in 2003.

Her daughter, Juliet Shardlow, is now leading the campaign and hopes that overturning Owen's conviction will pave the way for all Capture convictions to be quashed.

Steve Marston, 69, who was the first victim to speak to *The i Paper* as it exposed the Capture scandal last year, is among a further 33 cases waiting for their convictions to be overturned.

He said of the Government's compensation scheme: "£300,000 doesn't even touch the sides. We lost two properties with all the contents and that's just the physical items – it wouldn't come anywhere near."

A Government spokesperson said: "After more than two decades of fighting for justice, postmasters and their families will finally receive redress for being impacted by the Capture software and we pay tribute to *The i Paper's* work in helping expose this injustice."

## SCOTLAND

# Badenoch targets Reform UK over Union

By Katrine Bussey

Kemi Badenoch has claimed that Nigel Farage's Reform UK party "[does not] care about the Union" between Scotland and the rest of the UK.

The Conservative leader hit out after the former Scottish National Party and Alba Party politician Ash Regan, who is now sitting as an independent member of the Scottish Parliament, said that she had "declined" an approach to join Reform.

Speaking to the *Daily Record*, Regan said: "Just to confirm that I have been approached by Reform and I have declined them, so I will not be moving to the Reform party."

Badenoch, speaking to journalists after poor weather thwarted her

plans to travel to Scotland, insisted this showed Farage's party "flirting" with supporters of Scottish independence. It comes as polls ahead of next May's Holyrood elections suggest that Reform UK could end up with more MSPs than the Tories – who are currently the main opposition party in the Scottish Parliament.

But Badenoch warned voters north of the border about the possible consequences of backing Farage's party.

She said that Scots should "be worried about the fact that Reform is very happy with secession – they are flirting with pro-independence

MSPs, they don't care about the independence debate, they don't care about the Union".

She added: "They have been very clear that they would be happy to prop up the SNP."

She insisted that the Conservative Party was "the unionist party", adding that her party would "look after a lot of the issues people are struggling with".

The Tory leader (*inset*) said: "People want to see a stronger economy and stronger borders. They want to get Britain working again."

Reform UK was contacted for comment yesterday.



## COVER STORY

# Manhunt for two inmates released from Wandsworth jail by mistake

By Joe Coughlan

Two prisoners have been released in error from Wandsworth prison just days apart.

Brahim Kaddour-Cherif was let out of the south London prison on 29 October, five days after Epping sex offender Hadush Kebatu was freed from HMP Chelmsford, sparking a 48-hour manhunt by police.

It is understood that Kaddour-Cherif was serving a sentence at HMP Wandsworth for trespass with intent to steal, but had previously also been convicted for indecent exposure.

A second inmate at the prison, William Smith, 35, was released in error on Monday.

He had been sentenced to 45 months for multiple fraud offences at Croydon Crown Court earlier that same day, during which he appeared via a live video link from HMP Wandsworth.

The Met said it was informed on Tuesday that Kaddour-Cherif had been released in error last Wednesday, 29 October.

"The prisoner is a 24-year-old Algerian man. Officers are carrying out urgent enquiries in an effort to locate him and return him to custody," the force said.

Ian Acheson, a former head of security at HMP Wandsworth during the 90s, told *The i Paper*: "My initial reaction to this new release error is that if it was going to happen anywhere, it would be at Wandsworth."

The former security head added: "This is a prison in freefall and in crisis, and there is no excuse for anyone to say they didn't know. It's where Daniel Khalife escaped from underneath a van."

The Justice Secretary, David Lammy, said he was "absolutely outraged" by the release of Kaddour-Cherif, adding that the latest incident "exposes deeper flaws" across the criminal justice system.

He said: "The Metropolitan Police is leading an urgent manhunt, and my officials have been working through the night to take him back to prison."



Wandsworth HMP, main, and the two released prisoners Brahim Kaddour-Cherif, left, and William Smith

"Victims deserve better, and the public deserves answers."

However, Lammy was himself involved in controversy for not mentioning Kaddour-Cherif's release when asked about it while deputising for Sir Keir Starmer during Prime Minister's Questions.

According to Government figures published in July, **262 prisoners were released in error** in the year to March 2025, a 128 per cent increase on 115 in the previous 12 months.

## POLITICS

## MPs claim Lammy 'misled House' over freed inmate

By Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

David Lammy is facing questions over whether or not he misled MPs after he refused to confirm the accidental release of an illegal migrant from Wandsworth prison.

The Justice Secretary refused five times to say that another foreign prisoner had been released in error when questioned in the Commons, prompting accusations that he was being "dishonest" with the public.

The matter was raised by the shadow Defence Secretary, James Cartlidge, as he stood in for the Tory leader, Kemi Badenoch, as Lammy took Prime Minister's Questions in Sir Keir Starmer's absence.

Rather than address the released

prisoner, Lammy criticised the prisons system that Labour had inherited from the Conservatives.

One Labour MP responded: "Bloody hell, what just happened? Did he just mislead the House?"

It is understood that Lammy was made aware of the release on Tuesday night, but believed it would have been irresponsible to reveal it in the Commons as details were yet to emerge.

Lammy (*inset*) is also believed to have been unsure as to whether the Conservatives were referring to the same case as they repeatedly referred to an "asylum seeker", which Brahim Kaddour-Cherif is not.

The shadow Home Secretary, Chris Philp, described the mistaken release as "shocking".



## BORDERS

## Man who re-entered UK by small boat is deported again

By Joe Coughlan

A migrant who re-entered the UK by small boat after being removed to France under the Government's "one in, one out" deal has been deported again.

The Home Office confirmed the Iranian man's departure yesterday. He had arrived in the UK for a second time on 18 October, a month after he was returned to France.

The man was removed under the pilot scheme with France aimed at

detering migrants from coming to the UK in small boats across the English Channel.

His second crossing prompted criticism that the Government is in "total chaos", while ministers insisted his detection on arrival "shows the system is working".

The Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood (*inset*), said: "Anyone looking to return to

the UK after being removed under the UK-France agreement is wasting their time and money. My message is clear: if you try to return to the UK you will be sent back."

The man, who was first returned to France on 19 September, told *The Guardian* he was a victim of modern slavery at the hands of smugglers in the north of the country. "If I had felt that France was safe for me I would never have returned to the UK," the man said.

So far 94 migrants have been returned to France and 57 people have arrived in the UK under the agreement, which came into force in August, according to the Home Office.



## Analysis

## Lammy works himself up to another farce

Kitty Donaldson

CHIEF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR



David Lammy's performative outrage at the despatch box could be his undoing. His fury at being asked the same question five times about whether any more "asylum seekers" had been released from prison was misplaced – he should have been straight with MPs.

About 11.45am yesterday, the Tories found out that a wrongly released prisoner was at large. At Prime Minister's Questions, Lammy repeatedly refused to answer when asked by the shadow Defence Secretary, James Cartlidge, whether any more asylum seekers had been wrongly released since the high-profile case of an Epping sex offender last month.

Cartlidge had been preparing to use his final question to bring up the case, but miscounted and had to sit down. Instead, he used a point of order at the end of the session to raise the matter.

Points of order do not necessarily require an answer – and Lammy slinked out of the door with no reply.

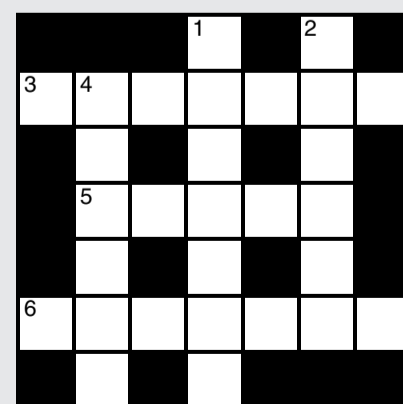
But Lammy is the one in real trouble. An hour after PMQs he released a statement saying he was "outraged... by the foreign criminal wanted by the police" and that an "urgent manhunt" was under way.

Why the case of the prisoner accidentally released from Wandsworth jail on 29 October was only reported to police six days after it happened and only reached Lammy's desk on Tuesday is just one question that needs an answer.

Team Lammy later argued that it would have been irresponsible for him to talk about it in the Commons, and that it was for the police to make any initial announcement.

Even his colleagues are now questioning whether or not what he said was tantamount to misleading MPs – a resigning offence. The outrage while he did so was the icing on the cake of this farce.

### The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4667



## Across

3 Lack self-restraint having lost money (7)

5/6 Clever word is broadcast from BBC station (5,7)

## Down

1 Carpet salesman having to travel around (7)

2 Cutting Australian rock band one's repeatedly got into (6)

4 Cricketer's hat (6)

Solution, page 51

## LEGAL

## 'The Sun' apologises to Jefferies for invasion of privacy after arrest

By Danny Halpin

The publisher of *The Sun* and the now-defunct *News of the World* has apologised and agreed to settle a legal claim by Christopher Jefferies, who was wrongfully arrested for the murder of Joanna Yeates in 2010.

Alex Cochrane, for Jefferies, told the High Court yesterday that he and News Group Newspapers (NGN) had now settled the claim, suggesting the

sum was "substantial". Jefferies brought legal action against NGN in 2022 over alleged voicemail interception.

NGN made "no admission of liability in relation to the claimant's allegations of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering at *The Sun*", the court was told.



Jefferies, a retired school-teacher and landlord, became known to the press after his tenant Joanna Yeates disappeared in December 2010 and was later found to have been murdered.

He was subsequently arrested and held in custody for three days but ultimately found "to have no

connection whatsoever with her murder", Cochrane said, telling the court that it was settled in 2024.

In his claim, Jefferies (*inset*) alleged that NGN published information about his private life between December 2010 and November 2011.

He also alleged that the articles "had a damaging and long-lasting effect on him and his private life, including his standing in the com-

munity and to his relationships with some friends", Cochrane said.

Mariyam Kamil, for NGN, told the court: "The defendant is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to Jefferies for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the *News of the World*."

She added that "the defendant acknowledges that such activity should never have taken place".

## INQUIRY

## Southport killer's father says son made threats and could fly into rage

By Bill McLoughlin

The Southport killer Axel Rudakubana once threatened the life of his own father, the inquiry into his attacks heard yesterday.

Alphonse Rudakubana recalled an incident when his son "poured a significant quantity of oil" over his head.

He said: "His eyes were very red and it seemed he had some kind of mental anguish, some kind of mental pain."

Mr Rudakubana said Axel poked his chest and said: "If you get me out of here, this house, it may take a day, a week, or it may be years, I will kill you - and trust me I will kill you."

He was also asked about an earlier incident involving his son on 11 December 2019, two months after he was expelled from school.

The inquiry heard how Axel Rudakubana attacked a boy with a hockey stick while carrying a knife in his bag, and threatened to stab and kill someone else.

His father said he was "threatened" with arrest after he remonstrated with police officers who brought his son home in handcuffs.

"I don't remember behaving that way," the killer's father said.

The inquiry heard how Axel Rudakubana received a delivery of a machete in June 2023.

In his written evidence, Alphonse Rudakubana said he did not confront his son "because he would fly into a rage" and had threatened to kill him by that point.

But he added that Axel had never used weapons against him, that he would "throw things at me".

Axel's mother said she had found knife packaging in the washing machine shortly after he left home on the day of the attack last year.

Alphonse Rudakubana, asked how frequent the outbursts were, said: "It was random it depends on who is talking to him and what you say."

"For example, if they are talking



Southport killer Axel Rudakubana had 'some kind of mental anguish'

about subjects and they don't agree and they both have strong opinions, he would get angry and have the outburst.

"It could be twice a day."

He said Axel would bring up "things from the past" and accuse his father of hitting him.

Axel's brother said he was worried that his younger sibling would carry out an attack when he saw him leave home on the day of the Southport murders.

Dion Rudakubana told the Southport Inquiry he was "nervous" on 29 July last year because his brother rarely left the house.

His parents believed Axel was going for a walk but Dion initially thought there could have been a potential attack.

He said those concerns were eased because he trusted his parents and that they knew his brother better than he did.

Dion added that his worries were not sufficient to report them to the police on the day.

**{i}** Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, Bebe King, six, and Alice da Silva Aguiar, nine, were killed at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class on 29 July last year by Axel Rudakubana.

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## Is it a King Edward, Ma'am?

The Queen serves jacket potatoes as she joins social media star Ben Newman, known as "Spudman", in a celebration of community volunteering.

Camilla got hands-on at 'The Role of a Lunchtime' street food truck for the event held at Clarence House in London yesterday.

She was hosting members of the National Association of Care Catering and representatives from the Royal Voluntary Service to mark Meals on Wheels Week.

JORDAN PETTIT/IAFF



## TECHNOLOGY

### 'Godmother of AI' given award for engineering

By Joe Coughlan

A computer scientist has been given a top engineering prize by the King for advancing the field of artificial intelligence – being listed as the only woman among seven world pioneers to receive this year's award.

Professor Fei-Fei Li was presented with the 2025 Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering by King Charles III at St James's Palace yesterday.

She was commended alongside Yoshua Bengio, Bill Dally, Geoffrey Hinton, John Hopfield, Jensen Huang and Yann LeCun for contributions to the development of modern machine learning.

The professor was praised for her work in creating the high-quality datasets needed to train and benchmark modern AI models.

She said that she was "deeply honoured" to receive the prize, noting additional data would help increase AI's capabilities to improve healthcare and personalise education.

"My hope is that this recognition will drive further awareness of the need to continue keeping human values at the centre of AI's development."

Professor Li was born in China and moved to the US as a teenager.



## SCIENCE

# Heart health in middle age predicts dementia cases decades in advance

By Ella Pickover

Middle-aged adults with biological signs of poor heart health are more likely to be diagnosed with dementia later in life, according to a study.

These biological signals could be evident up to 25 years before a dementia diagnosis, researchers found.

Experts said people should focus on maintaining good heart health throughout their lives to reduce their risk of dementia later on.

This can be done through being active, managing blood pressure and cholesterol levels and maintaining a healthy weight.

The study, published in the *European Heart Journal*, examined lev-

els of a protein called troponin in the blood.

This protein is released into the blood stream when the heart muscle is damaged – for example, doctors look for very high levels of troponin in people they suspect are having a heart attack.

Experts from the British Heart Foundation, which funded the study, said that this could have effects elsewhere in the body including blood flow to the brain, leading to dementia.

Eric Brunner, emeritus professor of epidemiology and health at

University College London (UCL) and senior author of the study, said: "Poor heart health in middle age puts people at increased risk of dementia in later life.

"Damage to the brain seen in people with dementia accumulates slowly over the decades before symptoms develop.

"Control of risk factors common to both heart disease, stroke and dementia in middle age, such as high blood pressure, may slow or even stop development of dementia as well as cardiovascular disease."

**25**  
The number of years in advance the biological signals could anticipate a dementia diagnosis

Researchers compared each person with dementia to four people without dementia and found that those with dementia had "consistently" higher levels of troponin in their blood.

Dr Simon Chen, senior research fellow at UCL, and lead author of the study, added: "We found that higher blood troponin levels in people with dementia were more marked in mid-life compared to later life, suggesting that mid-life blood troponin levels may be a better biomarker for dementia risk prediction."

## HEALTH

### DNA discovery could help prevent illness

By Storm Newton

Scientists have discovered a way to look at how DNA functions inside living cells, paving the way for techniques to pinpoint how changes can lead to illnesses such as heart disease and cancer.

The method captures how genes are controlled "in exquisite detail".

Academics suggest the findings represent a "critical step" in understanding how genes work, what goes wrong in disease, and how to fix it.

The human genome, made of DNA, is the complete set of genetic instructions found in the control centre – the nucleus – of the cells in the body. Until now, experts could only look at these interactions in low resolution.

Scientists at the University of Oxford's Radcliffe Department of Medicine developed a technique known as MCC Ultra that has allowed them to capture the smallest unit of DNA, known as a single base pair.

Lead author Professor James Davies said: "We can now see how changes in the intricate structure of DNA leads to conditions like heart disease, autoimmune disorders and cancer."

## Another View

Vicky Spratt



### Falling birth rates are due to high costs

In August, the Office for National Statistics reported that the UK's birth rate had fallen to 1.41 children per woman, which is the lowest it has been since the late 1970s.

Given that women need to have 2.1 children each on average to maintain what's known as "the replacement rate" for a stable global population, these figures have been a topic of concern for a broad spectrum of public voices ever since – from European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde (inset) to Elon Musk and former prime minister Boris Johnson.

Young people are often chastised and condemned for their lack of childbearing relative to older generations, but I increasingly think that our focus on this headline number is missing the point.

Rather than hyperbolically decrying the end of humanity, we must look behind the numbers and try to understand why younger people are "choosing" to have fewer children.

Polling conducted recently by YouGov found that the majority of

younger child-free people surveyed – 72 per cent – would potentially like to have children.

The main reason cited as stopping them is cost. This, surely, must be linked to the spiralling cost of family-sized homes, which have outpaced wages during the exact period of time that birth rates have fallen.

Indeed, the fact that rising house prices are an issue in other Western economies with falling birth rates, such as the US, France, Italy and

South Korea, would suggest that there is a correlation.

Given that there are more young people still living at home with their parents than there were the last time Labour were in government, it is not difficult to understand why starting a family has fallen down the list of priorities for people in their 20s and 30s.

Increasingly, it looks as though this issue isn't even one that's seriously being considered by many younger people during their childbearing years because they've got so many other things to contend with: the cost of living and trying to secure a home of their own being chief among them.

By the time they have sorted that out, a life unadjusted for the needs and wants of others feels easier?



**Starting a family has fallen down the list of priorities**

## Comment

# Angry memoir looks like a spectacular own goal by dethroned Queen of Stops

Katherine Lucas



Mary Earps would probably rather be remembered as the Queen of Stops and not Strops. She wanted a “retirement, not a public hanging” when she controversially quit the Lionesses just five weeks before Euro 2025, having learned she was no longer the first-choice goalkeeper. But her new book will decide her fate – and reopens so many old wounds from which nobody is safe from the salt.

*All In* tells Earps's story from aspiring young footballer to England superstar. Yet the overwhelming sense is one of anger. At manager Sarina Wiegman, who she accuses of “bullshit” in their final conversation. At Hannah Hampton, the goalkeeper who replaced her as England's No 1, who she says has a bad “attitude”. At the “hateful” journalists.

It is rare to hear anyone speak about England's national heroes this negatively. The crux of the Euro 2022 champion's claims is that Hampton “derailed training sessions with her behaviour” and turned international camps into a “circus”. Wiegman, Earps feels, rewarded her by changing the team's tactics to suit Hampton, rather than her.

And all of it may be true.

It was well reported in 2022 that Hampton was dropped due to concerns about her attitude; since then she has made the saves that won England their second European Championship. So the Lionesses have moved on. Earps, on the other hand, evidently felt the need to give her side of the story before she could do the same.

The danger is that this Lionesses legend who made goalkeeping cool, battling misogyny and prejudice along the way, could now dampen her own legacy in the eyes of fans. Supporters love Hampton; they adore Wiegman. The character assassinations may not be well received.



Mary Earps spoke out for what she believed was right and made it cool for young girls to play in goal NICK POTTS/PA

What exactly Hampton did to make their relationship so “dire” is never explained. But by walking out so close to a major tournament, many felt Earps, now 32, left England in the lurch. It did not come across as particularly sporting, nor does her anger towards Hampton.

Along the way, Earps also lost “trust and respect” in Wiegman, whom she felt had not been honest about changing the pecking order. Unfortunately, errors like Earps's howler against the Netherlands in the Nations League – which helped make up Wiegman's mind – don't get a mention.

Earps told me in the summer she was proud of her career, but “can't control how others see it”. That is true. Those who think she threw her toys out of the pram aren't going to be convinced otherwise.

She was evidently hurt by media portrayals of her “ego”. It is the flip side of the fame and wealth elite women's footballers now enjoy – the commercial deals and big salaries

don't happen without reporters writing about them.

Earps herself did more than anyone else to change perceptions around goalkeeping and inspired many young girls to play in her position. She recalls Millie Bright's niece asking why she couldn't buy an England women's goalkeeper shirt – Earps subsequently went to war with Nike and forced a change.

But it is hard not to sympathise with her feelings of rejection and disappointment. She nearly quit football when Phil Neville, England boss at the time, kept overlooking her. And whatever the rights and wrongs of the situation with Hampton, the image of anyone “crying in my room, where I didn't recognise myself” jars with the idea that playing for your country is joyful and glamorous.

Manchester United do not emerge with any glory either. It is shocking to hear of a footballer at one of the world's biggest clubs having to max out credit cards and take home canteen seconds so she

could eat. The Glazer ownership once disbanded the women's team, underfunded it when it was brought back – and co-owners Ineos made it clear they are still not a priority. It is the reason Earps left for Paris Saint-Germain in 2024.

In her darkest days she drank vodka to “numb” her feelings. Her relationship with food and alcohol is important in a sport preoccupied with women's bodies and image, and she has set a brave example by addressing a subject many avoid.

There is a worthy story at its heart. It's just a shame that, much like Earps's England career, it risks being overshadowed by how it ends.

When she was seen screaming “f\*\*k off” after saving Spain's penalty in the 2023 World Cup final, it became one of the defining images of her. This account is another final “f\*\*k off” – to some of her most revered former colleagues.

Mary Earps: *All In: Football, Life and Learning to be Unapologetically Me* is published by Leap, £18.99

## SOCIETY

## Public toilets among heritage sites saved from decay

By Emily Beament

A Victorian public toilet, a smelting mill and a porcelain works that produced pieces for royalty are among the heritage sites saved from neglect and decay this year.

The latest update to England's Heritage at Risk Register has been published by Historic England, with 129 sites saved and removed from the at-risk register but 138 historic buildings and places added due to concerns over their condition and future.

Among the sites saved are Bruce Grove public toilets (*inset*) in Tottenham, north London – Victorian conveniences which now serve the community as a café, community space and new public toilets.

Augill Smelting Mill, a piece of industrial heritage in the North Pennines National Landscape, has been saved through conservation work.

Rockingham Kiln in Rotherham, which produced porcelain items for royalty, has been removed from the risk register following repairs, Historic England said.

But the annual update reveals key historic sites including Dr Jenner's Hut – the birthplace of vaccination – in Gloucestershire, a Roman heating system on the Isle of Wight and Cromford Mills in Derbyshire are now under threat.



## PEOPLE

## Funeral held for Routledge

By Jenny Garnsworthy and Stanley Murphy-Johns

Mourners at the funeral of Dame Patricia Routledge heard her described as an actress of “versatility” and “humanity” yesterday.

The service at Chichester Cathedral in West Sussex heard that Routledge was also a “prodigiously generous philanthropist”.

The actress, best known for playing snobby socialite Hyacinth Bucket in the 1990s sitcom *Keeping Up Appearances*, died last month at the age of 96.

The tribute was read by the Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling, who said Routledge had an “instinctive ability, not merely to observe people, but to absorb their characteristics”.

He added: “She never talked about it but she was a prodigiously generous philanthropist. She donated more than £1m to causes that benefit young people, especially those beginning their careers in music or theatre.” AP

## FRANCE

## Shein banned over childlike sex dolls in Paris store

By Isabella Bengoechea

France has suspended access to the online fast fashion firm Shein amid growing outrage over its sale of childlike sex dolls – just as the company opened its first physical shop in Paris.

“On the Prime Minister's instructions, the government is initiating proceedings to suspend Shein for as long as necessary for the platform to demonstrate to the authorities that

all of its content is finally in compliance with our laws and regulations,” the French finance ministry said.

The move comes after the country's consumer watchdog said that categorisation of the dolls left “little doubt as to the child pornography nature of the content”.

Shein said it had banned all sex-doll products, temporarily suspended third-party sellers and removed its adult products category. It has also launched an investigation.

Its shop opening in Paris's BHV Marais department store triggered a backlash from city hall and child protection and environmental groups. An online petition against the move surpassed 120,000 signatures and protesters shouted “Shame!” at shoppers queuing to get in.

Founded in China in 2012 and now based in Singapore, Shein has long drawn criticism over allegations of forced labour in its supply chains, as well as environmental harms.



Protesters outside Shein's new shop at the BHV Marais department store

## UNITED STATES

# Election victories give Democrats fresh hope of delivering change

By Isabella Bengoechea and Andrew Buncombe

Donald Trump has been dealt a spectacular blow as his enemies won a sweep of election victories, crowned by the historic win of Zohran Mamdani in New York's mayoral race.

The Democrats' wins in the first major elections since Trump returned to the White House breathed new hope into a struggling party that it can take down the Republican President.

Mamdani, 34, a self-described democratic socialist, will be the first Muslim and first person of South Asian origin to lead New York City.

With 93 per cent of votes counted,



Former New York governor Andrew Cuomo ran as an independent

he had won 50.4 per cent, defeating former Democrat state governor Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent, on 41.6 per cent, following the highest voter turnout since 1993.

Mamdani's campaign focused on

the cost of living in the nation's most expensive city, promising free buses, universal childcare and government-run grocery stores.

While some have questioned his maths, he says he will pay for it by increasing corporate tax rates to match those in the neighbouring state of New Jersey, and impose a flat 2 per cent tax on New Yorkers earning more than \$1m (£770,000).

"I think the lesson for the President is that it's not enough to diagnose the crisis in working-class Americans' lives," Mamdani said in his victory speech. "You have to deliver."

He added: "Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: turn the volume up!"

Trump, cryptically, posted shortly after on Truth Social: "...AND SO IT BEGINS!" The President has branded Mamdani a "communist" and threatened to withhold federal funds to the city if he won.

Democrats won closely watched contests in New Jersey and Virginia, while in California voters approved a congressional map aimed at improving Democratic odds of winning the House of Representatives next year.

Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherrill won the Virginia and New Jersey governor races, with campaigns focused on the cost of living.

The wins – including lower-profile victories in swing states Pennsylvania and Georgia – gave a boost to Democrats, who lost the presidency, the House and the Senate in elections last November.

New Yorker Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader in the House, boasted that Democrats "have all of the momentum in the world" and Republicans got "wiped out".

He added: "They've lost any temporary progress that they've made with working-class Americans. Gone. Any progress that they've made with the Hispanic community. Gone. Any progress that they've made with younger Americans. Gone. Because the American people have had enough of the extremism, enough of the lies, enough of the broken promises, enough of putting the wealth and the excess in the face of the American people."

New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said: "It's not just a message about Democrats; it's a message about our entire country. I think Americans are appalled by what they are seeing coming out of this administration."

Democrat lawmakers and party officials hope to retake Congress in the 2026 mid-term elections next November by capitalising on a wave of voter enthusiasm.



Zohran Mamdani waves to supporters at a rally in Brooklyn after winning the New York City mayoral race  
SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

## Analysis

## Defeats may tempt Trump to threaten mid-term elections

Simon Marks  
IN WASHINGTON DC



Democrats in New York City, Virginia, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut and Ohio are celebrating as the party basks in the glory of across-the-board, historic victories.

But American voters may have created fresh risk for the country by the sheer audacity of the Democrats' wins. A victorious Zohran Mamdani thundered. "So Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: Turn the volume up."

Trump may well choose to "turn up the volume", but perhaps not in the manner that Mamdani was proposing.

The President is likely to see his own options narrowing ahead of next November's mid-term elections. Then, the entire House of Representatives and a third of the Senate will be on the ballot.

While Democrats yesterday were exuding confidence that they would retake control of Congress via a tidal wave of voter enthusiasm, Trump may give fresh

consideration to the nuclear option: manufacturing a reason to postpone or even cancel the mid-terms.

You think it can't happen? The President has made no bones about his plans. As recently as last weekend he again threatened to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act that would allow him to deploy active duty military personnel on the streets of American cities. "I haven't chosen to use it... but if I needed to, I could do it."

Trump knows his potential need to take dramatic action is likely to intensify. He cannot afford to lose Republican control of the House of Representatives. Were Democrats to regain a majority, they could tie his administration up in impeachment knots.

He would become not only the lamest of political ducks, but at tremendous risk of being held to personal account for the excesses of his first year in office.

Manufacturing a "national security emergency" and invoking the Insurrection Act would create the opening that he may need to argue falsely that a law and order crisis is gripping major American cities and requires the mid-term elections to be postponed. As Tuesday night's electoral disaster unfolded, he posted a foreboding message on his social media account: "...AND SO IT BEGINS."

Trump is unlikely to surrender to voters' abundant fury with him. He'll "turn up the volume", all right. And Americans' free and fair vote in the mid-terms may be his first target.

The idea is evidence that he is now willing to do whatever it takes to cement his authority in place.



Donald Trump has threatened to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act

## Analysis

## There are lessons for Labour from the Big Apple

Will Hazell  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT



It's hardly a stunning revelation that UK politicians often have a keen (some would say excessive) interest in American politics.

From regurgitating old *West Wing* quotes to obsessing over the turnout in Miami-Dade County at US presidential elections, MPs and advisers frequently look across the Atlantic to try to make sense of British politics – and understand which way it's going.

Yesterday was no exception, after Zohran Mamdani swept to power in the New York City mayoral election.

In particular, those on the progressive wing of British politics will be trying to read the runes about what the self-described

democratic socialist's victory means for the future of the left in the UK.

The Greens – who have already enjoyed a bump in the polls since Zack Polanski took over as leader – will feel energised by the result. Polanski leaned in to comparisons between himself and Mamdani and promised a similar left-wing populist agenda.

Jeremy Corbyn, who phone-banked for Mamdani, will regard the victory as evidence that his challenger outfit – still apparently called Your Party – has a future.

In Labour, MPs on the left will be agitating for Starmer to embrace Mamdani-style policies such as hiking taxes on the rich, freezing rents and building more affordable housing.

Those on the Labour right are likely to be more circumspect. They will argue that an agenda which can win in liberal, cosmopolitan New York City will not necessarily deliver the same result when transposed to the rest of the US – or non-metropolitan parts of the UK.

Interestingly, one of the most high-profile Labour figures hailing the result was Wes Streeting. The Health Secretary – who is certainly not part of the Labour left – took to X to praise Mamdani's



## US POLITICS

# Trump's crown starts to slip as Mamdani takes New York

**James Ball**



Donald Trump did not have to involve himself in the contest to select New York's next mayor. He is, after all, the President of the United States, with other things to occupy him.

He is managing a government shutdown, overseeing the deployment of troops to American cities and illegal bombing strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats off the coasts of South America, and he has still failed to secure a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine.

The New York mayoral contest was, on paper, not even the most important election of Tuesday evening, given two governorships in New Jersey and Virginia were up for grabs. Trump could have pretended neither to know nor care about the race.

Instead, Trump threw everything he could at making sure that Democrat Zohran Mamdani was defeated – and he failed. Mamdani was declared the victor just half an hour after polls closed. New York's next mayor will be an immigrant born in Uganda, a Muslim and a self-declared socialist.

He is a walking, talking repudiation of everything Trump stands for. Mamdani talks about freezing rent, building affordable housing and cracking down on bad landlords – all personal issues to a property developer President – as well as taking on “the 1 per cent” and introducing free bus fares.

Mamdani has just been elected as a “socialist” – even if his platform would be seen as a fairly mainstream social democratic one in most of Europe – in a country where “socialism” is often a dirty word.

It is clear that on some level this is personal for Trump. New York City is the President's hometown and it is an inescapable part of his brand. Trump's name is emblazoned across the city, quite literally: Trump Tower, on Fifth Avenue, was the President's main home until he took up residence in the White House. Trump made his name as a New York real estate guy, and as a player in the city's politics.

More than that, New York City has been on Trump's mind since he re-entered office. Eric Adams, the outgoing Democratic mayor, had been indicted on corruption charges, which Trump's administration dropped – a political gift many suspected had been offered in exchange for co-operation with migrant deportations.

Once Adams looked unable to stop Mamdani, Trump encouraged him – many believe with the offer

of an ambassadorship after the election – to drop out of the race. On Monday, Trump endorsed former Democratic governor Andrew Cuomo, Mamdani's most viable opponent.

Trump's billionaire backers went all-out on attacks against Mamdani. And inevitably, given Trump has sent in troops and federal agents to Democratic cities that crossed him, the President threatened to use the powers of the US government against New York City – saying he might cut New York's funds, or send in troops.

None of it deterred the voters of Trump's home city, who elected Mamdani by a margin of almost 10 points on the highest turnout in 50 years or more. The newly elected mayor made it clear his win was a rejection of Trumpism, too. “In this moment of political darkness, New York will be the light,” he told supporters in a victory speech that could hardly be more pointed. “New York will



**Mamdani is a walking, talking repudiation of everything Trump stands for**



US papers announce Mamdani's victory in New York's mayoral race

remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants and as of tonight, led by an immigrant.”

Trump's team can try, at least, to shrug all of this off. He is still the President and his party still has a majority in both houses of Congress, after all. But Mamdani's win is just the most visible of a series of victories for Democrats across the US – and the most visible reminder that Trump is not a king, and is not unbeatable. He couldn't have made his wishes clearer when it came to New York, and he didn't get his way.

Trump's instinct when he loses is to sulk and to lash out. He will almost certainly retaliate against New York City – but doing this comes with huge political risk. It elevates Mamdani, a gifted speaker and talented politician, almost to the role of equal adversary. It risks distracting Trump from issues he needs to tackle: the shutdown is harming his popularity, as is the soaring cost of health insurance, and non-payment of vital food benefits to low-income Americans.

More than that, if the President declares war on New York – America's financial centre – at a time when markets are already jittery, he risks tanking the economy and triggering the financial crash many fear is imminent.

Mamdani's obvious skill as a politician must make everything all the more maddening for Trump. Here is a good-looking Democrat for the TikTok era, winning over voters as much with his charisma as his policy platform, doing it on Trump's home turf and with youth – something the President will never reclaim – on his side, too.

Zohran Mamdani did not need to be a problem for President Trump. But if Trump overreacts, or, in anger, plays his hand badly, Mamdani's election could sow the seeds of the President's downfall.

James Ball is the political editor of 'The New World' newspaper

## REACTION

## Hope won, says London Mayor

By Rob Freeman

New York has followed London in choosing hope over fear by electing Democrat Zohran Mamdani as the city's new mayor, according to his London counterpart Sir Sadiq Khan.

Khan (*inset*) congratulated Mamdani, who will become New York's youngest mayor in more than a century when he takes office on 1 January, on what he called an “historic campaign”.

He wrote on X: “New Yorkers faced a clear choice – between hope and fear – and just like we've seen in London – hope won.”

Like Mamdani, Khan became the first Muslim mayor of his city when first elected in 2016, and has frequently faced criticism from US President Donald Trump.

In September, after Trump falsely claimed that London “want[ed] to go to sharia law” under Khan, the mayor said: “Trump has shown he is racist, he is sexist, he is misogynistic and he is Islamophobic.”

“inspirational campaign and victory”. That will stoke speculation that he is gently trying to reposition himself in the minds of Labour members in preparation for a potential leadership run.

The lessons of Mamdani's victory are most relevant to London politics, and the Greens or Your Party may now fancy they have half a chance in the 2028 mayoral election. But given Labour's dominance in the capital since 2016 – and the fact Sadiq Khan (*inset*) won 44 per cent of the vote in May 2024 to the Greens 6 per cent – don't bet against Labour just yet.

Where Mamdani's victory is likely to be most influential is in the internal contest to choose Labour's candidate if Khan decides against a fourth term. In such a scenario, potential contenders such as the MPs Dawn Butler and Rosena Allin-Khan would no doubt borrow liberally from Mamdani's playbook to try to secure the candidacy.

But the London election is still three years away, and Mamdani's lasting influence here may come down to how he does on the job.



# URGENT MEDICAL RESPONSE



## HELP SUPPORT OUR MEDICAL TEAMS TODAY



Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City is one of many health facilities in Gaza that have been severely damaged or destroyed since the start of the war. Photo: Nour Alsaqqa/MSF

### NADIA EID IS PART OF THE MSF MEDICAL TEAM IN GAZA

The level of destruction here is hard to describe. Gaza is in mountains of rubble.

Most people in Gaza don't have access to clean water. They don't have access to food or sanitation. Even though a ceasefire was declared on October 10, almost no one got to go back to their houses because those houses no longer exist. People are still living in tents. The situation is catastrophic.

There are many people who are not only living in these inhumane conditions but have also sustained life-changing injuries from explosions or gunshots. I feel so much for the children who have lost limbs, who have amputated legs or arms. They need ongoing treatment and care, but the health system has almost collapsed.

A lot of hospitals and clinics have been directly targeted in the bombardments. MSF teams are currently working at healthcare centres and hospitals across Gaza, but many are either constructed from tents or are using tents as additional wards.

We are seeing hundreds of patients on a daily basis, but each day at our health centres there are more people than we can treat and some have to be turned away.

It's very difficult for us that we have to face this, but this is the reality. People need care now and it will take years to rebuild Gaza's medical facilities.

We don't know what will happen next. I hope we will actually reach the end of this war. But even if that happens, the suffering continues.

MSF has over 1,000 staff in Gaza providing medical care, managing supplies and working on clean water and sanitation. But right now, it's not enough. We don't have the resources to treat every patient. The humanitarian response here must be massively scaled up. More help is urgently needed.

"MSF's ability to act quickly and decisively in emergency situations is made possible by individual donors giving what they can"

Dr Jennifer Hulse, MSF Emergency Doctor



### WE CAN'T MISS A LIFE-SAVING MOMENT

Right now, MSF teams are working in volatile crisis zones around the world. From rapidly changing conflicts to sudden natural disasters, our teams are on the ground, providing essential medical care.

Whether it's the few vital seconds that stop a major haemorrhage, or the race to contain an outbreak of deadly disease, our teams know that a moment lost can mean a life lost.

**Please donate today to support our emergency medical teams**

**£190** could pay for emergency splints to immobilise injured limbs for 22 patients

**£84** could cover the cost of an MSF surgeon working in a hospital for one day

**£40** could pay for 40 IV bags which provide life-saving fluid and blood during surgery

### THANK YOU

**MSF UK receives no government funding. It's your support that enables us to provide medical care where it's needed most.**

## DONATE NOW

### CALL 0800 055 79 84

Or search **MSF QUICK** to make an online donation



### YES, I would like to support MSF's medical teams

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Please make your cheque/charity voucher payable to Médecins Sans Frontières UK

OR  Please charge my VISA/Mastercard/Amex/CAF card:

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Card number  Expiry date  /

Signature  Today's date  /  /

Title  Forename(s)

Surname

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Charity Registration Number 1026588

105178

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Today's Date  /  /

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Your support is vital to our work and we would like to keep you informed with first-hand accounts from our staff and patients about the lifesaving impact your support is having, from combatting epidemics to providing emergency surgery.

We won't allow other organisations to have access to your personal data for marketing purposes and we won't bombard you with appeals.

By supporting MSF, you will receive our magazine Dispatches, event invitations and occasional emergency appeals with requests for donations by post. You can change how you hear from MSF UK by emailing [uk.fundraising@london.msf.org](mailto:uk.fundraising@london.msf.org) or calling 020 7404 6600. Visit our privacy notice for more: [msf.org.uk/privacy](http://msf.org.uk/privacy).

Please fill in this form, place in an envelope and return postage free to:  
**FREEPOST RUBA-GYZY-YXST, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, Chippenham, SN14 6NG.** Alternatively, you can phone **0800 055 79 84** (open 8am-10pm seven days a week) or make your donation online by searching **MSF QUICK**.

*giftaid it*

MSFR0048



## Dress can raise a lorra cash

Robert Willis, the son of the late Cilla Black, shows off one of the outfits that the entertainer wore on her ITV series, *Surprise Surprise*, in 1983.

The dress (pictured being worn by Black on the show, above) is one of 240 of the late singer and presenter's treasured pieces which will be auctioned in aid of Variety, the Children's Charity.

JONATHAN BRADY/PA



## News in brief

### FILM

#### Monument's role for 'Frankenstein'

The Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro made a personal visit to Stirling's Wallace Monument before it was given a key role in *Frankenstein*.

The monument to William Wallace, which opened in 1869, influenced the design for the building which would become Victor Frankenstein's laboratory in the Netflix film, which is released tomorrow.

Del Toro's adaption of Mary Shelley's famous novel features several Scottish locations, with filming taking place on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, at Glasgow Cathedral and in Aberdeenshire.

### HEALTH

#### Eczema cream gets NHS approval

More than 62,000 people in England with debilitating hand eczema could benefit from a new treatment given the go-ahead to be rolled out on the NHS.

The recommendation for delgocitinib, also known as Anzupgo and made by Leo Pharma, could also save the NHS millions of pounds, according to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

The regulator has given the cream the green light for NHS use for adults with moderate to severe chronic hand eczema. It will be available within 90 days.

### SOCIETY

# It's hard enough to date in 2025 - but being a 'sexpert' has made it impossible

Dating in the modern world is like volunteering for a work sports day: most of the good events are taken by the time you get there, and what is left over will inevitably ask you to tie your legs together and wear a silly outfit to get over the finish line.

When it comes to finding sensible people to date, I am facing so many hurdles that I think it's time to just quit the race entirely.

Seriously, how is anyone still dating in 2025? Where do you go to meet prospective dates? Time was when you would meet someone at the local pub or while you were half cut, doing the Macarena in some dodgy nightclub, but pubs are closing at a rate of one a day in the UK and nobody is going clubbing anymore. Office romances are now broadly discouraged, and even if they were an option, I work from home and am self-employed.

When I was in my thirties, the dating pool was very shallow because most men around me were in committed relationships. The nice thing about dating in your forties is that this is the time when people tend to get divorced, so there is a glut of age-appropriate, newly single men on the market.

But recently divorced men can be a bit like radioactive waste - highly unstable for a long time and best left alone. So they're out.

I find dating apps to be a colossal waste of energy. You can spend weeks stuck in the "talking phase" of texting until you finally meet and realise this is a no-go. The apps are a magnet for time-wasters - angry men brandishing fish and married people looking for an ego boost.

Some prospective men panic, others boast, writes sex historian **Kate Lister**



However, it is becoming clear that one thing has made me all but undatable: my job. I research sex for a living. I publish columns and books on the topic, and twice a week release a podcast on the history of sex. If you google me (and they do) the word "sex" comes up. I have a profile as a sex historian, and, ironically, the more I write about and research sex, the less I have of it.

You would think that expertise in such an area would mean I was beating off prospective suitors on my doorstep, so to speak, but alas this is not the case - or, at least, not with the kind of people you would want to show an interest.

My inboxes are full of emails from confused, horny men who hear the word sex and immediately think that this must mean I want to have sex with them. If I wanted to date someone who sends women they don't know pictures of their penis, I am spoiled for choice. Unfortunately, I am not interested in this demographic, which reduces my options even further.

Something strange happens when you tell people that you research sex for a living. I imagine police officers and tax inspectors get the same kind of reaction when they disclose what they do: mild panic, as if I am going to judge them or catch them out.

The disclosure is normally followed by a nervous laugh and a joke about "I hope you're not going

to study me!" I've had some dates who have discovered this column and then worry that I might be using them as some kind of case study for an article. Unless I produce a recording device before the entrées arrive, this is rarely the case.

Then there are those who learn what I do and assume that I must be some kind of sex ninja, and that fourth base with me is a foregone conclusion. All they have to do is turn up and buy me a drink, which might well be true, but not for the reasons they think.

I once had to cancel a date because he told me he had been bragging to everyone at the office that he was meeting up with a "sexpert". I hadn't even met him and he was already focusing on what I do, rather than who I am. I'm telling you, the mere mention of sex early doors can have a catastrophic impact on the composure of your average man on a date.

Sexologist isn't the only profession that can complicate your love life. I have a doctor friend who finds it all but impossible to date because every romantic encounter turns into an impromptu health assessment. She once showed

**A doctor friend finds that every romantic encounter turns into an impromptu health assessment**

me photographs of skin tags that a Tinder match had sent her to ask if she thought they might be cancerous.

However, there is research which shows that those who work in sex-related industries, or who study sex for a living, do encounter significant stigma.

One 2015 paper found that "despite growing acceptance of the academic study of sexuality, both women and men perceived various types of problematic workplace experiences based on the subject of their research". Such experiences included being marginalised, overly sexualised, not being taken seriously, and being passed over for promotion. And that's within the hallowed halls of academia; women on Bumble stand no chance.

I am unsure of how to resolve my current predicament for the simple reason that it is not my problem to fix. I love what I do for a living and do not share the same reservations about the topic that others do. I don't find it shocking or titillating, or taboo. It's just a Tuesday to me.

Ultimately, I cannot control men's reaction to what I write about, but nonetheless I feel deeply frustrated that I have to deal with it.

Is this simply the fate of all singletons who publicly talk about sex a lot? It's like some Greek punishment in the underworld. We are doomed to talk endlessly about other people's sex lives but rarely get to do it ourselves.

Perhaps I should start my own dating app for people with jobs that can make dating tricky? Traffic wardens, psychologists, Mafia dons, and so forth. I could call it "Unhinged". I bet I'd make a packet.

### CINEMA



#### 'The Mummy' stars make a comeback

The Hollywood stars Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz are to reunite on screen for the fourth instalment of *The Mummy* franchise - 25 years after they last appeared together.

The pair starred in the first two films in the series, *The Mummy* (1999) and *The Mummy Returns* (2001, pictured).

Weisz did not appear in the third movie, *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor* (2008).

Fraser won an Oscar for 2022's *The Whale*, while Weisz received her second Oscar nomination for *The Favourite* in 2018.

# Opinion

## The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

### REEVES'S SPEECH



Listen closely: how mugging will unfold

#### Sky News

A combo of high taxes and low spending will be unpopular. While the Chancellor seeks to blame her predecessors, it remains to be seen whether the public will be convinced. (Ed Conway)

#### The Guardian

Vibes-wise, it was like knowing you were going to be incompetently mugged in three weeks' time, but having to listen to a speech from the mugger about the context of it all. Or a speech from an asteroid trying to get out in front of what people are going to say about it when it craters the West Midlands. (Marina Hyde)

### REFORM UK AND FARAGE



Tinges of Maga are undeniable

#### The New Statesman

Farage, who came to the Commons late in his career, does not understand why having a seat is sufficient qualification to be a secretary of state. You might rightly detect a hint of Maga here, as Trump prefers to appoint old business friends to posts. (Ethan Croft)

#### BBC

The party's performance in councils has arguably faced more scrutiny than their political opponents. It is clear it is grappling with the same challenges as the parties that came before. The solutions are not proving easy to find for anyone. (Alex Forsyth)

### ZOHRAN MAMDANI



Republicans helped elect NYC mayor

#### The New York Times

After winning the Democratic primary in June, he reached out to critics and displayed a pragmatic streak. He outcompeted New York's tired political establishment, beating technocrats with more experience as well as the incumbent mayor. (Editorial)

#### UnHerd

A strong ground game, message discipline and an infectious smile – all helped catapult him to Gracie Mansion. But so did the national Republican Party and the online right, which unleashed a barrage of ugly rhetoric portraying Mamdani as an exotic Islamo-communist menace. (Sohrab Ahmari)

### JOHN LEWIS ADVERT



It's all a little Pete Tong for some dads

#### London Standard

None of the Christmas adverts this far have activated the tear ducts. Well congratulations, John Lewis, for emotionally uncorking me and surely countless others. (India Block)

#### The Times

I have a few issues here. First, father and son on the dance floor together. We're supposed to be moved by this? Really? I went to many acid house all-nighters myself and the very last thing I would have wanted to encounter in that altered state was any kind of relative, parental or future offspring included. (Simon Mills)

### ARISE, SIR DAVID



Honour was always part of the plan

#### The Independent

The knighthood is a crowning glory for Beckham, and will surely have been worth the wait for a star who has made no secret of his desire to secure a top title. But it is also the latest stage in a canny reboot burnishing his status as a national treasure (and cleverly smoothing over past controversies). (Katie Rosseinsky)

#### The Sun

What an emotional moment for a working-class boy to receive a knighthood from the King at Windsor Castle. The only shame was that His Majesty didn't use a golden sword. (Editorial)

### 'OTHELLO' REVIEW



Harewood draws on his own struggles

#### Daily Mail

David Harewood digs deep into his own well-documented experience of psychosis to show how Othello's easy and assured nature collapses into crazed, murderous credulity. (Patrick Marmion)

#### Financial Times

Harewood plays Othello as a military man of great authority and hard-earned dignity. Toby Jones's Iago is barely noticeable, somehow disappearing into his own skin when onstage. He has a sad comic quality, but mostly he remains inscrutable, with just a slightly raised eyebrow. And he simply stays that way. (Tim Bano)

### Quote of the day



I've made a career out of playing women who are underwritten

**Famke Janssen**  
The actress on her scene-stealing turns in film

## Life In Brief

### WILLIE YOUNG SCOTTISH FOOTBALLER

Willie Young was an imposing defender who represented rival London clubs and famously played in three successive FA Cup finals for Arsenal, and whose foul in one of those finals led to the introduction of a new rule.

Young, who has died aged 73, was a physically intimidating centre-half – ginger-haired and 6ft 3in, and known as "Big Willie".

He began his career as a teenager at Aberdeen; during the off season he worked on oil rigs.

After six years with the Dons – scoring 14 goals in 188 appearances – in 1975 he joined Tottenham Hotspur under manager Terry Neill, who once described him as "a big, awkward bastard who liked a drink".

In his debut season at White Hart Lane Young played 44 times, scoring three goals. The following season he was virtually an ever-present on the

first-team list but when Neill moved to fierce rivals Arsenal in 1977, Young followed him soon after.

Neill's replacement as Spurs manager, Keith Burkinshaw, was less of a fan of a player who could be confrontational in the dressing room as well as on the pitch. Young had played 64 times for Spurs, scoring four goals.

He was a regular in the Arsenal first team, and played in all of the Gunners' FA Cup finals in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

After losing to Ipswich Town in 1978, Young was on the winning side the following year, with a 3–2 defeat of Manchester United. He was again a runner-up in the 1980 FA Cup final, where he made an infamous tackle on West Ham United's Paul Allen.

His action, taking down Allen just outside the penalty area as he was clear through on goal, led to the introduction of automatic red cards

for professional fouls which deny goalscoring opportunities.

Four days after this match Arsenal played Valencia in the European Cup Winners' Cup final and lost in a penalty shoot-out.

Young stayed at Highbury for another season before losing his place and, after 237 appearances and 19 goals for the Gunners, he spent two seasons with Nottingham Forest before spells with Norwich City, Brighton & Hove Albion (on loan) and Darlington. After a string of injuries, he retired in 1984, having made 430 league appearances and scoring 29 goals.

Young was capped for Scotland Under-23s five times but was banned for life from the full team – alongside four other players, two of whom were granted a reprieve – after a drunken incident in Copenhagen in which a hotel room was trashed.



William David Young was born in Heriot, near Edinburgh, the son of a farm worker.

After retiring he and his wife, Lynda, ran a pub in Nottinghamshire for 19 years. More latterly they ran a kennels in Bottesford, Leicestershire, and in 2018 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Young's wife and three children survive him.

**Born** 25 November 1951  
**Died** 31 October 2025  
**Veronica Lee**

## My View



Ian Dunt

# Finally, the truth about taxation

Politicians from all parties have avoided the reality for too long

**R**achel Reeves lied about tax. This is not unusual. Every chancellor lies about tax, going back at least to Geoffrey Howe.

We've been lying to ourselves about tax, as a country, for decades. The difference is that Reeves is now finally telling the truth.

One of the most pernicious effects of Thatcherism was to obliterate any realistic conversation about taxation in Britain. During the long years of Conservative government in the 1980s and early 90s, a new political maxim took hold: raising taxes is bad, lowering taxes is good. Eventually, Labour embraced this view too, as a core electoral principle, a universally held truth.

This would be fine if Britain was prepared to have poor public services, but it isn't.

So now our national debate takes place on an infantilised level, with the political parties promising voters low taxes and great public services and then privately anguishing over how it is possible to govern when you can't speak honestly about mathematical reality.

Politicians have become afraid to even touch on the subject of tax. Over the years, this has mangled the tax system into an irrational, impenetrable mess.

Why is council tax based on three-decade-old valuations? Why does the marginal tax rate go into spasm for families between roughly £50,000 and £125,000, rising and falling like a series of waves rather than progressing upwards incrementally? Why is there VAT on potato crisps but not tortilla chips?

The answer is always the same: because politicians are afraid to raise tax, or undertake tax reform, or indeed touch it in any way other than lowering it. They have allowed it to become an arcane, opaque, lunatic system of contradictory incentives.

Politicians deserve much of the blame for this, but there's more than enough to go round, so let us allocate at least some to the press. Journalists often make little effort to explain the trade-offs of tax policy to their readers. Whenever a tax change is introduced, they tend to ignore the winners and focus remorselessly on the losers.

Council tax rates stay the same because politicians know that any change will result in screaming press coverage about an old woman in Hampshire, with little liquidity,



Geoffrey Howe and Margaret Thatcher introduced the political maxim that raising taxes was bad and lowering them was good in the 1980s GETTY

who can no longer afford to live in the big stately home which has been in her family for generations. Because of this rare example, people in modest homes across the country pay more than they should and people in luxurious homes pay much less than they should.

During the last year of the Conservative government, the chancellor Jeremy Hunt offered his own personal contribution to the national fairy-story about tax. He cut national insurance – not once but twice. It was perfectly obvious this was unaffordable. He knew it. Labour knew it. Even their pets probably knew it. But it was “good politics”.

Hunt tried to set a trap for Labour by forcing them to choose between two outcomes. If they rejected the tax cut, they would have to go into the election with a policy of tax rises. If they accepted the tax cut, they would sabotage the national finances and undermine their first year in government.

The first option was brave and risky, the second was cowardly and irresponsible. Needless to say they went for the latter and promised not

to raise national insurance, income tax or VAT.

After the election, two separate moments provided an opportunity to change course. In February, Donald Trump bullied and humiliated Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office. Then, in April, Trump announced his “Liberation Day” tariffs.

Both represented a material change in circumstances from when Labour made the tax pledge. Now it could truthfully argue that the world had changed. It needed to adopt an increasingly autonomous security posture from the US and to operate in a dog-eat-dog global trading climate where domestic

industries would get hammered. Taxes therefore had to rise.

Instead, Reeves did the opposite. She left herself precious little room to manoeuvre at the last Budget then made the head-bangingly egregious error of committing once again to no further tax rises when it must have been perfectly obvious to her that they were a very real possibility. She failed to take the opportunities in front of her and then repeated her mistakes all over again.

This week, the Chancellor has turned over a new leaf. In a highly unusual pre-Budget speech on Tuesday, she made clear, without saying so explicitly, that taxes would have to go up. “We were elected on a commitment to put country before party, the national interest before political calculation,” she said. “We will not be swayed from that.”

This is absolute hogwash, of course. She put party above country when she signed up to Tory tax cuts she knew were unaffordable. If she really wanted the reputation of a principled truth-teller, she should have spoken honestly when

it was difficult, not now that it is inescapable.

But there is no point dwelling on the past, or moaning about spineless politicians. It accomplishes nothing and it distracts us from the opportunities which have fallen into our lap. We are suddenly in a very unusual position. We might actually be about to get an honest conversation about taxation in this country.

All the usual suspects are now going to scream blue murder. The Tories will claim betrayal. The press will largely deliver one-note mindless hysteria. But perhaps, if we're lucky, there's a public mood out there which is prepared to hear a realistic message about the state of the country.

Reeves may have only discovered bravery after sampling every possible variation of cowardice on the way, but she has at least got there in the end. We should all hope she succeeds. We urgently need her to do so, for the sake of our rationality as well as our national finances.

i@thepaper.com

**We should all hope Reeves succeeds. We need her to for the sake of our national finances**



## Your View

Tweets, emails and letters to:  
The Editor, The i Paper,  
9 Derry Street,  
London W8 5HY

### The honours paradox

Did a thoroughly decent ex-footballer who married and made another good name for himself realise what he was getting into? Showbiz may not have been on David Beckham's mind at the time, but it has certainly swamped his life ever since. I hope this new knight of the realm can stand the pace.

**ANDREW WILLS**  
EPSOM, SURREY

### Who wants to hear the truth?

I don't see the point of criticising Rachel Reeves for not telling the truth on tax rises. Theresa May naively told the truth that the cost of social care would need to be borne by pensioners. She nearly got defeated by Corbyn.

The public do not want to hear the truth on monetary matters  
**PETER GILBERT**  
EAST MARKHAM,  
NEWARK

### Music to readers' ears

Hear, hear, Sir Keir, for your determination to offer every child the chance to experience music, and its building of self-esteem, mutual responsibility, and indeed attentiveness. (*The i Paper*, 5 November).

When I was head of music in a Black Country comprehensive, I organised an inter-house music competition.

A lad who had always been identified as a "problem" came on with his ghetto-blaster, installed it, and began the most amazing display of breakdancing.

The packed school hall went berserk with enthusiasm, and from that lunch hour on he walked the school with his head held high.  
**CHRISTOPHER MORLEY**  
HALESOWEN

Interesting to read Keir Starmer's appreciation of music yesterday. However, the harsh truth is that children have largely been robbed of the opportunity to play musical instruments or engage in dance and drama in schools because of a short-sighted national curriculum.

The creative arts generate billions for the UK, yet they remain largely ignored by education policies. Children are not all inspired by "core"



A reader suggests Fifa should award well-behaved fans such as the Japanese who cleared up rubbish GETTY

subjects but could find huge stimulation, confidence and aspiration from the above.

**PAUL JACKSON**  
WATERLOOVILLE

It's very encouraging to see that the Government plans to overhaul the national curriculum. Given that the number of hours of teaching in schools is finite, it makes sense that any additions to the curriculum (such as personal finance, identifying fake news, and climate change) will require some current content to be removed.

May I suggest removing quadratic equations (in my 76 years I have never needed them) and fronted adverbials (Shakespeare and Dickens managed to write some pretty decent poetry and prose without even knowing of their existence) for a start?

If our government wants students to acquire skills such as communication, resilience and confidence, their curriculum must include items which our students realise will be useful and relevant and (most of all) interesting, exciting and valuable.

**KEN HOLLAND**  
TEIGNMOUTH, DEVON

Sir Keir Starmer's educational plan for change is supported by the latest information on brain development. Music stimulates and develops the part of the brain that is also the focus for executive control, creativity and responsibility, while learning to play an instrument stimulates the other parts.

Activating and integrating all the different parts of the brain – and person – should be the goal of all education.

**SUE HOLMES**  
TOTNES

### From far right to redemption

I read Eleanor Peake's article on Calum Jackson ('At 14 I was seduced by the far right', *The i Paper*, 4 November) – wow, what an inspirational young man.

To have experienced what he has gone through so far in life and to have survived, and now be making good at university is a lesson to us all.

I wish Calum every success in what path he takes next. Go for it – young man, you have a lot to give.

**ROBERTA RAYNER**  
SEVENOAKS, KENT

### E bacc deserves to be binned

I was delighted to read that there are plans to abolish the "English baccalaureate" as a measure of a school's success (*The i Paper*, 5 November).

It reminds me of the occasion a few years ago, before my retirement as a headteacher, when a 16-year-old girl in my school won an apprenticeship with Jaguar Land Rover at its Solihull works. She was bright, articulate, interviewed well and wowed them with her GCSE graphic design portfolio of work. Everyone was delighted at this achievement.

However, she did not take a GCSE in a foreign language (it was simply not her interest) so she did not achieve Michael Gove's English baccalaureate combination of GCSE subjects.

Therefore, by this

measure, she counted as a "failure" on my school's exam results.

Any system that defines a bright child with a passion for engineering as a failure needs to be put in the bin.  
**BEN WARREN**  
SHROPSHIRE

### UK's protracted decline goes on

The current leader of the Conservatives has accused the Government of operating a policy of "managed decline". The Conservatives should know all about decline.

The enormous waste of UK funds resulting from the Conservatives' contracts for friends of government ministers during Covid, as well as the decline of public services during austerity and the financial disaster of Brexit are their contribution to the decline of the UK.

Pot calling the kettle?  
**DR RON BUTTERLY**  
LEEDS

### AI cannot be trusted

I hate to be a naysayer, but AI must be checked by real people with real intelligence and moral understanding of right and wrong. Otherwise it is useless, dangerous and the situation will get worse as AI improves.

There seems a frightening naïveté in the IT industry which seems to be increasing by the microsecond.

**ANDREW BERRY**  
LEATHERHEAD

### BBC not biased on Trump

Well done James Ball for adding some sense to the screams about BBC "bias", (*Opinion*, 5 November). Donald Trump did tell people to "fight like hell".

Regardless of any editing of the riot the violence did take place.  
**SHIELA SMITH**  
BEESTON,  
BEDFORDSHIRE

### Well-behaved fans merit prize

During the last football world cup, Japanese fans set an admirable example by picking up their own rubbish and taking it away. You may recall them waving their rubbish bags.

Perhaps at next year's world cup, Fifa should offer an award for the country whose fans set the best example of behaviour during the games, within and out of the stadiums.

**CLIVE HERITAGE-TILLEY**  
CROWS-AN-WRA,  
CORNWALL

### Unbalanced view of men

I completely agree with Yasmin Alibhai-Brown about the unbalanced portrayal of men in the otherwise superb drama *Riot Women* (*Opinion*, 5 November).

There are all too many appalling men around and they should be called out. There are also many kind and decent men who don't deserve to be lumped in with the morons and abusers.

**ANNE MILLS**  
BUCKINGHAM

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# Airbnb no longer promises me a truly dream holiday

TRAVEL  
**Zing Tsjeng**



I vividly remember one of the last times I booked an Airbnb. Fresh off the plane into Athens, I wheeled my carry-on to my apartment block and was immediately confronted with graffiti that said “F\*\*k Airbnb”, with a spray-painted arrow pointed directly at the front door.

“Yep,” I thought grimly, punching the key code into the lock. “Sounds about right.”

Greek graffiti artists aren’t the only Europeans fed up with the \$79bn (£61bn) San Francisco-based tech company. In Barcelona, left-wing mayor Jaume Collboni recently announced plans to ban all short-term rentals from 2028 onwards, effectively wiping out Airbnb and other holiday-letting platforms like Vrbo. In Amsterdam, residents can only rent out their homes for 15 nights a year and face fines of up to €87,000 (£76,500) if they break the rules.

Hosts in New York City can only rent their place out to two guests at a time and have to remain in the property during the stay.

Palma has banned all new holiday rentals and Mallorca has removed 2,300 illegal Airbnb listings last year alone. London remains one of the most liberal tourist cities for Airbnb regulation: you can rent out your place for up to 90 days. That has severe implications for housing availability here – according to the Mayor of London’s office, one in 74 homes are up for short-term let.

How did we all get so hooked on Airbnb? For an entire generation of internet-savvy travellers like myself and my millennial peers, the once-shiny platform opened up a new mode of visiting a city. You could make yourself breakfast, swerve noisy guests in neighbouring

rooms and relax in your own living room (even if it was, in actual fact, someone else’s living room). All this for cheaper than the nearest hotel. I didn’t look at another booking website for years. Who needed to, when Airbnb existed?

Well, it turns out our holiday dreams were somebody else’s rental nightmare. For a while, it felt like Airbnb lived up to its initial promise of allowing travellers to full-body immerse themselves in their chosen destination. The idea was that “Juan from Madrid” or “Suzie from Edinburgh” had merely temporarily vacated their quirkily-appointed *casa* for your stay, allowing you to live the *authentic* life of a genuine local.

But as anyone who has recently used Airbnb can tell you, that’s no longer the case. These days it’s more likely that you interact with a faceless lettings company that operates multiple listings in the city.

You won’t meet a human being except for the nearby corner shop owner who has been entrusted with the key – even then, they’re being phased out in favour of passcode-enabled smart locks. While the apartment is almost certainly professionally cleaned, you might be expected to strip the bedding, wash the dishes and take out the bins. It’s all the anonymity of a hotel stay, with none of the perks.

That graffiti, in addition to the mounting guilt I felt for relying so heavily on a platform that has been accused of single-handedly gentrifying entire neighbourhoods, booting actual residents out of their homes and enriching the already fattened pockets of landlords, was what pushed me over the edge. On a big group holiday to Barcelona this year, some of us booked into a hotel for the first time in years.

The hotel was far more expensive than our usual Airbnb options, but we booked it guilt-free, knowing that we hadn’t helped turf anybody out of their home.

It felt like a treat – in other words, just like a holiday should.



Airbnb has been accused of gentrifying entire neighbourhoods GETTY

In tomorrow's  
**FRIDAY** edition

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MUSIC  
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**‘I knew from that first audition that Johnny Marr was a maestro’**

The Smiths drummer Mike Joyce discusses his punk roots, working with a musical genius – and the vitriol between his ex-bandmates after the iconic group split up



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# A ban on choking in porn is sadly doomed to fail

SOCIETY

**Kate Maltby**


We can trace the history of moral panics in any society by the history of laws brought in to outlaw sexual behaviour. No government has ever succeeded in changing the sexual behaviour of its citizens by diktat. Yet the Labour Government seems to believe it can do just that.

This week it confirmed the latest

stage of its battle against online pornography, a plan to criminalise the depiction of strangulation or suffocation. To understand why this is doomed to fail, we only need to look back to earlier this summer.

The Online Safety Act became law in 2023, but its sharpest impact on British pornography habits only became apparent this July, with the implementation of provisions

which require users of pornographic websites to verify their age and identity.

The immediate response was a massive uptake in downloads for virtual private networks (VPNs), which allow the user to access websites under the cloak of a foreign IP address. One provider, Proton VPN, reported a 1,800 per cent spike in sign-ups.

Pornography now permeates our world – and no reasonable person should pretend that its saturation of our society is healthy. A recent report by England's Children's Commissioner found that 27 per cent of children had encountered pornography online before the age of 11. Study after study shows that children replicate the behaviours they see in pornography, and it can take a lifetime to decouple early fetishes from healthy intimacy.

This is why the Government remains determined to clamp down further on access to pornography. And hence the amendment. But, well-intentioned as it is, this move is likely to be every bit as easy to sidestep as the provisions of the Online Safety Act. If you've already downloaded a VPN for your normal porn, it'll work for anything else.

The rise, though, of choking as a mainstream sexual practice has for some time been a matter of concern amongst feminists. Strangulation cases are on the rise and many feminists blame porn. The theory is that the more popular such violent porn becomes, the more men come to demand such practises in real life, and women feel pressured to comply.

Yet the latest attempt to crack down on a dangerous trend in porn is unlikely to work any better than every previous attempt.

That doesn't mean we should do nothing. The porn problem is real. Our young people are being exposed to pornography too early.

They will continue to absorb whatever they can find on the computers of the adults around them and the more of those adults who have a VPN permanently switched on in the background, the less relevant mere UK law and its narrow jurisdiction becomes.

There's only one way to confront the porn problem, and it's the oldest, most difficult method in the book: talk about it. Push inquisitive young people into the darker shadows of online illegality, and they will remain there.



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ENTERTAINMENT

**Emily Bootle**


## Harbour has dampened show's vibe

I had been looking forward to the final series of *Stranger Things*. Three years on from series four and I was ready for more 1980s jumpers, awkward teen romances and "Upside Down" action, with the first episodes due to drop on Netflix at the end of this month.

It didn't even matter that I can't remember a single thing that's happened, because I come to *Stranger Things* mainly for the vibe – except, oh dear. That vibe has been dampened by the release of *West End Girl*, Lily Allen's blow-by-blow post-divorce album, ubiquitous since its release two weeks ago.

Like Allen, I have no intention of getting sued, so who's to say whether the album's references to her "sex addict" ex are specifically about her ex-husband David Harbour, who plays Hopper – the sheriff and Eleven's adopted father – in the show? Certainly not me; Allen has wisely said the album is a "mix of fact and fiction".

Either way, the album includes

one too many references to manipulative conversations and secret butt plugs.

The long and the short of it is this: I've got the ick.

Perhaps it's my fault that I'm struggling to see how this won't affect my experience of the show. Actors are actors, and their real lives should have little bearing on my enjoyment of their work.

But Harbour's problem is that *Stranger Things* was his big break, and for many people, including me, he is inseparable from Hopper.

A resurfaced photo of Harbour's note to Allen on the opening night of her play, *Hedda*, which Allen posted at the time, is enough to bring a bit of bile to the back of your throat.

"My ambitious wife," he wrote, "these are bad luck flowers 'cause if you get reviewed well in this play, you will get all kinds of awards and I will be miserable."

Though Harbour (*inset*) has not, as far as I can tell, been out-and-out "cancelled", somehow this ick

feels like a more terminal diagnosis. I fear there won't be many people willing to stand up publicly for Harbour's right to live it up on Feeld while Allen was working in London.

So, the ick. I don't think Harbour's career should be destroyed

because of speculation that he behaved like a prick to his wife. But Allen has written an intimate album that's designed to place us right in the action with her, and it seems to have worked.

As *Stranger Things* shows us, sometimes a vibe can speak louder than a thousand complicated flashback scenes.



## MEXICO

Deep in the dusty mountains of Sinaloa, in north-west Mexico, lies the village of La Tuna, the birthplace of drug baron Joaquín Guzmán, better-known as El Chapo; once the linchpin of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel, now rotting in an American prison.

In his absence, the cartel is in a state of civil war between his sons, the Chapitos ("little Chapos") and another faction loyal to his former business partner, El Mayo.

Recently, footage on social media purportedly showed a drone piloted by the rival Gulf Cartel dropping a bomb on Chapo's mother's house in La Tuna.

A source within the Sinaloa Cartel played down the attack. "That event in La Tuna is more gossip than reality," they told *The i Paper*. "Nobody is living in that house, and the drone didn't cause a lot of damage; it crashed into a big tree outside the house."

A recent spate of drone attacks in the area was confirmed by the state governor last week.

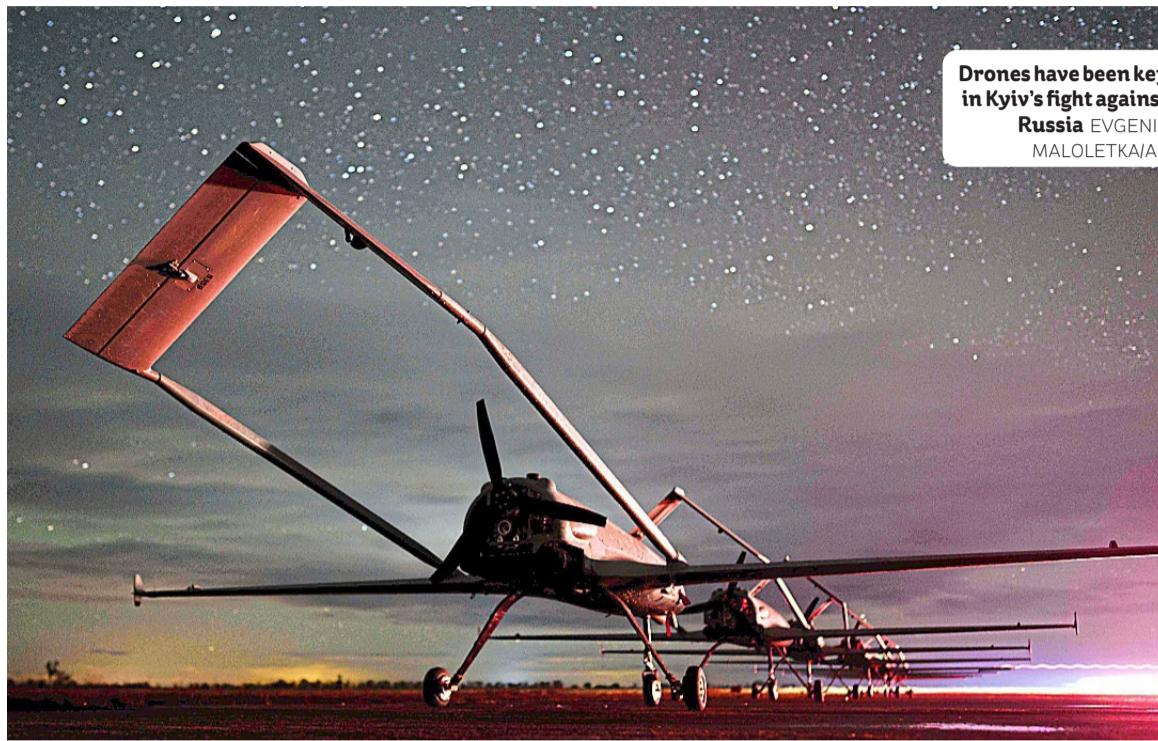
On the other side of the globe, on the front lines of Ukraine, drones (or unmanned aerial vehicles - UAVs) have become an essential part of both Russian and Ukrainian forces' arsenals.

But while drones have been used for criminal activities - such as delivering contraband into prison - for many years, experts warn Ukraine is becoming a testing ground for high-tech weaponry making its way into the hands of powerful criminal organisations.

"The militaries in many countries are now seriously waking up to how they will employ drone technology," said Paddy Ginn, an ex-British Army officer and senior expert at the Global Initiative, whose *Crime By Drone* report was released last week.

"Organised crime is absolutely not behind the curve, and they are utilising the technologies, the expertise and the tactics and techniques seen on the battlefield in Ukraine. And law enforcement has got to work fast to catch up."

"The barriers to entry of the use of drone capabilities have been lowered so much recently by these technologies being shared online, by 3D printing, by the expertise and skills that have bled out from Ukraine," he continued.



Drones have been key in Kyiv's fight against Russia  
EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

## Narcos take to the skies with drone tactics from Ukraine

Mexico's cartels are using lessons from front lines to wage an air war on their rivals, writes **Niko Vorobyov**

In Mexico, drone warfare has been most extensive in the state of Michoacán, where fighting between drug cartels, local gangs, and vigilante militias (some of which are fronts or proxies for organised crime) has left certain areas resembling war zones.

Members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel have emerged as the most prolific quadcopter enthusiasts, their team of specialised drone operators dropping bombs on their enemies.

According to *The i Paper's* source, cartel drone tech still leaves much to be desired. "The bad guys here are buying a lot of drones," revealed the Sinaloa Cartel operative.

"Nowadays, the war here is by using drones to attack the enemies' cars and using [counter-drone jammers] to defend."

The operative said the drone attacks using explosives were "basic, because their range and

efficiency is so low they almost never reach the target".

But that might soon change because of advances made in Ukraine. Ginn notes that previously, drones used on the battlefield were "produced simply as methods of reconnaissance, surveillance and attack using standard off-the-shelf products, mostly Chinese variants, that were bought and purchased from commercial suppliers".

The landscape has now



Some cartels have been using drones to drop bombs on their enemies

transformed, he added, into "this incredible industry of every single part of the drone as a system being taken apart, analysed, improved, and worked out how to make it even better".

"Drones that can be used to attack and kill individual soldiers. Drones that can be used to attack and destroy armoured vehicles. Drones that can be used to intercept other drones... all this technological evolution has bled into the internet."

Criminal organisations have picked up on this, Ginn said. "What they started to do is send people to fight with the Ukrainians - not because they believe in the cause, but that they want them to bring that expertise back to Mexico."

Ginn says the danger of drones from criminal elements is one that should be taken seriously. "I think the genie is out of the bottle on this one."

## BELGIUM

## Talks to be held over drones at airports

Belgium has called an emergency meeting of key government ministers and security chiefs today after drone sightings forced closures of airports and a military air base on Tuesday in what the defence minister called a co-ordinated attack.

Brussels airport, the country's busiest, was closed at about 8pm after three drones flew over the perimeter, while drones were spotted above airports in Antwerp, Liège and Ostend, and above the Florennes air force base.

The defence minister, Theo Francken, said the incidents appeared to have been "structured" and involved large drones flying in formation. "It is in line with the hybrid techniques seen in other countries," he added.



## RUSSIA

## Putin preparing for nuclear weapon test

President Vladimir Putin has ordered Russian officials to draft proposals for a possible test of nuclear weapons, something that Moscow has not done since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

The defence minister, Andrei Belousov, told Putin that remarks and actions by the US meant it was "advisable to prepare for full-scale nuclear tests" immediately.

Putin said: "I am instructing the foreign ministry, the defence ministry... the special services and relevant civilian agencies to do everything possible to collect information on the issue, analyse it and make agreed proposals on the preparation of nuclear weapons tests." REUTERS

## UKRAINE

## Kyiv disputes Russian claims of gains in eastern city

By Andrew Osborn and Guy Faulconbridge  
IN MOSCOW

Russia said yesterday that its forces were advancing north in an effort to take full control of the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, but Ukraine's army said its units were battling hard to try to stop the Russians from gaining new ground.

Kyiv has acknowledged that its troops face a difficult position in the strategic city, once an important transport and logistics hub for the

Ukrainian army, which Russia has been trying to capture for more than a year.

The Russian defence ministry said that two assault groups were destroying Ukrainian troops which were surrounded in several districts of Pokrovsk and continuing an offensive pushing north through it.

Russian forces were clearing Ukrainian troops from settlements on Pokrovsk's south-eastern flank and repelled Ukrainian attempts to break out of encirclement.

The Ukrainian military denied

that its troops were surrounded in Pokrovsk. It said they were trying to stop Russian soldiers from digging in while seeking to secure and protect logistics routes in the wider area.

"Measures are being taken to block the enemy, which is attempting to infiltrate and accumulate in the city of Pokrovsk," said the Ukrainian General Staff. "Active counter-measures are being taken against attempts by enemy infantry groups to gain a foothold."

The Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, said on Monday that

the area around Pokrovsk remained under severe pressure but that up to 300 Russian servicemen still in the city had made no gains in the past day and there were just 60 in an-

Russia regards Pokrovsk as the gateway to its capture of the remaining 10 per cent - or 5,000 sq km (1,930 sq miles) - of Ukraine's industrial Donbas region, one of its key aims in the almost four-year-old war.

other city, Kupiansk. Moscow said yesterday that either Zelensky had no grasp of what was happening or he was deliberately trying to conceal Ukraine's parlous situation.

Ukrainian units were trapped in "cauldrons" in both locations, it said, and their position was deteriorating while Russian forces advanced, "leaving no chance for Ukrainian servicemen to save themselves other than by voluntary surrender".

Neither side's assertions were able to be verified because of restrictions on access to the battlefield. REUTERS

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JAPAN

# Troops deployed to combat surge in fatal bear attacks

By Tim Kelly and Tom Bateman  
IN KAZUNO

Japan has deployed troops to the country's rugged north to help trap bears after local authorities said that besieged communities were struggling to cope with an unprecedented wave of attacks.

The operation began in Kazuno, a small town nestled among forested mountains where bear sightings have risen sharply. For weeks, residents have been urged to avoid the thick woods and stay indoors after dark to keep clear of the animals.

Japanese black bears, common across most of the country, can weigh up to 130kg (287lb). Brown bears on the northern island of Hokkaido can weigh as much as 400kg.

"Even if just temporary, the [Self-Defence Forces] help is a big relief," said Yasuhiro Kitakata, who oversees the town's bear department. "I used to think bears would always run away when they heard noise, but now they actually come towards you. They are truly frightening animals."

There have been more than 100 bear attacks across Japan since April, with 12 people killed, according to the environment ministry.

Two-thirds of those deaths were in Akita prefecture, where Kazuno is located, and nearby Iwate. In Akita, authorities say that bear sightings have jumped six-fold this year to more than 8,000, and attacks are on track to set a record, prompting its governor to request help from the Self-Defence Forces last week.

"The townspeople feel the danger every day," said the mayor of Kazuno, Shinji Sasamoto, after meeting 15 or so soldiers who rolled into town in a



Members of Japan's Self-Defence Forces set up a bear trap yesterday in Kazuno, where residents have been told to stay indoors at night KYODO/REUTERS

lorry and jeeps, equipped with body armour and a large map.

"It has affected how people live their lives, forcing them to stop going out or cancel events," Sasamoto said.

Rising bear numbers, climate change-driven shifts in the animals' natural food sources and depopulation of rural areas are increasingly bringing people into contact with bears, while an ageing cohort of hunters that authorities once relied on are overwhelmed.

In recent weeks, bears have at-

tacked customers inside a supermarket, jumped a tourist waiting at a bus stop near a Unesco world heritage site and mutilated a worker at a hot springs resort. Some schools have closed after bears were spotted wandering around their grounds.

Bear attacks peak in October and November as the animals forage intensively before winter hibernation.

"Last year there was an abundance of food in the mountains," said Kitakata. "This year, the food supply has run out." REUTERS

AUSTRALIA

# 'Mushroom killer' seeks to overturn conviction

By Christine Chen  
IN SYDNEY

An Australian woman who was sentenced to life in prison for killing three relatives with a meal laced with toxic mushrooms is appealing against her conviction.

Erin Patterson, 51, was found guilty in July of murdering three elderly relatives of her estranged husband and attempting to murder a fourth in the state of Victoria in 2023.

She was sentenced to life in prison with a non-parole period of 33 years.

Documents released yesterday by the state's supreme court showed that Patterson (*inset*) filed an application on Monday for leave to appeal against her conviction.

The seven grounds of appeal included that a "fundamental irregularity" occurred while the jury was sequestered. Local media, citing the court, reported that for the majority of their deliberations the jurors stayed in the same hotel as the police and prosecutors.

Patterson said pieces of evidence introduced, including mobile tower location data and messages from Facebook friends, were either irrelevant or unfairly prejudicial, and that she was subjected to an "unfair and oppressive" cross-examination.

Her application for leave to appeal must be approved by the court before it can go ahead. REUTERS



FRANCE

# Court to delay Louvre theft trial

By Sylvie Corbet  
IN BOBIGNY

A suspect in last month's Louvre jewels robbery has had his trial in a different case postponed because the media attention may impede the fairness of the proceedings.

A court in Bobigny, north of Paris, said that the suspect's trial on charges of damaging public property would take place in April. His four lawyers said the highly publicised Louvre robbery did not allow them to properly prepare for the trial.

Maxime Cavallé, one of the law-



Armed police outside the Louvre following the theft last month

yers, said: "We will be extremely vigilant about several points, first of all the respect of the presumption of innocence... and the respect of [judicial] proceedings."

The prosecutor agreed that the case must be judged in "serene conditions" that were not met due to "mediatisation and recent events".

The 39-year-old man is suspected of breaking into the Louvre museum in Paris and stealing some of France's crown jewels worth £78m. AP

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 4603 BY ECCLES

ACROSS

- 1 Flowers and fish found next to dock (7)
- 5 Designates when to take ring back (6)
- 8 Returned box containing special files (5)
- 9 Pettifoggery from editor in store (8)
- 11 Juvenile delinquent stoner guy (9)
- 12 Someone who cries half-heartedly is not drunk (5)
- 13 Codeword written in coalface (4)
- 14 Kiss and cuddle old drunk in boat (8)
- 18 Harry lauded as mythical craftsman (8)
- 19 Most of promotional material is obscure (4)
- 22 Fanatical bishop hiding in sack (5)
- 24 Love a tandoori masala (9)
- 25 Beer judge is drinking in pub (8)
- 26 Detective Inspector leaves women's work for man (5)

- 27 England all-rounder nearly picking up runs for cover drive? (6)
- 28 Misery of French couple (7)

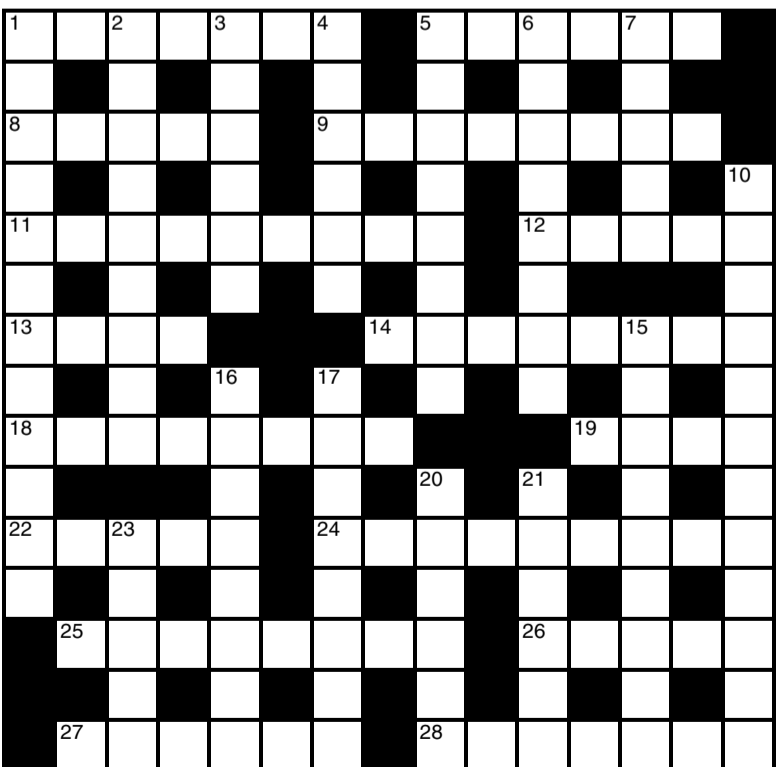
DOWN

- 1 Looks around, slightly drunk, with head down, and makes devious changes (12)
- 2 She managed to stop annoyance leading to changes in government (9)
- 3 On reflection, nothing is sacred, claims commission (6)
- 4 Delegate lay in river (6)
- 5 Councillor called American city 'backwards', which is about right (8)
- 6 Desire to meet small and sexy outsider (4,4)
- 7 Beat both Republican parties (5)
- 10 Following joint, suppresses rants about football player's movement? (4,8)

- 15 American country boy inspiring a revolutionary to become religious exile (5,4)
- 16 Enthusiast and eccentric try dance (8)
- 17 African and European entering South America with drug (8)
- 20 As unhappy as can be to waste time in secret service (6)
- 21 Failings left part of church beginning to subside (6)
- 23 Impulsively speak Latin in Lancaster? (5)

Solution to yesterday's Cryptic

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



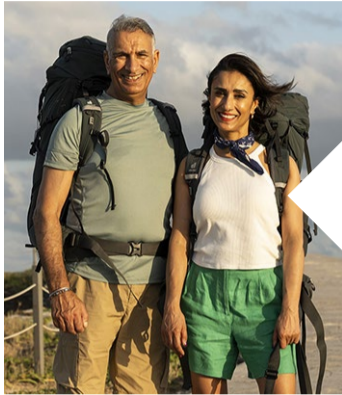
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# Television Thursday 6 November

## CRITIC'S CHOICE

GERARD GILBERT



### PICK OF THE DAY Celebrity Race Across The World

**8pm, BBC One**  
Make way *The Celebrity Traitors* (whose series finale follows this), for here comes the reality series in which stars and their loved ones trek across the globe without the help of smartphones or the internet. The four couples are Anita Rani and her dad, Bal (both left); *Big Boys* actor Dylan Llewellyn and his mum, Jackie; DJ Tyler West and *EastEnders* actress Molly Rainford; and broadcaster Roman Kemp and his sister Harley Moon. This time, the contestants will be dropped off on a Caribbean island, with a 5,900km race across the whole of Central America before reaching the finish line on the northernmost point in South America.

### Art Detectives 8pm, U&Drama

The *Fast Show* and *Cold Feet*'s John Thomson guest-stars as the Heritage Crime Unit's Mick and Shazia (Stephen Moyer and Nina Singh) investigate the discovery of a Viking hoard. Museum curator Rosa (*Green Wing*'s Sarah Alexander) is suspicious about the circumstances surrounding this surprising discovery, and summons Mick for a second opinion... as well as a second date. Mick suspects that the hoard could be connected to an archaeological dig carried out 10 months earlier, and may have been stolen from that site. However when the area is reopened, an ancient burial chamber reveals the body of a university professor who oversaw the excavation.

### Inside The Tower of London 8pm, 5

It's impressive how much mileage this programme has managed to extract from the historical London landmark; this is the eighth series about the fortress. But then again, there is an awful lot of history within those walls. This episode looks at the preparation earlier this year when the Tower was preparing to launch an ambitious display to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, bringing back nearly 30,000 ceramic poppies.




### Anthony Hopkins: Talking Pictures 8.20pm, BBC Four

In case anyone is wondering why there are two documentaries about

Sir Anthony Hopkins this week (this one and Wednesday night's BBC Two film *Sir Anthony Hopkins: A Career In Character*), it's because of the release of the Welsh actor's new autobiography, *We Did OK, Kid*. Ahead of a screening of the 1993 film *The Remains Of The Day*, this 2015 episode of *Talking Pictures* looks back at his career through interviews conducted with the BBC. Hopkins talks about his approach to acting, his earlier years as a hellraiser, and the films that helped make him a star.

### The Iris Affair 9pm, Sky Atlantic

As Iris (Niamh Algar) speeds towards Cameron's Slovenian lair in a Ferrari, intent on destroying Charlie Big Potatoes and killing

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2	
<b>Daytime</b>	6.00 <i>Breakfast</i> (S). 9.30 <i>Morning Live</i> (S). 10.45 <i>Crimewatch Caught</i> (S). 11.15 <i>Homes Under The Hammer</i> (S). 12.15 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S). 1.00 <i>BBC News At One</i> ; Weather (S). 1.35 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; Weather (S). 1.45 <i>BBC News At One</i> ; Weather (S). 2.00 <i>Scam Interceptors</i> (S). 2.30 <i>Lost And Found In The Lakes</i> (R) (S). 3.00 <i>Escape To The Country</i> (R) (S). 3.45 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (R) (S). 4.30 <i>The Inner Circle</i> (S). 5.15 <i>Pointless</i> (R) (S).	6.15 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (R) (S). 7.00 <i>Homes Under The Hammer</i> (R) (S). 8.00 <i>Sign Zone: Gardeners' World</i> (R) (S). 9.00 <i>BBC News</i> (S). 12.15 <i>Politics Live</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Impossible</i> (R) (S). 1.45 <i>The Finish Line</i> (R) (S). 2.30 <i>Unbeatable</i> (R) (S). 3.15 <i>Great British Menu</i> (R) (S). 4.15 <i>Super Fast Falcon</i> (R) (S). 5.15 <i>Flog It!</i> (R) (S).	6.00 <i>Good Morning Britain</i> (S). 9.00 <i>Lorraine</i> (S). 10.00 <i>This Morning</i> (S). 12.30 <i>Loose Women</i> (S). 1.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; Weather (S). 1.55 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; Weather (S). 2.00 <i>Dickinson's Real Deal</i> (R) (S). 3.00 <i>Lingo</i> (R) (S). 3.59 <i>ITV Regional Weather</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Deal Or No Deal</i> (S). 5.00 <i>The Chase</i> (S).	6.35 <i>The King Of Queens</i> (R) (S). 7.50 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 8.15 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 8.40 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 9.10 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 9.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 10.10 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 10.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 11.10 <i>American Pickers</i> (R) (S). 12.05 <i>Channel 4 News Summary</i> (S). 12.10 <i>Come Dine With Me: The Professionals</i> (R) (S). 1.10 <i>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</i> (R) (S). 2.10 <i>Countdown</i> (S). 3.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (R) (S). 4.00 <i>Help! We Bought A Village</i> (R) (S). 5.00 <i>Jasmine Harman's Renovation In The Sun</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Milkshake!</i> 9.15 <i>Jeremy Vine</i> (S). 11.30 <i>Storm Huntley</i> (S). 12.55 <i>5 News At Lunchtime</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Home And Away</i> (R) (S). 1.30 <i>FILM: A Crafty Christmas Romance</i> (Brian Brough 2020) Romantic drama, starring Nicola Posener (R) (S). 3.15 <i>FILM: A Christmas To Remember</i> (David Weaver 2016) Festive romance, starring Mira Sorvino and Cameron Mathison (S). 5.00 <i>5 News At 5</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Michael Portillo's Travel Diaries</i> (R) (S). 6.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).	 The Welsh actor talks about his career and life in 'Anthony Hopkins: Talking Pictures' 8.20pm, BBC Four	 Iris (Niamh Algar) makes a dramatic stand 9pm, Sky Atlantic	6.00 <i>CITV 7.55 Buying The View</i> (S). 8.25 <i>Ferne McCann: First Time Mum</i> (S). 9.25 <i>The Only Way Is Essex</i> (S). 10.05 <i>The Real Housewives Of Dubai</i> (S). 11.00 <i>The Real Housewives Of Atlanta</i> (S). 12.00 <i>Supermarket Sweep</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Wheel Of Fortune</i> (S). 2.00 <i>The Only Way Is Essex</i> (S). 3.00 <i>The Real Housewives Of Jersey</i> (S). 4.00 <i>The Real Housewives Of Dubai</i> (S). 5.00 <i>The Real Housewives Of Atlanta</i> (S).
<b>6pm</b>	6.00 <i>BBC News At Six</i> ; Weather (S). 6.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; Weather (S).	6.00 <i>Richard Osman's House Of Games</i> (S). 6.30 <i>Strictly: It Takes Two</i> (S).	6.00 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; Weather (S). 6.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; Weather (S).	6.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> A couple seek a home in Malta (S).	6.00 <i>Michael Portillo's Travel Diaries</i> (R) (S). 6.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).		 Phil Ellis causes a calamity once again 9pm, Channel 4	6.00 <i>Celebrity Catchphrase</i> With Tony Audenshaw, Tamzin Outhwaite and Phil Tufnell (S).	
<b>7pm</b>	7.00 <i>The One Show</i> (S). 7.30 <i>EastEnders</i> Nicola tries to build bridges with George (S).	7.00 <i>Celebrity Antiques Road Trip</i> (R) (S).	7.30 <i>Emmerdale</i> Nicola's desperate for gossip (S).	7.00 <i>Channel 4 News</i> (S).	7.00 <i>The Taste Test Restaurant</i> (S). 7.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).	7.00 <i>Inside Museums</i> (S). 7.30 <i>Meet The Ancestors</i> (S).	6.40 <i>FILM: Jumanji: The Next Level</i> (Jake Kasdan 2019) Fantasy adventure, with Dwayne Johnson (S).	7.00 <i>Deal Or No Deal</i> Game show, hosted by Stephen Mulhern (S).	
<b>8pm</b>	8.00 <i>Celebrity Race Across The World</i> New series. Roman Kemp and Dylan Llewellyn compete (S).	8.00 <i>Highland Cops</i> (S).	8.30 <i>Air Fryers: Do You Know The Dangers? - Tonight</i> (S).	8.00 <i>George Clarke's Homes In The Wild</i> Last in the series (S).	8.00 <i>Inside The Tower Of London</i> (S).	8.20 <i>Anthony Hopkins: Talking Pictures</i> A look back at the career of the actor (S).		8.00 <i>Wheel Of Fortune</i> Graham Norton hosts as Chris, Laura and Samantha compete (S).	
<b>9pm</b>	9.00 <i>The Celebrity Traitors Finale</i> Last in the series (S).	9.00 <i>The Ridge</i> Mia questions Teddy and Harry, with conflicting results (S). 9.45 <i>Saving Lives At Sea</i> (R) (S).	9.00 <i>Long Lost Family</i> The stories of people searching for siblings (R) (S).	9.00 <i>Taskmaster</i> Maisie Adam makes sexy use of a feather boa and shin pads (S).	9.00 <i>Dan Snow &amp; The Lost City</i> The presenter explores the lost city of the Inca (R) (S).	9.00 <i>FILM: The Remains Of The Day</i> (James Ivory 1993) Period drama, with Anthony Hopkins (S).	9.00 <i>FILM: Braveheart</i> (Mel Gibson 1995) Historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson (S).	9.00 <i>Big Brother</i> A group of contestants live under 24 hour surveillance, hoping to win a cash prize (S).	
<b>10pm</b>	10.10 <i>BBC News At Ten</i> (S). 10.40 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; Weather (S). 10.50 <i>Question Time</i> (S).	10.10 <i>The Celebrity Traitors: Uncloaked Finale</i> Last in the series (S).	10.00 <i>ITV News At Ten</i> (S). 10.30 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; Weather (S). 10.45 <i>Changing Ends</i> (R) (S).	10.00 <i>The Great British Bake Off</i> Last in the series (R) (S).	10.30 <i>Police: Night Shift 999</i> (R) (S).			10.00 <i>Big Brother: Late &amp; Live</i> Companion show to this year's series (S).	
<b>11pm</b>	11.50 <i>Newsnight</i> (S).	11.00 <i>Newsnight</i> (S). 11.35 <i>Once Upon A Time In Space</i> (R) (S).	11.10 <i>Changing Ends</i> Alan decides to play detective (R) (S). 11.35 <i>Changing Ends</i> (R) (S).	11.20 <i>8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown</i> (R) (S).	11.30 <i>Police Interceptors</i> Officers track men suspected of attempting to steal from Lorries (R) (S).	11.10 <i>FILM: Letter To Brezhnev</i> (Chris Bernard 1985) Comedy drama, starring Peter Firth and Alfred Molina (S).		11.05 <i>Family Guy</i> Lois goes to extreme lengths to win a contest (S). 11.35 <i>Family Guy</i> (S).	
<b>Late</b>	12.20 <i>The Celebrity Inner Circle</i> (R) (S). 1.10 <i>BBC News</i> (S).	12.40 <i>Sign Zone: How Are You?</i> It's Alan (Partridge) (R) (S). 1.10 <i>Sign Zone: Dragons' Den</i> (R) (S). 2.10 <i>Sign Zone: Global Eye</i> (R) (S). 2.40 <i>Sign Zone: The Crash Detectives</i> (R) (S). 3.10 <i>This Is BBC Two</i> (S).	12.00 <i>Changing Ends</i> (R) (S). 12.25 <i>Changing Ends</i> (R) (S). 12.50 <i>Changing Ends</i> (R) (S). 1.15 <i>Shop On TV</i> 3.00 <i>The Motorbike Show</i> (R) (S). 3.50 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S). 5.05 <i>Deal Or No Deal</i> (R) (S).	12.20 <i>I Literally Just Told You With Jimmy Carr</i> (R) (S). 1.15 <i>Ramsay's Hotel Hell</i> (R) (S). 2.05 <i>Iris Prize Best British Shorts: Kinship</i> (S). 3.25 <i>Unreported World</i> (R) (S).	12.30 <i>999: Emergency Call Out</i> (R) (S). 1.30 <i>PlayOJO Live Casino Show</i> (R) (S). 3.30 <i>Rob &amp; Dave's Big Texas Rodeo</i> (R) (S). 4.45 <i>Friends</i> (R) (S). 4.45 <i>The Highland Vet</i> (R) (S).	12.40 <i>Anthony Hopkins: Talking Pictures</i> (S). 1.25 <i>Meet The Ancestors</i> (S). 2.10 <i>The Making Of King Arthur</i> (S). 3.20 <i>Close</i>	12.30 <i>FILM: The Mission</i> (Roland Joffe 1986) Historical drama, with Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons (S). 3.05 <i>Close</i>	12.05 <i>Big Brother</i> (S). 1.05 <i>American Dad!</i> (S). 1.30 <i>American Dad!</i> (S). 1.55 <i>Extraordinary</i> (S). 2.30 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Teleshopping</i>	



# The Daily Recipe



Lamb and vegetable broth

SERVES 5+

- 400g PGI Welsh Lamb neck fillet, cut into small cubes
- Salt and pepper
- 1tbsp fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 1tbsp fresh mint, roughly chopped
- 1tbsp olive oil
- 600ml vegetable stock
- 12 new potatoes, scrubbed and halved
- 2 garlic cloves, squashed and peeled
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut into julienne shapes
- 75g green beans, cut into thirds
- 100g frozen broad or soya beans
- 2tbsp fresh mint, roughly chopped
- 2tbsp pesto

Heat the olive oil in a large pan, add the lamb cubes and brown them off. Add the vegetable stock, the new potatoes, garlic, and carrots.  
 Simmer for 30-40 minutes and then add the green beans, broad beans and fresh mint. Submerge the mint and cook for about 10 minutes, until the green beans are tender.  
 Serve in bowls scattered with a small spoonful of green pesto on top and extra fresh mint leaves and large chunks of granary bread.

Recipe from eatwelshlambandwelshbeef.com

# Games & Puzzles

## Kakuro

**How to play** Fill the white squares so that the total in each across or down run of cells matches the total at the start of that run. You must use the numbers from 1-9 only and cannot repeat a number in a run.

			6	12				
		4				15	3	
	7				5			
	9				4	3		
17			7				19	7
24			35					
			3	11				
11					7			
		10			11	4		
	14	17			8	9		
	17							
				24				

## Jigsawdoku

**How to play** Place the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and bold-lined jigsaw region.

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

## Killer Sudoku

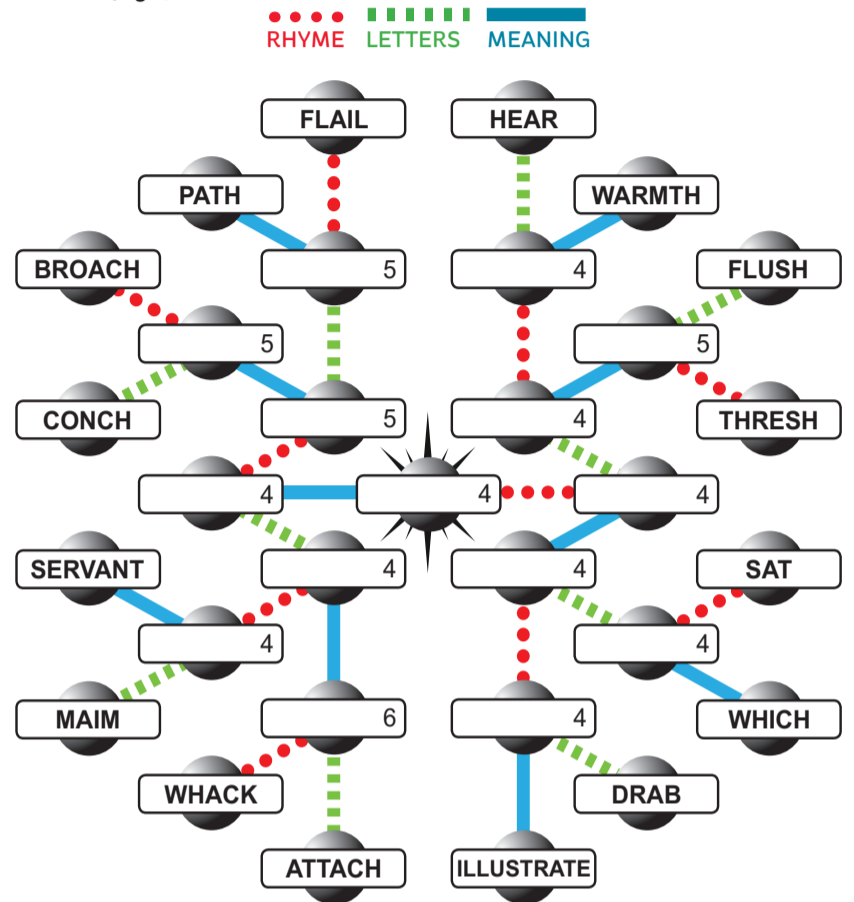
**How to play** Each row, column and 3 by 3 box must contain each number (1 to 9) only once. The sum of all numbers contained in a dotted area must match the number printed in its top-left corner. No number can appear more than once in a dotted area.

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

## Zygolex® In The i Paper every day

Find the missing words by following the RHYME, LETTERS and MEANING links - eg, a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has one letter different from 'pear' and has the same meaning as mountain, would be 'peak'. Full rules at zygolex.com.

Solution, page 51



## Futoshiki

**How to play** Place the numbers from 1-5 exactly once in each row and column. The greater than and less than signs ('>' and '<') indicate where one cell is greater/less than the adjacent cell indicated.

2				<	
^					^
	<				
			<		
			v		^
		>			4
		v			
	2				>

## Minesweeper

**How to play** Find all the mines in the grid. Numbers in certain squares indicate how many mines there are in the neighbouring squares, including diagonally touching squares. Mines cannot be placed in squares with numbers.

			2		1		1			0
1		1		2	1				1	2
	1	2				1	4	3		
2	1	0	3		3			3		
		1			3	1	3	2		0
	3	2							2	
1			3		3	2			2	2
	2	1	2		2		2	1		
					3		1	1		0
					3	3	2			0
2	3		3	3		2				
	1	1		3	2			1	2	0



**PUZZLES**  
 The country's best barred crossword every Saturday

### Number Square

**How to play** Fill the empty squares with numbers that will make the across and down calculations produce the results shown in the grey squares. Each numeral from 1 to 9 must only appear once. The calculations should be performed from left to right and top to bottom, rather than in strict mathematical order.

#### Easier

	+		-		-2
÷			-		x
	-		-	4	-9
x		x			÷
8	+		-		12
40			-28		12

#### Harder

	+		x		91
+		-		x	
	x		x	2	60
-		÷		x	
	x		+		11
6		-2			42

### Codeword No 4345

**How to play** The numbers in the grid correspond to the letters of the alphabet. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key as you discover them. Three letters are provided to give you a start. The solution will be printed in tomorrow's paper, the solution to yesterday's codeword is on page 51.

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

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

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

**Need a little help getting started?** Then call for up to four extra clue letters on 0901 292 5204. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge (if you are having trouble with the phone service, call the helpline: 0333 202 3390). Or text **THE CLUE** to 85100 to receive your clues. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge (if you are having trouble with the text service, call the helpline: 0333 335 3351). Clues change each day at midnight.

### Word Ladder

**How to play** Convert the word at the top of the ladder into the word at the bottom of it, using only the four rungs in between. On each rung, you must put a valid four-letter word that is identical to the word above it, apart from a one-letter change. There may be more than one way of achieving this.

CULT
VANS
RUSH
JOKE

### idoku Exclusive to i

**How to play** Each numeral from 1 to 9 must appear (once only) in the squares forming the red letter i.

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

### Sudoku Easier

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

Tomorrow: Harder

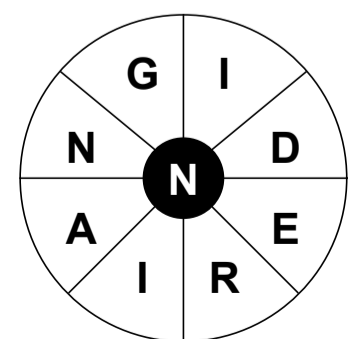
### ABC Logic

**How to play** Place the letters A, B and C only once in each row and column. Each row and column has two blank cells. The letters at the edge of a row/column indicate which of the letters is the first/last to appear in that row/column.

	B		A				C
B							C
A							B
C							B
							C
C							
	A	C	C				

### Word Wheel

**How to play** This is an open-ended puzzle. How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter at the centre of the wheel, can you make from this diagram? We've found 66, including one nine-letter word. Can you do better?



Number Square, Word Ladder, Word Wheel, Kakuro, Minesweeper, ABC Logic, Killer Sudoku, Futoshiki, Codeword, Jigsawduko and Wijuko created by Clarity Media. For more puzzles, see [clarity-media.co.uk](http://clarity-media.co.uk)

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### Concise Crossword No 4667

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gusted (4)
  - 4 Soft white cheese (4)
  - 8 Large ape (7)
  - 9 Crinkled fabric (5)
  - 10 Stratum (5)
  - 11 Give evidence (7)
  - 12 Rude (3-8)
  - 16 Confound (7)
  - 18 Tennis shot (5)
  - 20 Set of links (5)
  - 21 Burdensome (7)
  - 22 Group of cows (4)
  - 23 Require (4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Truck (5)
  - 3 Tungsten (7)
  - 4 Rugby players (5)
  - 5 List (7)
  - 6 Last remark on leaving (7,4)
  - 7 Extremely (4)
  - 8 Strong wind (4)
  - 13 Ancestry (7)
  - 14 Oriental (7)
  - 15 In this way (4)
  - 16 Small notch (4)
  - 17 Reinforced (5)
  - 19 Home (5)

**Stuck on the concise crossword?**  
For today's solutions, call 0905 789 3590. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your network access charge. If you are having trouble accessing this number, please call our helpdesk on 0333 202 3390.

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	1	2		3			4		5			
							6					7
8										9		
10							11					
	12	13							14			
												15
16									18		19	
20									21			
	22											23

**Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword**  
**ACROSS** 1 Seep, 3 Ink (Sea pink), 8 Circa, 9 Idolise, 10 Largely, 11 Poise, 12 Immediately, 17 Aware, 19 Expiate, 21 Eclipse, 22 Abide, 23 Yes, 24 Gnat.  
**DOWN** 1 Sickle, 2 Error, 3 Initial, 4 Keeper, 5 Raceme, 6 Lily-livered, 7 Do up, 13 Measles, 14 Top hat, 15 Lately, 16 Resent, 18 Espy, 20 Alien.

**Today's other puzzles** Cryptic Crossword, page 25  
Five-Clue Cryptic, page 10, One-Minute Wijuko, page 33  
**Puzzle solutions** See page 51



Jensen, the penultimate episode of Luther creator Neil Cross's drama begins with a flashback to six years earlier. Cameron (Tom Hollander) is in Norway, explaining to Jensen (Kristofer Hivju) his motivation for building the machine.

### Taskmaster 9pm, Channel 4

The game show featuring a cast of famous faces continues, as assistant Alex Horne shows off his jockey silks in the weighing room, while contestant Maisie Adam makes sexy use of a feather boa and shin pads. Ania Magliano and Phil Ellis cause calamity with a tower of bricks, Sanjeev Bhaskar watches a croissant float by and Reece Shearsmith pays homage to the dawn of cinema. Enjoy.

## FILM CHOICE

LAURENCE PHELAN



### FILM OF THE DAY

#### Cat Person

10.10pm, BBC Three

(Susanna Fogel, 2023)

Adapted from Kristen Roupenian's viral 2017 *New Yorker* short story, this comedy romance-cum-psychological horror is about modern dating anxieties, using the Margaret Atwood quote, "Men are afraid women will laugh at them; women are afraid men will kill them", as its epigraph. Student Margot (Emilia Jones, left) and older man Robert (Nicholas Braun) have a flirty relationship by text but their real-life encounters are awkward, bordering on panicky and violent. The film diverges from the story in creative ways – though it also introduces the probably unintended subtext that women today are mind-added by feminism and true crime.

### Lethal Weapon 9pm, ITV4

(Richard Donner, 1987)

The LAPD's Murtaugh and Riggs (Danny Glover, Mel Gibson) – one domesticated and near retirement, the other a loner on the brink of self-destruction – are the quintessential mismatched cop buddies.

### Starship Troopers 11.45pm, ITV4

(Paul Verhoeven, 1997)

This garish and gory sci-fi action movie, in which various square-jawed, Aryan-looking youngsters are recruited, trained and sent into battle against massive, insectoid aliens, ranks alongside *RoboCop* as Verhoeven's most satirical work.

## ON DEMAND

### Death By Lightning Netflix

Historical drama about the assassination of US President James Garfield.

### The Good Life: Inside Out U

Dame Penelope Keith looks back at the beloved 1970s self-sufficiency sitcom.

### Absence Of War BBC iPlayer

David Hare's 1995 political drama stars John Thaw.

itv3

ITV

More  
ITV

sky max

sky atlantic

6.00 *The Royal* (S) 7.05 *Classic Emmerdale* (S) 8.40 *Classic Emmerdale* (S) 8.40 *Classic Coronation Street* (S) 9.10 *Doc Martin* (S) 10.15 *The Royal* (S) 11.15 *Heartbeat* (S) 12.20 *Heartbeat* (S) 1.25 *Classic Emmerdale* (S) 1.55 *Classic Emmerdale* (S) 2.30 *Classic Coronation Street* (S) 3.05 *Classic Coronation Street* (S) 3.40 *Downton Abbey* (S) 5.55 *Heartbeat* (S).

6.00 *Modern Family* (S) 6.50 *Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA* (S) 7.50 *Married At First Sight UK* (S) 9.00 *The Simpsons* (S) 10.00 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 10.30 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 11.00 *Modern Family* (S) 11.30 *Modern Family* (S) 12.00 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 12.30 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 1.00 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 1.30 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 2.00 *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (S) 2.30 *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (S) 3.00 *The Simpsons* (S) 3.30 *The Simpsons* (S) 4.00 *Married At First Sight UK* (S) 5.05 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 5.35 *The Big Bang Theory* (S).

8.55 *A New Life In The Sun: Where Are They Now?* (S) 10.00 *A New Life In The Sun: Where Are They Now?* (S) 11.00 *The Great House Giveaway* (S) 12.00 *The Great House Giveaway* (S) 1.05 *A Place In The Sun* (S) 1.35 *A Place In The Sun* (S) 2.40 *Come Dine With Me* (S) 3.40 *Come Dine With Me* (S) 4.10 *Come Dine With Me* (S) 4.40 *Come Dine With Me* (S) 5.15 *Four In A Bed* (S) 5.50 *Four In A Bed* (S).

6.00 *Hawaii Five-0* (R) (S) 7.00 *Hawaii Five-0* (R) (S) 8.00 *A League Of Their Own US Road Trip* (R) (S) 9.00 *Stargate SG-1* (R) (S) 10.00 *Stargate SG-1* (R) (S) 11.00 *SEAL Team* (R) (S) 12.00 *The Flash* (R) (S) 1.00 *Hawaii Five-0* (R) (S) 2.00 *Hawaii Five-0* (R) (S) 3.00 *S.W.A.T* (R) (S) 4.00 *NCIS: Los Angeles* (R) (S) 5.00 *SEAL Team* (R) (S).

6.00 *Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets* (R) (S) 7.00 *The Guest Wing* (R) (S) 8.00 *Julia* (R) (S) 9.05 *Julia* (R) (S) 10.10 *Homicide: Life On The Street* (R) (S) 11.15 *Homicide: Life On The Street* (R) (S) 12.20 *Game Of Thrones* (R) (S) 1.25 *My Brilliant Friend* (R) (S) 2.25 *Band Of Brothers* (R) (S) 3.45 *Band Of Brothers* (R) (S) 4.45 *Homicide: Life On The Street* (R) (S) 5.45 *Homicide: Life On The Street* (R) (S).

6.55 *Heartbeat* An armed robber targets the auction house (S).

6.00 *The Simpsons* Bart and Lisa visit Kamp Krusty (S).  
6.30 *The Simpsons* (S).

6.20 *Four In A Bed* (S).  
6.55 *Four In A Bed* The final visit is to Villa Farm Cottage in Lincolnshire (S).

6.00 *Stargate SG-1* Part one of two. Samantha meets a group of Goa'uld rebels (R) (S).

6.50 *Game Of Thrones* (R) (S).

8.00 *Vera* The detective reopens an unsolved case (S).

8.00 *America's Next Top Model* The contestants pose on a rollercoaster (S).

7.25 *Four In A Bed* The B&B owners meet for the last time (S).  
7.55 *Grand Designs* (S).

7.00 *Stargate SG-1* Part two of two. Samantha's father becomes a Tok'ra host (R) (S).

7.50 *Game Of Thrones* Jon proves his worth to Qhorin Halfhand (R) (S).

10.00 *Grantchester* Sidney is suspected of murder (S).

9.00 *Gogglebox 2024* Memorable critiques from the series (S).

10.00 *24 Hours In A&E* Doctors treat a cyclist who collided with a stampede of deer (S).

10.00 *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* With Luke Pritchard (R) (S).  
10.50 *The Force: Manchester* (R) (S).

10.00 *Sweetpea* Rhiannon sets out to prove she is not the loser she once was (R) (S).

11.00 *Grantchester* Sidney resolves to resign from the church (S).  
11.50 *Cracker* Time is running out (S).

11.00 *First Dates: Valentine's Special* (S).

11.05 *999: On The Front Line* Paul and Alex search for a father and his two-month-old baby (S).

11.55 *The Force: Manchester* Officers raid a cannabis farm (R) (S).

11.00 *The Sopranos* Tony receives a retirement request (R) (S).

12.55 *Cracker* (S) 1.55 *Unwind With ITV* (S) 2.30 *Teleshopping*

12.05 *Naked Attraction* (S) 1.05 *MAFS UK Does Come Dine With Me* (S) 1.35 *Gogglebox* (S) 2.35 *The Simpsons* (S) 2.55 *The Big Bang Theory* (S) 3.45 *Modern Family* (S) 4.10 *The Neighborhood* (S).

12.10 *999: On The Front Line* (S) 1.15 *24 Hours In A&E* (S) 2.20 *24 Hours In A&E* (S) 3.25 *Food Unwrapped* (S) 3.55 *Close*

1.00 *Road Wars* (R) (S) 2.00 *Road Wars* (R) (S) 3.00 *S.W.A.T* (R) (S) 4.00 *NCIS: Los Angeles* (R) (S) 5.00 *Highway Patrol* (R) (S) 5.30 *Highway Patrol* (R) (S).

12.00 *Banshee* (R) (S) 1.00 *Game Of Thrones* (R) (S) 2.00 *All Her Fault* (S) 3.00 *Game Of Thrones* (R) (S) 4.10 *Urban Secrets* (R) (S) 5.05 *Urban Secrets* (R) (S).

## Radio

### BBC Radio 1

6.58am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast With Greg James 10.30 Newsbeat 10.33 Rickie, Melvin And Charlie 12noon Radio 1's Live Lounge 12.45 Newsbeat 1.00 Matt And Mollie 3.00 Radio 1 Pop Anthems With Matt And Mollie 3.30 Newsbeat 3.33 Going Home With Katie And Emil 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show With Sian Eleri 8.00 Radio 1's Rave-Up With Arielle Free 10.00 BBC Introducing On Radio 1 Dance With Jaguar 11.00 The Residency On Radio 1 Dance 1am Radio 1 Dance Party Starters 2.00 Radio 1 Anthems 4.00 Radio 1's Workout Anthems 5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Jack And Ash

### BBC Radio 1Xtra

6.32am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 1Xtra Breakfast With Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 Seani B 10.30 Seani B 11.00 1Xtra's Throwback Party 12midn't Throwback Thursday 1.00 1Xtra's Rap List 3.00 1Xtra Salutes. 4.00 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 4.30 Throwback Thursday 5.30 1Xtra's Throwback Party

### BBC Radio 2

6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 Trevor Nelson 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whaley 9.00 The Country Show With Bob Harris 10.00 The Good Groove With Melvin Odoom 12midn't OJ Borg 3.00 Alternative Sounds Of The 90s With Dermot O'Leary 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

### BBC Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Michael Haydn 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape. Featuring Kerensa Briggs' meditation on redemption. 7.30 Radio 3 In Concert. The BBC Now performs Nielsen's 4th Symphony. 9.45 The Essay: Empty Spaces. Writer Zakiya McKenzie travels to Jersey's Les Landes plateau. 10.00 Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents an adventurous soundtrack for late-night listening. 11.30 Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz. 12.30am Through The Night

### BBC Radio 4

6am Today 9.00 In Our Time 9.45 Strong Message Here 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 This Cultural Life 11.45 Intimate Histories 12noon News 12.04 The Bottom Line 12.30 Sliced Bread 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At

One 1.45 Forgiveness: Stories From The Frontline 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: In Moderation 3.00 Ramblings 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal 3.30 Feedback 4.00 The Briefing Room 4.30 BBC Inside Science 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Call Jonathan Pie 7.00 The Archers. David is forced to intervene. 7.15 Front Row. Arts programme. 8.00 When It Hits The Fan. The world of crisis management. 8.15 The Media Show. The latest news from the fast-changing media world. 9.00 Loose Ends. Clive Anderson is joined by guests including Danny Robins. 9.45 Strong Message Here. Armando Iannucci explores political language. 10.00 The World Tonight. News round-up, with Jane Hill. 10.45 Book At Bedtime: O Now 11.00 V. By Tony Harrison. The British radio debut of the controversial poem read by Tony Harrison. 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 Intimate Histories 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.00 News Summary 5.04 The Briefing Room 5.32 Weather 5.34 Shipping Forecast 5.43 Prayer For The Day 5.45 Farming Today

### BBC Radio 4 Extra

6am The System 6.30 The Day Of The Triffids 7.00 A Whole New Ball Game 7.30 I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again 8.00 Simon Evans Goes To Market 8.30 The Last Human Cannonball 8.45 The Book Of Strange New Things 9.00 Please Use Other Door 9.30 The Five Faces Of Leonardo 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Great Lives 10.30 Passing Dreams 11.00 The System 11.30 The Day Of The Triffids 12noon A Whole New Ball Game 12.30 I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again 1.00 Simon Evans Goes To Market 1.30 The Last Human Cannonball 1.45 The Book Of Strange New Things 2.00 Counterpoint 2.30 HR 3.00 The Magus 4.00 Great Lives 4.30 Passing Dreams

### Pick of the day



**Radio 3 In Concert**  
7.30pm,  
BBC Radio 3

Gergely Madaras (above) conducts the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Carl Nielsen's Fourth Symphony, as well as a UK premiere of Ester Mägi's *Bukoolika*.

5.00 *The System* 5.30 *The Day Of The Triffids* 6.00 *A Whole New Ball Game* 6.30 *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* 7.00 *Simon Evans Goes To Market* 7.30 *The Last Human Cannonball* 7.45 *The Book Of Strange New Things* 8.00 *Counterpoint* 8.30 *HR* 9.00 *The Magus* 10.00 *Comedy Club: Call Jonathan Pie* 10.30 *Comedy Club: Alex Edelman's Peer Group* 11.00 *Comedy Club: Date Night* 11.30 *Comedy Club: Hair In The Gate* 12midn't *Great Lives* 12.30 *Passing Dreams* 1.00 *The System* 1.30 *The Day Of The Triffids* 2.00 *A Whole New Ball Game* 2.30 *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* 3.00 *Simon Evans Goes To Market* 3.30 *The Last Human Cannonball* 3.45 *The Book Of Strange New Things* 4.00 *Counterpoint* 4.30 *HR* 5.00 *The Magus*

### BBC 5 Live

6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Adrian Chiles 2pm Matt Chorley 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 5 Live Sport 9.00 5 Live Sport: The Euro League Podcast 10.00 Tony Livesey 1am Laura McGhie 5.00 Wake Up To Money

### BBC 6 Music

7am Nick Grimshaw 10.00 Lauren Laverne 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Huw Stephens 6.00 Huw Stephens' Roundtable 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Jacob Alon 12midn't New Music Fix 1.00 New Album Fix 2.00 6 Music's Artists of the Year Special: Locked in Room 4.45 3.00 6 Music's 90s Forever 5.00 The Remix With Chris Hawkins 5.30 Chris Hawkins

### Classic FM

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Dan Walker 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1pm Tim Lihoreau 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Jonathan Ray 4.00 Early Breakfast

### Absolute Radio

6am Dave Berry 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Ben Burrell 4.00 Bush And Richie 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Jay Lawrence 1am Dan Noble

### Heart

6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Zoe Hardman 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Ben Atkinson 1am Guy Howard 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

### TalkSPORT

6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Baker 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 The Sports Bar 1am Extra Time With Paul Ross 5.00 Early Sports Breakfast

# Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



## AUSTRALIA

### Reddit added to youth ban list

Australia has added message board Reddit and livestreaming service Kick to its list of social media platforms that must ban children younger than 16 from holding accounts.

The platforms join Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X and YouTube in facing a world-first legal obligation to shut the accounts of younger Australian children from 10 December, communications minister Anika Wells said.

Platforms could be punished with a fine of up to AU\$50m (£24.9m). AP

## KOSOVO

### President backs speaker for PM

Kosovo's President, Vjosa Osmani, has nominated former parliamentary speaker Glauk Konjufca as the next prime minister to avert a snap election, after months of deadlock.

Konjufca has 15 days to present a government for approval by parliament, which last month rejected the candidacy of Albin Kurti, a leftist and Albanian nationalist who has been caretaker prime minister since an inconclusive election last February.

Opposition leaders said after rejecting Kurti's candidacy on 26 October they would also reject Konjufca, who is an ally and aide to Kurti, and called for a snap election. REUTERS

## TURKEY

### Erdogan hails a 'new phase' to end violence

By Ece Toksabay  
IN ANKARA

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Turkey has entered a "new phase" in efforts to end Kurdish militant violence and signalled that he

was open to the idea of Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), addressing lawmakers.

Erdogan said he held "very constructive" talks with the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party - which had backed the idea of Ocalan addressing a commission on PKK disarmament.

"It appears we have reached a new crossroads on the path toward a Turkey free of terrorism," Erdogan said. REUTERS

## Postcard From... Lucerne

**Yodel-ay-hee...** In the area where famed yodelling calls have for centuries echoed through the Alps, Switzerland's government is now looking for a shout-out from UN cultural agency Unesco to include the tradition on its list of intangible cultural heritage.

A decision is expected by the end of the year.

Modern-day promoters say that the yodel is far more than the mountain cries of yesteryear by



falsetto-bellowing male herders in suspenders.

It's now a popular form of singing. Over the past century, yodelling clubs sprouted up, broadening its appeal and finding its way deeper into the musical lexicon internationally in classical, jazz and folk.

"For me, actually, in Switzerland we have four languages, but I think really we have five.

"The fifth is the yodel," said Nadja Räss (*inset*), a professor at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art,

which teaches yodelling. Swiss yodelling is distinctive because of its vocal technique, she said. AP

Jamey Keaten

## CHINA

# Astronauts are delayed after hitting 'space junk'

By Eduardo Baptista  
IN BEIJING

China's Shenzhou-20 crewed spacecraft has delayed its return mission to Earth after the vessel was possibly hit by tiny bits of space debris, an unusual situation that could disrupt the operation of the country's space station Tiangong.

An impact analysis and risk assessment were under way, the China Manned Space Agency said, without providing any new schedule for the return mission, which was set to land in northern China yesterday.

The delay highlights the danger to space travel posed by increasing



Shenzhou-21, pictured blasting off, is also docked at Tiangong space station

amounts of space debris. The debris, also called space junk, consists of discarded launch vehicles or parts of a vessel that float around in space

hundreds of miles above the Earth, risking collisions with countries' active assets.

The Shenzhou-19 crew's return mission was delayed due to weather conditions at the landing site. But this is the first time a return mission has been delayed by space debris.

The agency did not say whether Shenzhou-20 was hit by debris mid-flight or while it was still aboard Tiangong, where the Shenzhou-21 is also docked after arriving last week.

The Shenzhou programme takes Chinese astronauts to and from Tiangong where they perform tasks, including repairing damage caused by debris impact. REUTERS



## Mural celebrates 1979 crisis

A huge mural marking the 46th anniversary of the US embassy takeover during the Iranian hostage crisis hangs in Tehran's Revolution Square yesterday. It shows various heads of state inside the Statue of Liberty.

FATEMEH BAHRAMI/  
ANADOLU/GETTY

## GERMANY

# Muslim group is banned for violating human rights

By Kirsten Grieshaber  
IN BERLIN

Germany has banned a Muslim group, accusing it of violating human rights and the country's democratic values, and conducted raids against two other groups.

The Interior Ministry said Muslim Interaktiv represented "a threat

to the country's constitutional order by promoting antisemitism and discrimination against women and sexual minorities, and saying Islamic law should take precedence over German law".

German minister Alexander Dobrindt added: "We will respond with the full force of the law to anyone who aggressively calls for a caliphate

on our streets, incites hatred against the state of Israel and Jews in an intolerable manner, and despises the rights of women and minorities."

The ministry said the group "is particularly opposed to gender equality and freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity".

It said it would investigate Generation Islam and Reality Islam. AP

## BOSNIA

### Fire at retirement home kills 11

The death toll from a fire at a retirement home in Tuzla in northern Bosnia has risen to 11, with 30 injured.

The blaze engulfed the seventh floor of the old nine-storey building on Tuesday evening, sending flames and smoke pouring out of the top floors. The cause was not immediately clear.

Many of the dead were disabled and some of the injured were in critical condition. REUTERS

## IRAN

### French spying suspects freed

Two French citizens have been freed because of "Islamic clemency" and are still in Iran, the foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi, has told state media.

The French President, Emmanuel Macron, said on Tuesday that Tehran had released Cecile Kohler and her partner Jacques Paris, who had been detained in Iran for more than three years after being convicted of spying.

The two were at the French embassy in Iran, Araqchi said. REUTERS

## PHILIPPINES

### Typhoon leaves at least 66 dead

Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 66 people dead with 26 others missing in the central Philippines, in a hard-hit province still recovering from a deadly earthquake.

Among the dead were six people who were en route to the stricken area to provide humanitarian aid when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the southern province of Agusan del Sur on Tuesday. AP

## MIDDLE EAST

## US proposes transitional governance body for Gaza

By Michelle Nichols

The United States has drafted a UN resolution that approves a two-year mandate for a Gaza transitional governance body and an international stabilisation force.

The draft was shared with some countries this week, but has not yet been formally circulated to the 15-member Security Council for negotiations, diplomats said.

A State Department spokesperson said discussions with UN Security Council members and other partners on how to implement President Donald Trump's Gaza plan were ongoing and declined to comment on "allegedly leaked documents".

The two-page text would authorise a so-called Board of Peace transitional governance administration to establish a temporary International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Gaza



**Palestinians gather to receive food from a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis**  
HASEEB ALWAZEER/REUTERS

that could "use all necessary measures" to carry out its mandate.

The ISF would be authorised to protect civilians and humanitarian aid operations, work to secure border areas with Israel, Egypt and a "newly trained and vetted" Palestinian police force, which the ISF will be responsible for developing and supporting.

The ISF would stabilise security in Gaza, "including through the demilitarisation of non-state armed groups and the permanent decommissioning of weapons, as necessary".

Officials at Gaza's largest functioning hospital said yesterday that the bodies of 15 more Palestinians were returned from Israel, as exchanges outlined in last month's fragile ceasefire went ahead despite allegations of violations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has transported 285 bodies held in Israeli custody to Gaza since the deal was brokered, though health officials in Gaza have said identifying the remains was complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits.

Israel has returned 15 bodies each time the remains of an Israeli hostage are sent from Gaza. REUTERS

## FRANCE

## Two seriously injured after driver rams into pedestrians on island

By Joe Duggan  
SENIOR REPORTER

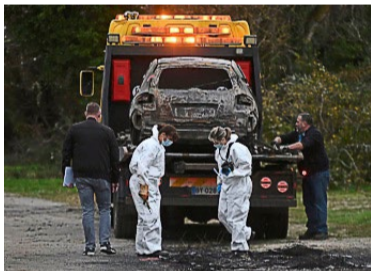
Five people were injured when a driver ploughed into pedestrians and cyclists on the French holiday island of Oléron in western France.

Two people were critically hurt after the Honda Civic rammed into people at around 8.40am on a road between the towns of Dolus-d'Oléron and Saint-Pierre-d'Oléron.

A 22-year-old woman suffered multiple traumas, a 69-year-old cyclist was also seriously hurt and three people were left with minor injuries.

Arnaud Laraize, the public prosecutor La Rochelle, the closest city to the island, said the unarmed 35-year-old male suspect shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he was arrested.

However, the interior minister, Laurent Nuñez, said the case was



**Forensics officers remove a burnt-out car in Île d'Oléron yesterday**

not being treated as a terror attack. The man was not known to intelligence services, a source close to the investigation told French news television channel BFMTV.

*Le Parisien* newspaper said investigators were looking into the possibility that the man might be mentally disturbed.

The mayor of Dolus-d'Oléron,

Thibault Brechkoff, told the *Sud Ouest* newspaper that the man had "resisted arrest" and was Tasered.

One victim suffered multiple fractures and a head injury and was airlifted to the hospital in Poitiers.

Nuñez said an investigation had been launched into the incident.

"This morning, starting at 8:40, an individual driving his vehicle went on a journey during which he deliberately hit several people who were in his path, either on bicycles or on foot," he said.

"Five people were hit during his journey, which lasted about 35 minutes."

Gas canisters were reportedly found in the back of the suspect's car after he tried to set fire to it, according to local media reports.

A witness, Isabelle Romain, said she saw "a woman lying on her stomach who was no longer moving".

She told BFMTV: "She was in an unnatural position. I thought she was dead."

The suspect is reportedly a French national who lived on Île d'Oléron and was known for "his erratic behaviour, fuelled by alcohol and drugs", according to Christophe Sueur, the mayor of Saint-Pierre d'Oléron.

He said: "When I saw the vehicle with its front completely torn off, it looked like he intended to hit as many people as possible."

"I think he was fully aware of what he was doing."

Bomb disposal teams were deployed around the suspect's vehicle.

Île d'Oléron is France's second-largest island after Corsica and is connected to the mainland by a road bridge.

## UNITED STATES



**Buildings beyond the runway in Louisville were also on fire**

## Kentucky plane crash death toll rises to nine

By David Shepardson

The death toll from the crash of a UPS cargo plane that erupted into a fireball moments after take-off in the US state of Kentucky rose to nine yesterday.

The 34-year-old MD-11 cargo aircraft took off from the international airport in Louisville on Tuesday before catching fire at 5.13pm and then crashing.

Several buildings in an industrial area beyond the runway were on fire after the crash, with black smoke seen rising into the evening sky.

The triple-engine plane was fuelled for a flight to Honolulu in Hawaii. It had a crew of three, UPS said, but none survived.

The Mayor of Louisville, Craig Greenberg, said nine dead people had been found at the scene.

The Kentucky Governor, Andy Beshear, said on social media it was possible there would be more fatalities. Officials said 11 victims had been taken to hospitals on Tuesday.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were on site to begin the process of finding out what went wrong. REUTERS

## IRAN

## Tehran 'needs to comply with nuclear inspections'

By Rishabh Jaiswal

Iran must "seriously improve" cooperation with UN nuclear inspectors to avoid heightening tensions with the West, said the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Rafael Grossi said that, while the IAEA had carried out about a dozen inspections in Iran since hostilities with Israel in June, it had not been

given access to nuclear facilities such as Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan, which were bombed by the United States.

Grossi said movement had been detected near Iran's uranium stockpile but that it did "not imply that there is activity on enrichment".

Iranian officials have blamed the IAEA for providing a justification for Israel's bombing which

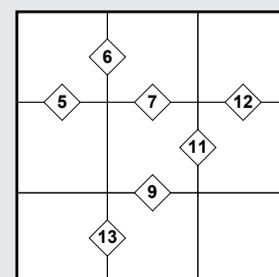
began the day after the IAEA board voted to declare Iran in violation of obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Grossi told the *Financial Times* the country still needed to comply.

"You cannot say, 'I remain within the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty', and not comply with obligations," Grossi added about the understanding. REUTERS

## One-minute Wijuko

**How to play** Place 1 - 9 once in the grid, obeying the sums between pairs of squares



Solution: page 51

## ENERGY

# I regret my Victorian townhouse – it is an igloo

Moving into a larger property seemed perfect – until October arrived. By **Eilidh Dorgan**

Last September, when my husband and I left Surrey, we had stars in our eyes. We'd spent years combing through towns and villages across South East England to find somewhere new to live that had all our requirements: good schools, old houses, and easy access to London – but at a fraction of the price.

Eventually, we found a 2,200 square foot Victorian townhouse in Bedford (about 50 miles or 40 minutes on a train to the capital) that didn't need work, and only cost marginally more than the house we were in at the time. It gave us extra breathing space for our family to grow, for us to work, and for people to stay. It was perfect! That was, until October arrived.

Our previous home was a 1,300 square foot, three-bedroom chalet – my husband's grandmother's house – that was in dire need of a facelift. The textured wallpaper was peeling from the walls, the bathroom hadn't been touched since former prime minister Margaret Thatcher was in office, and the (originally white) vinyl floor tiles had become a permanent shade of sludge. The house needed rewiring, replumbing, pretty much re-everything and the cost to overhaul would have been about £250,000 – around half the house's value.

We didn't have that money, and even if we did win the lottery or rob a bank to gain the necessary funds, we still would have had the gargantuan inconvenience of moving out while the work took place (with two small children in tow), then moving back in. It seemed, in short, expensive and hellish. So we looked to start afresh instead.

When we saw our current house, we fell in love. Crammed with original details, it had been lovingly restored by its previous owners and was full of history and charm. It's a four-bedroom house with additional office space, a large attic room for guests, and a long, expansive kitchen. The kind of house that we could stay in for years to come – a place where our children could grow and have their own personal space.

We made an offer and moved in three months later, in mid-September.

When we considered buying our new home – with all its much-desired space – I hadn't thought about the heating bills in the colder months. (Well, my husband had. His go-to phrase throughout the house-shopping experience had been "this will be expensive to heat", but I just thought this was just a phrase that middle-aged men liked to say.)

The price to stay cosy in our old house was £180 per month on energy bills due to its thick cavity walls, double-glazed windows, and large front porch. I'd play with the heating all the time, dialling it up at the slightest perceived chill; I wore T-shirts year-round, and barely felt a chill in January. But soon, I was to learn the fresh hell of a cold winter.

We had a few good days in our new home before it started feeling



chilly – at first, I put it down to the fact that we hadn't mastered the smart meter yet. My sister stopped by to see the house, and all I could say throughout her visit was, "I swear it won't be this cold normally" on repeat like a skipping record. But when we eventually figured out the smart meter, it didn't end the chill. My husband explained that he'd only put it on for a few hours a day. "It's expensive," he said, "trust me".

Now that I was at home and absolutely freezing, he had my

**Ultimately we've found that our new home is habitable without heating for about half the year**



**The bill for gas and electricity goes to £400 a month in the summer**

attention – apparently, he'd budgeted for £600 per month for heating and that, he estimated, equated to about three hours of heating per day in our uninsulated Victorian abode. If we increased the heating costs, we'd have to cut down on spending elsewhere in our lives, like holidays or family days out (which I didn't want to do). Suddenly, I began to understand the charm of a new-build.

As winter drew in, we started living in our kitchen – the only part of the house with double glazing. Compared with the frosty tundra of our hallway, it was a warm summer's day in there. In an attempt to fend off the freeze, we kept our curtains drawn like neighbourhood hermits, and I began to adapt to life in a frigid home by wearing dressing gowns ("indoor coats", as I like to think of them) throughout the day.

While my husband goes into the office three days a week, I work from home, and so I found myself locked away in the kitchen in my fleeced indoor coat, only venturing out to the rest of the igloo when necessary. Whenever packages were dropped off, or the doorbell rang, I'd often forget to remove my dressing gown, until one day I realised that I must have looked either permanently sick or slightly unbalanced to everyone I greeted.

My husband and I looked into ways to improve our situation –

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Working from home in the winter means wrapping up well against the chill

getting a draught excluder for all the doors was one idea, another was buying an electric heater. But when we looked into ordering stand-alone heaters, the majority of brands would have added a cost of 50p per hour, which would equate to about £150 on our electricity bill if we ran a few for more than four hours a day, which didn't feel like much of a money save on the heating itself.

Instead, we resigned ourselves to life in our frosty castle for the winter and set up shop in the kitchen for four months. When summer rolled around, we breathed a sigh of relief as the stalactites started melting in our living room. On the plus side, we never had to worry about steamy nights of sweaty sleep – as we did in our previous well-insulated chalet – thanks to our new house's inability to retain heat.

Ultimately, we've found that our new home is habitable without heating for about half the year, and during these more comfortable months we continue to pay £400 for gas and electricity in order to build up credit to buffer the blow of heftier winter bills.

A year on from our first winter here and as Christmas decorations start filling the shelves, we're trying to pre-empt our imminent freeze. We've bought a thermal curtain for the front door, and ordered a heater for my two-year-old son's room

– the room I most consistently saw my own breath in. While last winter I wrapped my son up in pyjamas, I found that it provided little solace in the dead of night when I'd wake up panicking that he was overheating. A heater, therefore, seemed far more sensible than millions of layers (and midnight panics).

What have I learned about our house purchase? It goes without saying that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. And of course there's no way that we were going to move into a large, well-priced house in a good area, on a tree-lined street, without there being some hitch – whether it be poltergeists, rats, or freezing winters.

While I can't say that it's ideal to spend half the year in a highly flammable pink dressing gown holed up in our kitchen, I've adjusted to it.

Overall, the house has brought us as much joy as we'd hoped it would – the children love running around it, we're able to comfortably accommodate friends and family, and we can easily host birthday parties and dinners without overflowing or squeezing.

Looking back, perhaps I should have listened to my husband when he repeatedly brought up heating costs, but I'm a woman of aesthetics who just thought: "How much can heating really be?" A lot, it turns out. An absolute fortune.

## FAMILIES

# My son used to idolise me - now he calls me boring

A Christmas advert is reminding fathers how time spent with their children is priceless. By **Sam Delaney**

The John Lewis Christmas ad is out. This year, a sullen teen buys his dad (suburban, slightly rugged, bored shitless on Christmas morning) a vinyl copy of Alison Limerick's classic house track "Where Love Lives". Dad sticks it straight on the turntable and is immediately transported back to a 90s dancefloor, years before the tedious obligations of work, marriage, parenthood and tax returns sucked all the joy out of his existence. He remembers what it was like to feel happy.

Then his son appears to him on the dancefloor – and then the son is no longer a teen but a small child. Dad is no longer rushing his tits off. He is embracing his infant son and realising that, in a sense, having kids is almost as fun as getting bang on it at Ministry. I think that's what the message is, anyway.

While I'm not entirely buying John Lewis's sentimental dross, I was moved somewhat by the depiction of a father seeking connection with his adolescent son. It's a tricky business that I am very familiar with.

I am privileged to spend a huge amount of time with my 13-year-old son, Lenny. Because of his maturity, and my lack of it, we have always shared the same passions and interests: predominantly football, music, exercise and sitting around talking rubbish.

When he was a little lad, he used to look at me like a hero and a role model. I'm not saying I necessarily deserved or earned that status. He was young, naive, dependent on me for food and just didn't know any better. I used to love the way he got excited about being in my company. There is an egotistical aspect to fatherhood that dads don't often admit. I liked being looked up to.

Then, probably around the time he turned 11, the dynamic started to shift. I noticed that Lenny didn't always agree with me on everything any more. It started with him announcing that he didn't particularly like Prince's music. I was dumbfounded. Next, he started questioning my opinions on West Ham's team selections and tactical approaches. Before I knew it, he was challenging my behaviour, opinions and tastes on a daily basis. The cheek of it!

I initially took this to be his first tentative foray into teenage rebellion. But I came to realise that it was more than just wanton antagonism: he was developing a worldview independent of mine. In short, I was no longer a god to him. This was upsetting.

When your little boy starts sprouting bumfluff and developing his own convictions, a schism can emerge between you. It gets wider when he starts actively ridiculing



Sam Delaney with his son, Lenny, 13, who he says he now looks up to

you for the amusement of himself and others. My son issued me with the cruel nickname "Boring John" a few years ago, and it has stuck.

He teases me for being dull, for being lazy, for being grumpy and for being bald. While this entertains everyone else in the family (not least my wife and 18-year-old daughter), it can sometimes feel bruising to me. What happened to that little lad who used to wait excitedly at his bedroom window every night for me to get home from work?

Lenny is funny, sharp and hugely opinionated on everything from politics to tea-making (he is a militant milk-in-first person. I sometimes worry he might have been radicalised by a toxic online tea zealot). We bicker about stuff, large and small, every day.

I can see why father-son relationships might drift under this sort of strain. While my son's relentless contrariness and merciless lampooning can get right on my wick (almost, but not quite, making me want to take ecstasy for the first time in more than a decade just for some sort of brief respite), I am glad he has the courage and wit to see my flaws, point them out, but

love me anyway. Through it all, we have remained mates.

Thing is, it doesn't just happen: I've had to let go of my ego and accept that, as he grows older, my son is less like a mindless acolyte and more like a peer (albeit one who still expects me to cook him breakfast and give him lifts everywhere).

I get so much from spending time with him: we train at the gym together, go running in the park, play video games and attend gigs too. He introduces me to new things all the time: he has a fascinating knowledge of sports, geography and history that is much deeper than mine. I can stand the fact that he no longer takes me seriously. Being in his company is enriching.

We still go to every West Ham home games together, we still disagree on what's best for the team, but, increasingly, I begrudgingly accept that he is just as often right as I am. In fact, I've started to realise that it's me who often looks up to him these days.

It's a great feeling to admire your own son and understand that, in many ways, he has become the better man. But he remains 100 per cent wrong about Prince.

Sam Delaney is the author of 'Stop Sh\*tting Yourself - 15 Life Lessons That Might Help You Calm the F\*ck Down' (Little, Brown, £22)

Before I knew it, he was challenging my behaviour, opinions and tastes daily - the cheek of it!



This year's John Lewis ad focuses on a father-son relationship JOHN LEWIS/PA



## Culture

### Gareth Southgate

How the former England football manager made the nation proud again

►► Page 38



## Review

### Othello

David Harewood's Theatre Royal production is sure to thrill Shakespeare purists

►► Page 41



Rebecca de Saintonge was 49 when her husband Jack was diagnosed with dementia. That evening, after the devastating neurology appointment, Jack went to bed, and Rebecca stood outside the bedroom door. "I remember opening my mouth and howling like a wolf, but with no sound," she says. "I felt as though I'd been blown up inside, and only my skin was holding me together. But then my reaction was, 'OK, we'll do this together, and I'm just going to be with him every step of the way.'"

Jack had Lewy bodies, an incurable degenerative brain disease, with a lifespan of five to eight years post-diagnosis. It is the second most common form of dementia, yet relatively little is known about it.

Rebecca had been married to 62-year-old Jack, an Anglican clergyman, for six years before he became ill. "Our marriage was extremely close," she says. "I didn't have to say anything for him to understand what I was thinking. He was so alive and electric, to be near him was honestly like standing next to a live wire. My grief for him, for his suffering, the gracious way in which he suffered, never complaining – it tore my heart out."

The condition – the same one that killed the actor Robin Williams – leaves patients drifting in and out of symptoms. "Jack would seem perfectly normal for three or four months," says Rebecca, "and then become almost comatose for a day, or three weeks, or three months, and then seem normal once again. It was like a nightmare."

As Jack's life diminished, so did Rebecca's. She had to give up her journalism job, she could rarely leave the house, she felt she couldn't relate to some of her friends and neighbours any more. She was with him all day, every day.

Then something happened which Rebecca had never conceived of. She met a man called Nick\* while organising a local community event, and they fell in love.

"This took me completely by surprise, and horrified me," she says. "Infidelity was something I abhorred. My father had been unfaithful, and I lived with the repercussions of that. Also my husband was a minister, so people would have been shocked out of their skulls. But I was in such a terrible state after eight years of caring for Jack.

"When I met Nick, I sat down and I wrote out the paradoxes of my situation: my husband has given me so much life, but now he is taking it. I was a wife, but I was no longer a wife, not really. My pity for my husband was so terrible and intense. I had to find a way not to care so much, because otherwise I just would not survive."

Rebecca, who lives in East Sussex, runs a small book-making business, and is the author of *One Yellow Door: A Memoir of Love and Loss, Faith, and Infidelity*, feels that to call her time with Nick an affair makes it sound "grubby". She instead thought of it as "a parallel relationship" that she consciously decided to enter into. She did sometimes feel "desperately guilty", and told only three people. Was this because she was afraid of what they'd say?

"I didn't want to burden people with the potential discomfort of it all, but I never felt shame. For



eight years, I had given my husband absolutely everything.

"I'd physically stayed with him, I'd try to walk with him every mile, and now I couldn't any more, and I needed someone to talk to, to have a conversation with, now that Jack could barely talk."

In her two years of seeing Nick, she met him only around 20 times because she was mostly with Jack, while Nick had a severely disabled child who he needed to be with a lot. The relationship didn't last, but his presence in her life had a profound impact on her.

"I had just started a degree at

**Is it cheating if your spouse no longer recognises you? These are ethical complexities**

Birkbeck in the evenings, and I'd get a house sitter for my husband, and sometimes Nick would travel up on the train to be with me, and then travel back, and that would be our meeting. It wasn't just having wild sex on the side, it was a support, and his voice on the phone saying, 'You can absolutely do this.'

"I knew I wanted to look after Jack the very best I could, until the end of his days, but I realised I had needs. When I told an elderly friend of mine, I thought he'd be shocked, but he said, 'Rebecca, everyone needs to be held.'"


There might be caregiving spouses who will balk at this idea, believing that fidelity has no grey areas, that marriage is sacred in the traditional sense. But is it cheating if your spouse no longer recognises you? People will have very different answers to this. Yet, what's clear is

that these ethical complexities in marriages are only going to become more pertinent in a society where – primarily because people are living longer – dementia is on the rise, with one in 11 people over the age of 65 having a form of the disease.


The effect this has on marriages is momentous, as there are 670,000 informal caregivers of people with dementia in the UK, according to the journal *BCM Geriatrics*.

Compared with their peers of similar age, caregivers of people with dementia may, in the most difficult cases, have poorer physical and mental health, often experiencing social isolation and loneliness. They tend to, understandably, put the needs of their spouse well above their own. Sometimes, though, they find a surprising amount of hope in someone new.

This is something that Jennifer



# I had a lover when my husband had dementia – it made me a better wife



Caregiving partners often experience social isolation and loneliness, and start looking for companionship outside of a relationship. **Kasia Delgado** finds out what life is like for some of these people



The late actor Robin Williams was diagnosed with Lewy bodies WIREIMAGE

Edgecombe, a dementia consultant who supports people living with complex dementia, has seen in her work and in her PhD research into relationships in dementia care.

“[I found] carers wanted to start living again,” she says, “while also providing care for their spouse who wasn’t really able to reciprocate in the way they needed as a husband or wife.”

“People described the change in how they identified their existing marriage – the relationship had shifted from husband and wife to a caregiver and recipient.”

“Looking for companionship outside of their marital vows is a unique situation because they don’t feel married any more, but continue to provide care because of a shared history and the love and obligation of 30-plus years together.”

Jennifer found there is a tendency

**Rebecca de Saintonge says she thought of her affair as ‘a parallel relationship’ and not a grubby relationship** TERI PENGILLEY

to hide these new relationships, especially from adult children who are unaccepting of new relationships while their other parent is still alive.

“This is obviously a really difficult time for the whole family,” she continues, “but it’s the spouse taking on that living grief that is so unique to dementia care compared to other types of caregiving, due to the cognitive changes and gradual decline.” She also found there is often fear of judgement from friends.

Sarah\*, who wanted to remain anonymous for the sake of her children, says she was convinced she’d remain faithful throughout her husband’s Alzheimer’s, but is now hoping to find a new partner.

“I want someone with whom I can have a conversation, something more than the 24th time of explaining the same thing. And, yes, I want sex too,” she says. “I am only 49, and I’m bringing up two children, and caring for a husband who is more like a child each day. This isn’t how I imagined life to go, and I don’t want to forgo intimacy for the next however many years that my husband continues to decline.”

“I need something for myself, but I am so nervous of what people might think, that they might be angry with me, or think I am a bad wife betraying my husband while he’s still alive.”

For Thomas, a 79-year-old who retired 12 years ago from working in the head office of a UK supermarket, says the experience of loving two people at once has given him back some happiness. His wife of 40 years was recently moved into a long-term care facility in London, where the couple brought up their children, and he visits her every day for at least two hours.

“She sometimes recognises me, but often not,” he says, “and we haven’t had a physical relationship in five years. I have been extremely lonely. I recently reconnected with a woman who was widowed last year, and it was clear we understood each other, having both lost our long, happy marriages. When I hugged her, she said, ‘This is what I miss – being held.’”

They then began spending time together, going for walks, taking their dogs out and talking about their grandchildren. “My close friends and children support me, and I don’t feel I am cheating – except in the strictest, more puritanical sense,” says Thomas. “My wife doesn’t know what’s happening, and I am there for her whenever I can be. I think I am more helpful to everyone, including my wife, if I am able to find happiness, instead of sitting around lonely. I have been faithful for four decades.”

Paul Edwards, chief nursing officer at Dementia UK, says when the previous scaffolding of the relationship changes so dramatically, carers need to speak to someone who is experiencing the same thing as them.

“Sometimes, people go on to develop new relationships, and it’s very common, because without some form of emotional support [this may be friendship, or a support group, or any helpful human contact], caring can be so difficult. It’s a continual process of adaptation, and whatever plans you previously made may not



## FAST FACTS KEY NUMBERS

Around one million people in the UK are living with dementia, and this is projected to rise to 1.4 million in 2040.

It is estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia in their lifetime.

Half of carers for a relative with dementia are employed and it’s thought that 66,000 people have already cut their working hours to care for a family member [NHS England]

62 per cent of carers have not had an assessment of their needs, and less than a third of dementia carers feel they have the support they need [DementiaCarers.org.uk]

According to a 2024 survey by the charity DementiaCarers.org.uk, 85 per cent of carers feel they’ve reached crisis point.

come to fruition. So there’s often grief and loss within that,” he says. “People can try and live their best lives for as long as possible and that’s the ultimate goal, but most dementias are progressive and life-limiting, so you’re going to be with this for the rest of that person’s life.”

“What makes a difference is getting the right support, and being listened to. We know that if a carer falls down and can’t cope, that’s bad for the person living with dementia too.”

Rebecca recently turned 80 and has no regrets about having a lover while Jack was dying.

“I have no doubt in my mind that that relationship not only saved me, but saved my marriage, in the sense that it gave me the strength to carry on caring for Jack until the end. I really was in a place where I could not go on,” she says.

“One of the hardest things about it was that I couldn’t cry in front of my husband. He knew me so well, and I didn’t ever want him to know the cost of this. When he could still speak, I asked him, ‘What are you most worried about?’, thinking he’d say, ‘That I’m losing my mind.’ Instead he said, ‘That this illness will destroy you.’ At the memory of this, Rebecca becomes emotional.

“It’s 30 years ago, but it’s still very painful. I’ve got a happy life now, though, and I’m a fortunate woman. Jack died in 1996, and I married a musician six years later, and we have a lovely marriage. He’s wonderful because he knows that without that relationship with Nick, I probably wouldn’t be here today.”

\* Names have been changed

# Culture



**What we're really... watching**



**Mortimer and Whitehouse: Gone Fishing**  
BBC iPlayer

If any other programme had stayed the same for eight series, I'd have lost interest years ago. But the repetitive beats of friendship, bucolic British countryside and Bob Mortimer losing his footing are exactly what makes *Gone Fishing* a joy to return to again and again.

This latest series sees the pair fish for tench in Norfolk, wild rainbow trout in the Monsal Valley and Barbel in Hay-on-Wye.

But it's not the fish I watch for, it's Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse bantering and reminiscing the only way old friends can. Oh, and their canine companion Ted and his underbite.

Emily Baker

**G**areth Southgate was not like other England managers. His eight-year tenure began in 2016 and, although no trophies were won, in taking England to two Euros finals ("one moment from immortality," he sighs), a fourth place slot at one World Cup and a quarter-final at another, he outperformed his predecessors. Maybe just as importantly, he was at the vanguard of a new, more compassionate culture in English football.

Southgate saw a bigger picture. He overturned perceptions of what an England manager could be. "It's not 'did we win?' but 'how did we go about our business?'" he writes in *Dear England: Lessons in Leadership*.

Nobody seems to have thought more deeply about what the job meant and how a football team and the values he attempted to inculcate – reduced toxicity, increased tolerance, without forsaking the will to win – could help shape the national mood.

Predictably, Southgate's memoir isn't a conventional football memoir. It's about attaining goals, rather than scoring them. Taking its title from the open letter he wrote before the 2021 Euros and the James Graham play it inspired (which, oddly, Southgate has refused to see; it's touring until March), *Dear England* is an impressionistic, roughly chronological affair.

Feelings, lessons and thought processes from his managerial career are linked to chapter-closing bullet points concerning leadership. "What kind of people become great lead-

**Fortitude in the face of adversity made Southgate a better manager and person**

ers?" asks Southgate. "What life experiences, skills and lessons do they learn along the way?"

*Dear England* does include anecdotes and revelations (Southgate was so hands on, he involved himself in the selection of England's medical staff), but they're slipped under the counter. Football minutiae mavens looking for a detailed mea culpa regarding the own goal he scored for Blackburn Rovers as an Aston Villa player in February 1999 must look elsewhere, but he does confront his penalty miss which cost England a place in the Euro 1996 final, although only in terms of a learning experience.

"I was inconsolable," he confesses, until teammate Stuart Pearce gave him the choice between being "permanently floored" or to "get back up and keep going". The decision: "the way that moment defined me was within my power to control. Even though people would shout out of vans as I walked down the street, I would build fortitude" So it proved. That fortitude in the face of adversity and ridicule made Southgate both a better manager and a better person.

Some of the leadership fare feels like an awkward marriage between a self-help screed and corporate HR speak, hence attempts to improve players' rest via "an information leaflet on sleep hygiene" and a surprise, phone-free, two-day Commandos assault course, where apparently the officers were "unanimous" in lauding future captain Harry Kane's leadership qualities: "I made a note."

But when Southgate widens the discussion, this middle-class son of



## How Southgate made England proud again

In his new book, the former manager reflects on turning round a team in the doldrums, fostering talent and sacking big names. By **John Aizlewood**



**Former England manager Gareth Southgate (main, and, inset below) ushered in an era of compassion within the England team that had previously been absent** BBC; GETTY

Barbara, a Hampshire dinner lady and Clive, an IBM plant manager, is onto something.

But even Southgate is not above settling scores, notably the widespread perception that he was too nice to be trophy-winningly successful. "Given I represented England more times as player and manager combined than anyone in the history of English football, I guess I wasn't too nice to make it," he sneers, uncharacteristically thin-skinned.

Southgate cites a bungled exit conversation with striker, friend and former teammate Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink as evidence of his early naivety as Middlesbrough's young boss: "I wasn't ready". But by the time he was explaining to England galacticos that they were no longer required, he was a master of the tricky conversation. None took the ending of their England career better than Wayne Rooney: "the humility and dignity Wayne showed me in that moment really stayed with me."

England were in disarray when Southgate took over. His predecessor Sam Allardyce had lasted just one game before being ousted by a tabloid sting. Before that, England had lost to Iceland under Roy Hodgson, while neither Steve McClaren nor Fabio Capello were of the required standard.

Having risen via England Under-21s, Southgate was steeped in the culture of the Football Association. As such, he wanted to change the system from within: evolution rather than revolution. For him, the so-called "bulldog spirit", exemplified by Terry Butcher and Paul Ince's blood-stained England performances of the 80s and 90s, was counter-productive: "hadn't players moved on a bit in this regard?"

Instead, he aspired to "take the weight out of the shirt... the sense that we somehow deserved to be winners", especially for young players, who often shrivelled on the



**Clockwise, from top, Southgate with Marc Guehi at Euro 2024; Stuart Pearce (Uefa 1996); and Wayne Rooney (2018)** REUTERS; GETTY

international stage. Even so, Southgate still needed those who bought into making "ourselves and our nation proud".

He fostered a sense of belonging (hence the gimmick of inflatable unicorns which enlivened the hitherto disliked water-based training sessions), while showing ruthlessness by jettisoning "high-risk" players, albeit without actually naming any here. And he cheerily admits to having favourites: "players who could handle the pressure of playing for England, who gave everything for the team, who fitted into the group and who helped us to win big matches."

He softened relationships with the press too, understanding that lack of access to players breeds antagonism.

Like those who came before him, Southgate's chief bugbear was over-expectation: "the fundamental problem wasn't with the team's under-performance, as with the scale of people's expectations". The talent pool is shallower than it seems: English clubs may be the world's best performing and best paying, but Southgate cites weeks where only 66 players eligible for England appear in the Premier League.

Those national team delusions have remained consistent since 1966. When Southgate declared he was aiming for the quarter-finals at Russia 2018 – an underestimate, it transpired – fans and his players were disappointed, but "I was acutely aware of setting us up for failure by encouraging unrealistic expectations".

Perceptions of patriotism have changed and while Southgate's love for his nation is firm but inclusive, he certainly won't be found attaching tatty flags to

lamp-posts in the early hours. Revealingly, if he has one regret about his tenure, it's bawling out Danny Rose for a needless late sending off in Montenegro, after not noticing Rose had suffered horrendous racial abuse during the game.

Southgate's style of leadership already has a sepia tinge. The Football Association's pragmatic (or short-sighted) new approach led his successor, Thomas Tuchel, to be appointed solely to win the 2026 World Cup, with no obligation to nurture the future. When England qualified for that tournament in October with two dead rubbers remaining, there was little celebration.

Unlike almost all his 15 permanent predecessors, who left managing England bitter or broken, Southgate will be remembered and revered for the hope he brought, but also for emerging seemingly unscathed from a job that "chews you up". "The prime lesson," he writes, "is the fine balance between doing everything you can to win and winning at all costs. The first is about excellence. The second risks sacrificing integrity."

He notes that few England managers have subsequently found comparable jobs, other than Bobby Robson's season at Barcelona, but Southgate is only 55. He says "never say never" regarding a return to management, but the longer he stays out of football, the more he's simply saying "never".

*Dear England* feels like the testament of a man who has been there and is sufficiently self-aware to understand it's probably unwise to go there again. You'd hope so, for his sake.



**'Dear England: Lessons in Leadership' by Gareth Southgate is published by Century, £25**

## Last night's television

EMILY BOOTLE



### Wind-swept mysteries keep crime-lovers coming back for more

» **Shetland** BBC One, 9pm ★★★★★

**O**h, **Shetland**, with your whistling winds, isolated crofts, chunky knitwear, industrial port-core and unrealistically high frequency of violent crime.

I've been glued to the stalwart Scot-noir, set in its titular far-northerly archipelago, for two years, having caught up on its early series (it's been on since 2013) in a binge during which I developed an intense fondness for its vaguely folkloric whodunnits, singular tree-free landscape and peculiar characters. Nobody is more comforted than I that it's back for a 10th series.

Douglas Henshall retired as the lonesome and charismatic detective inspector Jimmy Pérez (the original DI of Ann Cleeves's books, on which the first two series were based) in 2022, to the disappointment of many fans.

In his stead, Ashley Jensen's spiky, blunt DI Ruth Calder returns for the third time to lead Shetland's detectives to whichever bloody-handed islander might have wrought havoc this year.

Jensen has done a great job of making the role her own – slightly wretched love life and awkward communication style included.

Right behind her are calm, personable DS Tosh (Alison O'Donnell), a Shetland mainstay from day one, still injecting warmth into proceedings, and DC Sandy (real-life Shetlander Steven Robertson), who, 10 years in, has not dropped the expression of a shell-shocked intern.

**The episode ends with a bombshell, leading us towards new possibilities**

The first episode opens with a drugs bust of a fishing ship after Ruth gets a tip-off from a dicey local. But several pallet-loads of fish and ice on the floor later and there's still no haul – and the informant has scarpered.

Soon, the team have bigger fish to fry when the strangled body of a 76-year-old woman, Eadie Tulloch, is found by a shocked (or is he?) neighbour outside her house in Lunniswick, a remote village ravaged by a storm 20 years ago and from which its inhabitants have never fully recovered.

Potential suspects multiply: we can't help but eye old friends Arthur and Lana Mair from across the village, along with their adult



**DS Tosh (Alison O'Donnell) and DI Ruth Calder (Ashley Jensen) on duty**

children, despite the fact they are wrapped up in their own problems (Lana has severe dementia). There's the teenage boy who's just got out of prison, whose mother, Gina, seems a little too protective.

The boy, David Powell, becomes suspect number one when Eadie's missing jewellery turns up under his bed and it transpires he's quit his job without telling his mother.

As Ruth and Tosh dig into it, familiar characters pop up – Dr Cora (Anne Kidd) on forensics (Eadie's been out there for several days), trusty bobby Billy (Lewis Howden), who may have a bigger role to play as the series wears on as he has personal links to the victim, plus ever-loveable, if slightly wet, husband Donnie (Angus Miller) and a new procurator fiscal, Matt (Samuel Anderson, replacing Tibu Fortes as Harry Lamont) cracking the whip.

David is released after revealing that he developed a genuine friendship with Eadie, lonely and just out of jail – but the episode ends with a bombshell, leading us towards new possibilities.

As Arthur sleeps, Lana wanders down the lane to Eadie's house – still marked off as a crime scene – and sets it ablaze without the officer on duty noticing. Could there be more to Lana than meets the eye? What does she know that we don't? We cut to credits as huge flames engulf Eadie's life and much of the remaining evidence.

This is *Shetland* as we know and love it. The beautiful, sweeping landscape shots, the dark, isolated atmosphere are comfortingly familiar and the cast of loveable characters have come to feel like old friends – yet somehow the mysteries remain as gripping as ever.

As long as the BBC keep making it, I'll keep watching until – if you'll forgive my macabre mood – I'm the one Cora's wheeling out of the freezer drawer.



# Arts review

## THEATRE Othello

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET,  
LONDON

★★★★★

It is heartening to see Shakespeare back in the West End, as all too often our national playwright is absent from the glittering lights of central London. Even more cheering is the fact that this production of *Othello* doesn't rely on gimmicky star casting – we are light years away from last year's Sigourney-Weaver-in-*The-Tempest*-debacle – but instead has as its leads actors of quality who have earned their roles on merit.

There are no fussy tricks or overbearing directorial conceits at work here; instead, the key notes of Tom Morris's production are clarity and confidence. Purists will be relieved and delighted, whereas everyone else will be glad to be reminded in a highly compelling fashion of what an intimate, domestic tragedy *Othello* is. The affairs and wars of the Venetian state may be the backdrop for the action, but at

its heart is the insidiousness of jealousy in a relationship.

David Harewood's stately mien and richly resonant voice give us a calm, confident and centred Othello, someone who is not a stranger to smiling – at least, this is the man we encounter initially, before his long-serving member of staff does his treacherous worst.

Dressed in army fatigues, Toby Jones's Iago may look like a harmless and avuncular member of *Dad's Army*, but appearances can be egregiously deceptive. Jones is blessed with a wonderfully expressive face, which he puts to perfect use here: Iago plots in secret and makes us party to his nefarious machinations, but when the public gaze is upon him, he switches in an instant to a look of blank "who, me?" neutrality.

Morris makes us hear afresh, aghast, the multiple iterations of the word "honest" to describe Iago, as well as the latter's privately repeated declaration "I hate the Moor". Caitlin Fitzgerald is a strong and charismatic Desdemona,



A deceptively avuncular Toby Jones as Iago and a stately David Harewood as Othello BRINKHOFF-MOEGENBURG

who patently adores her new husband Othello; the public displays of affection between the newlyweds are enough to make Iago and his wife Emilia (Vnette Robinson, excellent in a study of pragmatic long-suffering) turn away awkwardly.

Nonetheless, we are forced to reflect upon the uncomfortable fact that it doesn't take much to derail Othello; beneath

Harewood's suave exterior is a man who is ever aware that he is an outsider, a black man in a white man's world, who felt that he needed to sneak off for a secret marriage rather than ask a senator for his daughter's hand.

Once the cankerous seed of jealousy has been planted, Harewood unravels convincingly, imagining betrayal everywhere, hastening the moment of his

own demise. Robinson's howls of outrage at the conclusion startle us with the purity of their emotional expression, as too late she uncovers her husband's fatal game.

For once, the now inevitable standing ovation come the curtain call is entirely earned.

To 17 January  
([OthelloOnStage.com](http://OthelloOnStage.com))

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## MARKETS

# Tech share sell-offs spark renewed global volatility

By Amanda Cooper and Ankur Banerjee

Global stocks experienced another rocky day yesterday as a sell-off in tech shares dragged down markets, driving volatility to highs not seen since April and helping to underpin safe-haven assets like gold and government bonds.

Asia stocks were hit particularly hard, pushing Japan's Nikkei down by nearly 7 per cent from Tuesday's record highs at one point, while shares in South Korea plunged by 6.2 per cent before clawing back some losses by last night.

It was a flatter picture on Wall Street and in European markets, with the FTSE 100 rising steadily throughout the day and the German DAX and French CAC 40 both up at the close of trading after marked declines on

Tuesday. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq also appeared to be recovering after previously closing down 1.17 per cent and 2.04 per cent respectively.

The price of gold rose sharply to \$3,987.6 an ounce, while US Treasury prices retained some of their overnight gains – both signalling an appetite for assets seen as “safe”.

A surge in enthusiasm for artificial intelligence has swept across markets worldwide this year, drawing comparisons to the dotcom bubble.

Nvidia's boss Jensen Huang said the AI sector is a “long, long way” from a 2008-style collapse, telling Sky News: “I would say that we're in the beginning of a very long build-out of artificial intelligence.”

The chiefs of Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs questioned whether sky-high valuations can be sustained, while the investor Michael Burry, who famously predicted the housing crash of 2008, announced large bets against the chip maker Nvidia and software firm Palantir – both heavily invested in AI.

On Tuesday, Nvidia shares fell by nearly 4 per cent on Wall Street but made mild gains as markets reopened yesterday.

Brokers and investors said that while there is cause for caution, it is not time to panic yet.

“The sell-off appears to be largely positioning-driven, with recent outperforming names taking the worst of the move,” said Jon Withaar, senior portfolio manager at Pictet Asset Management in Singapore.

“People are up to their noses in



Wall Street traders yesterday after the huge sell-off in technology shares

these AI stocks,” said Herald van der Linde, head of equity strategy for Asia Pacific at HSBC. “But how much more can they buy?”

“My belief is that what we're going to see is a breather.”

Matthew Haupt, lead portfolio manager at Wilson Asset Management, viewed the downturn as investors taking money off the table ahead of yesterday's US Supreme Court hearing on the legality of tariffs.

“I've been buying today,” he said. “I hope I'm right.”



Activists have run a sustained campaign against drilling in the Rosebank oil field, which has stayed untapped SOPA/GETTY

## ENERGY

# Reeves urged to investigate major oil deal

By Katrine Bussey

The Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, is being urged to investigate a deal bringing together Shell and the majority shareholder in the Rosebank oil field.

Shell and Norwegian firm Equinor – which owns an 80 per cent majority stake in Rosebank, to the west of Shetland – announced plans to create Adura.

The firm would be based in Aberdeen and become the North Sea's biggest oil and gas producer.

Environmentalists opposed to the Rosebank development have now joined forces with other

campaign groups to urge Reeves to investigate.

Stop Rosebank, Global Witness, Tax Justice UK, TaxWatch and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition have jointly written to the Chancellor alleging the deal will “allow Shell to write off significant tax liabilities on its projects against losses and allowances built up by Equinor”.

The energy firm strongly rejects that claim, but the letter adds the deal also benefits Equinor by giving it “access to income from Shell's operations as it struggles to get major projects off the ground”.

Development of Rosebank, the UK's largest untapped oil field – containing as much as 300 million barrels of oil – was thrown into doubt after a Supreme Court ruling stated that emissions created from burning fossil fuels must be considered when permissions are granted.

Norwegian state-owned Equinor has submitted a new assessment for the site which complies with the ruling.

Shell rejected the “flawed analysis” from campaigners regarding the creation of Adura.

The UK Government and Equinor were asked to comment.

## RETAIL

# M&S profits cut in half as cyber attack takes its toll

By Holly Williams

Marks and Spencer's profits have more than halved after the company took a hit from a major cyber attack earlier this year.

The retailer stopped all online sales for around six weeks and suffered empty shelves due to disruption to its logistics systems after hackers targeted the business around the Easter weekend.

The firm has now reported that its underlying pre-tax profits tumbled 55.4 per cent to £184.1m in the six months to 27 September.

On a reported basis, profits were almost wiped out, plunging to £3.4m from £391.9m a year ago.

M&S said the hack cost it £324m in lost sales, slightly more than its earlier £300m estimate, but it was able to recover £100m in its first half through an insurance payout.

The attack is set to affect profits by around £136m, including about another £34m in the final six months of its financial year, M&S said.

Stuart Machin, chief executive of M&S, said: “The first half of this year was an extraordinary moment for M&S. However, the underlying strength of our business gave us the resilience to face into the challenge. We are now getting back on track.”

He said the group also faced cost increases of more than £50m from the national insurance rise in April over its first half, but that he expects profits to be “at least in line with last year” in the final six months of its financial year.

Food sales lifted 7.8 per cent in its first half.

## Quote of the day



What's amazing to me is a company struggling to sell cars spends money on advertising to sell a pay package

**Ross Gerber**  
Tesla investor on the firm's attempts to clear a \$1trn (£767bn) pay deal for its chief, Elon Musk

## PENSION DIARIES

# 'It doesn't pay to work hard and be frugal as you lose benefits'

In our new Pension Diaries series, we will be speaking to people of all ages in the UK to find out how much or how little they have saved for retirement and the realities of putting money aside for the future.

This week, we speak to **JUDITH HOWARD, 79**, who lives alone in Wandsworth, south London, in the house where she grew up.

Judith worked building organs for churches and fairgrounds as well as part-time in an office and only retired at the age of 75.

She says that life as a pensioner is a struggle and she has to watch every penny – and lost out despite working hard all her life due to frozen income tax thresholds.

**What was your occupation and how much did you make?**

I studied languages and music at university and did a lot of extra courses and qualifications and studied organ building in Holland. As a result of all my studies, I didn't start working until my late 20s.

I worked as an organ builder on mostly mechanical organs for fairgrounds and churches. From my late 40s, I worked on my own.

My mother became very ill and eventually died in 2012. While I was caring for her, I was finding it hard to get enough organ work done because it is a labour-intensive craft and is badly paid per hour. So I ended up supplementing it regularly with office work.

While working in organ building, I was turning over around £12,000 to £13,000 a year. I was having to spend around half of that in rent for my woodwork materials and rates. I was only left with about £4,000 a year, but was living at home.

After my mother died, I was finding it difficult to carry on paying for the rent on the workshop, so I rebuilt my grandfather's little workshop in the garden and began working from home.

But in 2008, I was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid problem and was quite poorly. I could not do the woodwork any more as my concentration was affected.

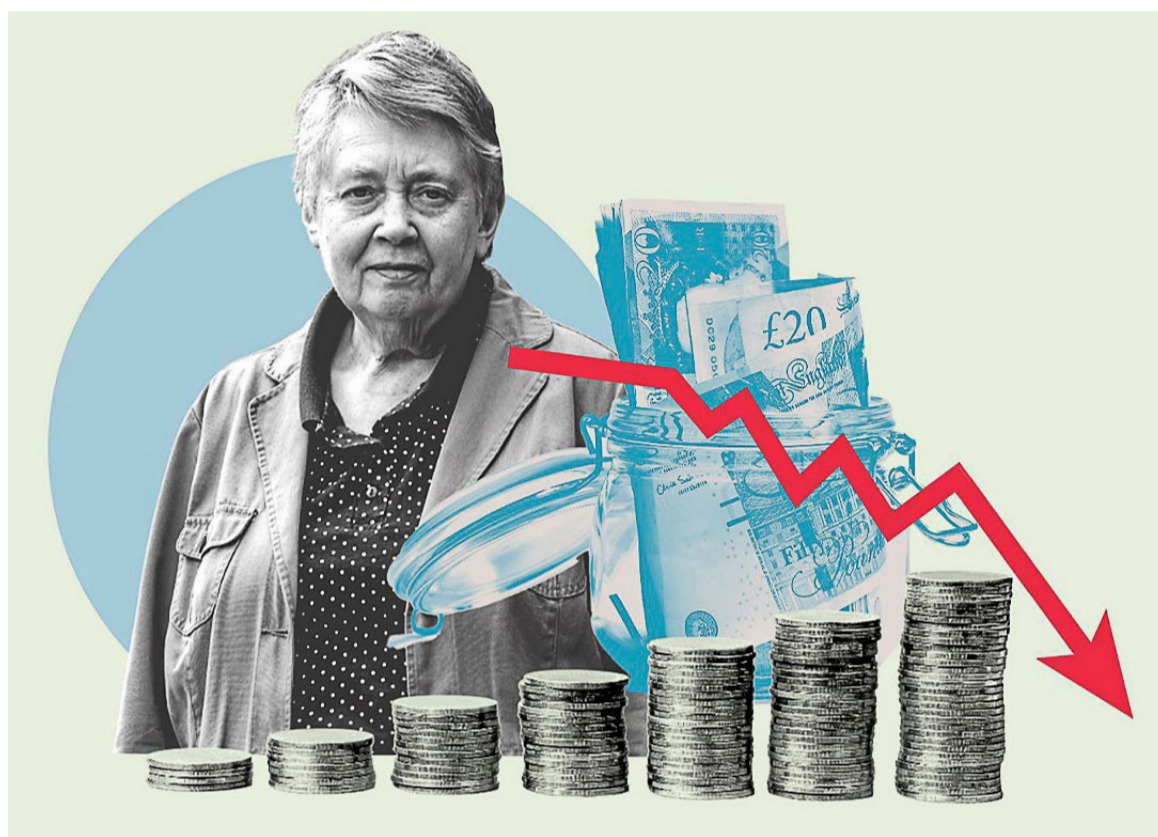
I began doing more office work and did not finish until I was 75.

**How many pensions do you have?**

As I was mostly self-employed, the only provision I made for a pension was paying £100 a month into a pension fund that was dedicated to becoming an annuity at the end. I paid into it from the late 1980s. I also put £50 a month into a savings plan which was aimed at saving for retirement.

I could only take it when it matured at the age of 65 and I had £50,000 which has gradually been spent keeping me going over the years. Under the terms of the annuity, I received a 9 per cent return, so I was getting about £4,000 a year from that pot.

Due to the fact I didn't start



Judith Howard, 79, says she regrets deferring her state pension until 75 due to frozen tax thresholds

## Deferring the state pension Benefits and risks

You can decide to defer taking your UK state pension – and if you do, you will receive an uplift for doing so.

The level of uplift depends on when you reached state pension age. For those who reached state pension age before 6 April 2016, the rate of uplift is 1 per cent for every five weeks you defer. This works out at a 10.4 per cent increase in your state

pension if you defer for 52 weeks. For those who reached state pension age on or after 6 April 2016, the deferral rate is 1 per cent for every nine weeks deferred – or just under 5.8 per cent for every 52 weeks.

The risk of deferring the state pension for a long period is that you might not live long enough to benefit from it financially.

my working career until my late 20s, I had a big gap in my national insurance contributions so I would not have received the full state pension. I ended up deferring it until the age of 75 as you receive an uplift.

Because I wasn't working very much, I was eligible for working tax credits, so that, plus my part-time earnings and my income from my annuity, saw me through.

**How much do you have to live on with your pensions?**

I am getting about £950 a month from my state pension and then about £280 a month from my annuity and my total income for the year is about £14,000. But I am still renting a garage to store all my wood for the woodwork which costs £2,000, which only leaves me with £12,000 a year.

From that, I have to pay all my bills, council tax, food and living costs and it is incredibly difficult.

My house is so cold and last year, due to them taking away the winter fuel payment, I couldn't afford to put my heating on so I wore my coat indoors as it was 10°C inside. It is a miserable existence.

Life has always been a struggle for me. But I never imagined that by the time I got to being a pensioner, I would be living like a student again, constantly doing calculations about how much I can spend.

**What is your biggest pension regret?**

I bitterly regret deferring my state pension now as, even though I did benefit from my pension going up by 10.4 per cent a year, the personal tax thresholds didn't go up.

It takes me just over the threshold for pension credit, so I can't benefit from that help, nor can I get help with council tax. The frozen thresholds also mean that I am paying a large amount of income tax on my annuity. I was

getting around £350 a month from my annuity, but now I am only getting about £280 a month as the Government is taking all the rest in tax. It feels terribly unfair.

The triple lock doesn't apply to deferred pensions so it doesn't go up in line with inflation – only the part that isn't deferred increases.

**What do you wish you had known or would change when it comes to pensions?**

If I could turn back time, I would have just deferred my state pension long enough to cover the gap of the missing NI contributions, but no longer. Perhaps I should have started working earlier.

The trouble is, you can't foretell what the Government is going to do and how they will make the rules unfavourable to people who have been thrifty. It definitely does not pay to work hard and be frugal because you lose out on benefits.

**What is your idea of a dream retirement?**

I would love to have just enough money to live comfortably and not have the constant stress of counting every penny.

But soon, even those on the ordinary state pension will be taxed as a result of the frozen thresholds. The Government is being very stupid, as not only does this affect pensioners, it affects the jobs market as people realise they are better off on benefits than going out to work.

**As told to Aasma Day. To be featured in Pension Diaries, email her on Aasma.Day@thepaper.com**

## WATER

## 'Big Six' block bonuses under Ofwat rules

By Anna Wise

The "Big Six" water companies have been forced to block bonus payouts to bosses over serious pollution incidents and other performance issues.

More than £4m of potential bonuses were banned under new rules on performance-related executive pay, regulator Ofwat said.

The powers, introduced in June, require companies to block annual bonuses and other awards to directors where they do not comply with the watchdog's rules.

This includes pollution incidents, poor environmental practices and criminal convictions.

The six companies – Anglian Water, Southern Water, Thames Water, United Utilities Water, Wessex Water and Yorkshire Water – blocked payouts for a variety of failures, mostly involving pollution.

Ofwat said a further £2.4m of performance-related executive pay was not required to be blocked, but should not be funded by customers.

Thames Water had seven "category 1" pollution incidents – the most serious – in 2024. It also breached its licence to hold a sufficient credit rating and had a one-star rating in relation to environmental performance.

## CONSUMER

## Thousands left in limbo as Tomato Energy collapses

By Holly Williams

Tomato Energy has collapsed, leaving the industry watchdog to step in to protect supply for the provider's 15,300 household and 8,400 business customers.

Regulator Ofgem said energy supply and funds paid into accounts, including credit balances, will be secured for customers under the "Supplier of Last Resort" safety net.

Customers of Basingstoke-based Tomato are being advised not to switch as they will be contacted by their new supplier, which will be allocated by Ofgem in the coming days.

They are advised to take a meter reading before they are contacted by their new supplier.

Ofgem said household customers would also continue to be protected by the energy cap when switching.

Tomato was banned from taking on new customers in April after building up debts of £3m. The company was then hit with a proposed £1.5m fine from Ofgem last month for failing to meet financial resilience rules and the firm filed a notice of intent to appoint administrators at the end of October.

# The Business Matrix

The day at a glance



## FTSE 100 up 0.64% at 9,777.08

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
3i Group	4358.0	-0.11%	4497.0	3203.0	Games Works	16200.0	-0.55%	16750.0	11530.0	Reckitt Ben	5888.0	+0.20%	6014.0	4579.0
AB Foods	2216.0	+0.18%	2440.0	1818.9	Glencore	355.9	+1.53%	418.8	205.0	RELX	3417.0	+1.18%	4205.0	3319.0
Admiral	3242.0	+1.25%	3686.0	2383.0	GSK	1788.0	-0.08%	1799.0	1242.5	Rentokil Initial	421.2	+0.17%	480.0	306.0
Airtel Africa	296.0	+0.14%	299.1	93.0	Haleon	357.2	-0.20%	419.5	274.4	Rightmove	670.4	+0.33%	827.0	586.2
Alliance Witan	1294.0	+0.31%	1330.0	998.7	Halma	3572.0	+0.79%	3606.0	2316.0	Rio Tinto	5278.0	+0.11%	5565.0	4024.5
Anglo Amer	2795.0	+1.60%	3008.0	1900.0	Hikma Pharma	1771.0	+0.45%	2360.0	1578.0	Rolls-Royce	1157.0	+0.83%	1196.0	517.2
Antofagasta	2653.0	-0.38%	2877.0	1278.0	Hiscox	1374.0	+1.18%	1454.0	1008.0	Sainsbury(J)	337.2	+1.26%	349.0	223.4
Ashtead Group	4937.0	+0.94%	6448.0	3477.0	Howden Joinery	871.0	+2.17%	939.9	647.1	Schroders	388.6	+0.88%	428.8	283.4
AstraZeneca	12450.0	-0.62%	12972.0	9573.5	HSBC Hldgs	1085.8	+1.00%	1087.8	688.7	Scot Mort Inv Tst	1134.5	-1.60%	1179.0	778.1
Auto Trader Group	774.0	+0.57%	920.0	706.0	IAG	425.2	+0.62%	429.3	207.6	Segro	712.8	+0.59%	795.2	586.9
Aviva	677.2	+1.87%	692.6	451.5	ICG	1987.0	+1.38%	2468.0	1539.0	Severn Trent	2818.0	+1.73%	2847.0	2323.0
Babcock Intl	1193.0	-1.65%	1332.0	463.8	IMI	2402.0	+2.13%	2418.0	1556.0	Shell	2863.5	+0.90%	2903.0	2269.9
BAE Systems	1848.5	-0.08%	2073.0	1127.0	Imperial Brands	3140.0	+2.05%	3213.0	2326.0	Smith&Neph	1393.5	-1.69%	1441.5	911.0
Barclays	405.8	-0.14%	408.8	223.8	Informa	993.4	+1.12%	993.4	634.2	Smiths Gp	2550.0	+0.79%	2552.0	1514.7
Barratt Redrow	375.4	+0.86%	486.5	347.6	IntCont Htlis	9552.0	+2.60%	10975.0	7252.0	Spirax Group	7150.0	+1.71%	8245.0	5380.0
Beazley	904.0	+0.84%	983.5	728.0	Intertek	5130.0	+0.59%	5575.0	4044.0	SSE	1887.0	-0.05%	1980.5	1446.9
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3970.0	-0.15%	4434.0	3462.0	JD Sports Fashion	84.6	-1.40%	127.2	61.0	Stan Chart	1584.0	-0.63%	1601.5	872.8
BP	461.3	+1.80%	472.2	329.2	Kingfisher	309.8	+0.91%	320.6	227.2	St James's Place	1329.5	+1.49%	1378.5	741.4
BritAmTobacco	4142.0	+2.27%	4401.0	2699.7	Land Secs	630.5	+0.48%	652.5	490.2	Tesco	466.3	+1.26%	467.5	310.3
BT	179.9	-	223.6	130.9	Legal & Gen	241.7	+0.75%	266.2	206.8	The Sage Grp	1161.5	+1.00%	1349.0	978.0
Bunzl	2286.0	+1.15%	3622.0	2210.0	Lloyds Bk Gp	89.6	+0.74%	89.6	52.4	Unilever	4650.0	+0.39%	4910.0	4311.0
Burberry	1205.0	+3.12%	1375.0	597.0	LondonMetric Prop	193.8	+1.15%	207.0	167.1	United Utilities	1218.5	+1.50%	1225.5	928.0
Centrica	176.7	-0.70%	180.8	113.0	Lon Stock Ex	9734.0	+0.89%	12185.0	8094.0	Vodafone	86.9	+0.37%	94.0	62.4
Coca-Cola Europac	6830.0	+2.25%	7560.0	5843.4	M&G	272.2	+0.67%	279.0	171.6	Weir Group	2894.0	+0.49%	3008.0	1875.0
Coca-Cola HBC	3520.0	+1.68%	4102.0	2652.0	M&S	385.0	+0.13%	417.8	319.2	Whitbread	2874.0	+2.64%	3302.0	2253.0
Compass	2542.0	+0.91%	2853.0	2344.0	Melrose Ind	624.0	+0.55%	707.2	376.0	WPP	268.9	-1.10%	903.0	266.5
Convatec	242.6	-0.98%	311.2	213.4	Metlen Energy	4062.1	+1.58%	4984.7	3556.2					
Croda Intl	2794.0	-0.14%	3821.0	2426.8	Mondi	840.8	+0.24%	1338.0	806.6					
DCC	4852.0	-0.57%	5865.0	4452.0	National Grid	1151.5	+0.61%	1160.0	909.8					
Diageo	1797.5	+0.59%	2619.5	1700.0	NatWest Group	588.4	+0.38%	589.6	369.0					
Diploma	5560.0	+0.54%	5700.0	3532.0	Next	14375.0	+1.34%	14600.0	9028.0					
easyJet	484.1	+0.79%	594.0	401.1	Pearson	1053.0	-	1401.0	1023.0					
Endeavour Mining	2992.0	+0.61%	3566.0	1387.0	Pershing Square	4796.0	+1.40%	4858.0	3067.9					
Entain	753.4	-1.10%	1031.5	452.5	Persimmon	1206.0	-0.33%	1492.1	1030.5					
Experian	3606.0	+1.01%	4101.0	3049.0	Phoenix	679.5	+0.82%	699.5	475.2					
F&C Inv Trust	1238.0	+0.57%	1245.0	900.8	Polar CapTech	472.5	-	483.0	235.0					
Fresnillo	2146.0	-1.20%	2650.0	609.5	Prudential	1082.5	+1.26%	1087.0	594.8					

## Markets

FTSE 100	9777.08	+0.64%
FTSE 250	22094.4	+0.45%
FTSE All Share	5265.7	+0.61%
FTSE Eurofirst300	2277.8	+0.27%
Dow Jones*	47377.1	+0.62%
S&P 500*	6823.4	+0.77%
Nasdaq*	23562.86	+0.92%
DAX	24049.7	+0.42%
CAC 40	8074.2	+0.08%
Hang Seng	25935.4	-0.07%
Nikkei	50212.3	-2.50%

€1.1358  
+0.09¢

EURO/  
POUND

\$1.3047  
+0.04¢

DOLLAR/  
POUND

\$3,987.6  
+\$18.61

GOLD  
Per troy ounce,  
London pm fix

\$63.91  
-\$0.53

OIL  
Brent crude,  
per barrel

## LEISURE

### Edinburgh is 'best' Christmas market

Edinburgh has been ranked the UK's best Christmas market, ahead of London's Winter Wonderland and Manchester. A study by travel website Locals Insider gave the Scottish capital a score of 79.7 points out of 100 for setting, visitors and stalls, market duration, accessibility and costs. London scored 79.0 and Manchester 78.8.

## TRADE

### China pulls levies on some US goods

China has removed retaliatory tariffs on US imports of up to 15 per cent on agricultural goods, plus the additional 24 per cent imposed on all goods in April following Donald Trump's "Liberation Day". However, Beijing has kept its general 10 per cent levies in place, with US soybean imports still facing a 13 per cent tariff.

## EUROZONE

### Economy speeds to 29-month high

The eurozone economy grew in October at the fastest rate since May 2023. The HCOB eurozone composite PMI output index, measuring manufacturing and services activity, rose to 52.5 from 51.2 in September, with services PMI business activity index up to 53.0, signalling the fastest expansion for 17 months.

## MOTORING

### New car numbers at pre-Covid level

The number of new car registrations rose by 0.5 per cent to 144,948 last month. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) raised its forecast for new cars sold in the year to more than two million – a threshold that has not been hit since before Covid in 2019.

## SERVICES

### October's growth surprises experts

Growth in the UK services sector, which includes retail, hospitality and financial services, accelerated by more than expected last month as cost inflation waned to its weakest level for 11 months. The S&P Global UK services PMI survey scored a reading of 52.3 – above the predicted 51.1 – which was up from 50.8 in September.

## PHARMA

### Ozempic maker slashes forecasts

The maker of Ozempic and Wegovy has cut its sales and profit forecast for a fourth time this year as it continues to fall behind in the weight-loss drugs market. Novo Nordisk expects full-year operating profit to grow by a maximum 7 per cent, down from 16 per cent, with sales rising by a maximum of 11 per cent, down from 16 per cent.

## PROPERTY

### House price rises bigger in Scotland

Scotland's housing market is set to outperform the rest of the UK over the next five years as first-time buyers benefit from falling mortgage rates. Estate agent Savills projected Scottish property values to rise by 27.6 per cent, significantly ahead of the 22.2 per cent increase forecast for the rest of the UK.

## TRANSPORT

### Trainline raises profit guidance

Rail ticketing app Trainline has raised its 2025-26 pre-tax profit guidance to 10 to 13 per cent from 6 to 9 per cent after posting a 14 per cent jump to £93m in its half-yearly update. Group net ticket sales increased to £3.2bn – 8 per cent up year on year, during the period.

## the markets

The FTSE 100 closed yesterday up by 62.12 points, or 0.64 per cent, at 9,777.08. The biggest risers were fashion house Burberry, up 36.5p at 1,205p, and pub, restaurant and hotel owner Whitbread, up 74p at 2,874p. The biggest fallers

were medical tech firm Smith & Nephew, down 24p at 1,393.5p, and defence group Babcock, down 20p at 1,193p. In France, the CAC 40 rose by 0.08 per cent, while the DAX ended 0.42 per cent higher in Germany. The price of Brent crude oil fell to \$63.91 a barrel.

\*\*\*

The pound gained ground on both the dollar and euro, up by 0.04 cents to be worth \$1.3047 and by 0.09 cents to be worth €1.1358.

## ADVICE CLINIC

# O2 should never be allowed to increase mid-contract rises

## Ask Rocio



### Your questions about business

#### Dear Rocio,

While I know mid-contract rises do take place, I have read that the one faced by O2 mobile phone customers is above what customers agreed to when they signed up. How is this allowed to happen?

#### Name and address supplied

**Rocio says:** For many years the mobile company O2 has featured breath and breathing in its ad and marketing campaigns. The latest – entitled “First Breath” and narrated by the actor Sean Bean – includes the first moments of a newborn

baby's life. Well, now it seems the company is treating us all to a display of breathtaking cynicism.

The announcement that it will raise mobile phone mid-contract prices by more than it promised will be a slap in the face to customers.

The company, which has a significant share of the UK mobile phone market, said that from April it will be increase the price of phone contracts by £2.50 a month. It had previously said that this rise would only be £1.80.

In January, the media regulator Ofcom brought in new rules to stop unexpected price rises in the middle of a contract. They require companies to tell customers how much their bill would rise by “in pounds and pence” before they sign up.

And while O2 has not technically breached these new rules by allowing customers to exit the contract without penalty, its customers may justifiably believe



Customers are unable to compare tariffs if prices increase mid-contract GETTY

that the decision goes against the spirit of the regulations.

O2 says the rules “do not prevent companies from increasing annual price charges” and that the money raised will be reinvested into improving the network.

There are several reasons to be concerned about O2's decision.

For customers, it makes it much harder to compare prices at the beginning of their contract. How can you know what you're likely to end up spending over the total course of your contract if prices are unexpectedly hiked part-way through it?

At a market level, it makes the prospect of other providers following O2's lead more likely. Few firms like being the first to break ranks and make an unpopular decision. But when one moves, it makes it easier to follow.

How can customers of EE, Three and Vodafone be sure that the prices they are expecting to pay won't be increased unexpectedly either – all under the same excuse of “investing back into the network”? Other providers should put customers' interests over profits and resist following O2.

O2's decision has already brought

significant disquiet from a number of quarters. Which? supports Martin Lewis, who has written to the Government urging it to work with Ofcom to review the policy.

The Technology Secretary, Liz Kendall, said the O2 price increase is “disappointing given the current pressures on consumers” and called for the regulator to look at in-contract price rises again.

Ofcom must recognise the strength of feeling over this brazen cash grab and recognise that it is not just a case of taking action to help hard-pressed consumers. Its reputation is also on the line.

If it looks like providers can so easily wriggle out of sticking to the intended spirit of the rules it sets, where does that leave it as a custodian of the telecoms market?

The regulator must act urgently to ensure the system it has put in place is fit for purpose – and that pricing is fair and transparent.

As for O2, we would encourage its chief executive, Lutz Schüler, to show leadership by overturning this decision for customers already in a contract. If he doesn't, then customers should vote with their feet. Which? research has consistently shown that they may well receive better value and customer service if they do.

**Rocio Concha is the director of policy and advocacy at which.co.uk. To have your question featured on this page, email [business@thepaper.com](mailto:business@thepaper.com)**

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## JE3 What's it all about?

■ **Turning loss into life** The JE3 Foundation was created in memory of footballer Justin Edinburgh who passed away in 2019 after a cardiac arrest. His family want his legacy to save others — through education, awareness and change.

■ **Why every minute matters** Each year in the UK, 30,000 people suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Fewer than 10% survive — but early CPR and a defibrillator can double your chances of survival.

■ **What is 'Justin's Law'?** The foundation is campaigning for legislation making AEDs/defibrillators mandatory in all health and sports facilities — vital, life-saving equipment that should be as commonplace as a fire extinguisher.

■ **Help make change happen** Once a petition reaches 100,000, it can be debated in Parliament. Your signature could make that happen.

■ **Learn CPR. Save a life.** The JE3 Foundation also offers CPR and defibrillator awareness training across the UK. For details, call 07947 972 477 or email the foundation at enquiries@je3foundation.com

# How your signature could save your life!

■ *Join the call for 'Justin's Law' to make defibrillators mandatory in all UK health and sports facilities*

■ *30,000 cardiac arrests happen each year — access to an AED can double your chances of survival*

■ *It costs nothing to sign, takes just a few seconds and could save thousands of lives...even your own!*

WHEN FOOTBALLER and manager Justin Edinburgh died suddenly after suffering a cardiac arrest in 2019, the emergency defibrillator that could have helped save him wasn't available when it was needed most. In the days that followed, his family made a promise — that Justin's death would not be in vain, and that others would not be lost for the same, entirely preventable reason.

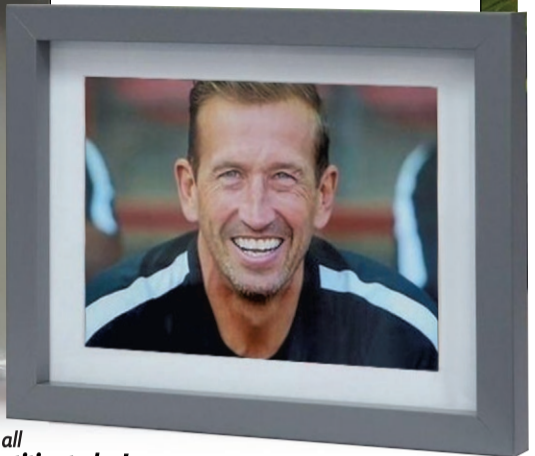
**AED SURVIVAL RATES DOUBLE!** Each year in the UK, over 30,000 people suffer an 'out-of-hospital' cardiac arrest. Fewer than one in ten survive. Yet when a defibrillator is used within minutes, a person's chance of survival can more than double. These devices are easy



Justin's Law calls for mandatory defibrillators in all health and sports facilities in the UK. **Sign the petition today!**

## What is Justin's Law?

In 2019, former footballer Justin Edinburgh died after suffering a cardiac arrest at a gym which didn't have a defibrillator. UK legislation does not require health and sport facilities to be equipped with life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Help the JE3 Foundation make this law by adding your signature to the petition via the QR code below. It costs nothing.



## SIGN THE PETITION HERE!

**JUSTIN'S LAW — Mandatory AEDs in all health and sports facilities in the UK. It costs nothing to make change happen!**



OR SIGN ON OUR WEBSITE AT [je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com)

to use, safe, and require no medical training — but thousands of gyms, sports clubs and health facilities across the country still don't have one on site.

That's why the Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation (JE3) is campaigning for 'Justin's Law' — new legislation that would make it a legal requirement for all UK health and sports facilities to be equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) — a simple, common-sense change that could save countless lives every single year.

### SIGNING THE PETITION IS EASY

Your signature could help make that happen. The campaign currently has over 60,000 signatures. Once a petition

reaches 100,000, it can be debated in Parliament. Each name brings us one step closer to ensuring no family has to face the heartbreak the Edinburghs endured. Yours could be the signature that makes that happen.

### IT COSTS NOTHING TO SAVE A LIFE

It takes seconds to sign. Scan the QR code or discover more online at [je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com). Adding your name to the petition could help save lives. One day, it might even be your own.

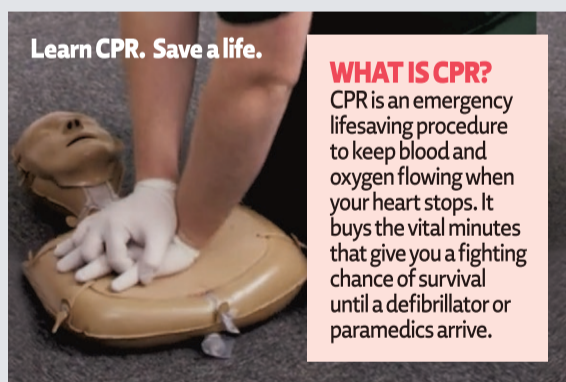


## Cardiac arrests strike without warning, yet survival rates double if AED nearby

EVERY MINUTE counts when someone suffers a cardiac arrest. For every 60 seconds without CPR or a defibrillator, their chance of survival drops by 10%. But quick action can be — quite literally — life-saving!

**HERE'S WHAT TO DO** Call 999 immediately. Begin CPR straight away — even if you've never done it before. And if there's a defibrillator nearby, use it. It talks you through every step, and you can't deliver a shock unless it's needed.

That confidence to act can save a life — and it's exactly what the JE3 Foundation is teaching through its nationwide CPR and defibrillator awareness training events.



Learn CPR. Save a life.

### WHAT IS CPR?

CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure to keep blood and oxygen flowing when your heart stops. It buys the vital minutes that give you a fighting chance of survival until a defibrillator or paramedics arrive.

By knowing what to do — and by making AEDs mandatory through Justin's Law — we can make the UK a place where more lives are saved every day.

For more on CPR training, call 07947 972 477 or visit [je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com).

**JUSTIN'S LAW**

Sign the petition today!



OR SIGN VIA OUR WEBSITE AT [je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com)

## Quick thinking saves life at golf event

WHEN A MAN collapsed at Addington Golf Club earlier this year, members of his group — including Charlie Edinburgh, Justin's son and CEO of the JE3 Foundation — acted fast.

Within minutes, CPR was underway and a defibrillator had been brought to the scene. That AED was used inside four minutes — a critical window that saved the man's life.

The incident is a powerful reminder of why AEDs must be available wherever people gather to exercise, socialise or work, and is precisely why Justin's Law aims to make this mandatory.

Every second counts. Every life matters. Support Justin's Law today — scan the QR code above or visit [je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com) to sign the petition. It costs nothing to make change happen.

Charlie Edinburgh, CEO of the JE3 Foundation



# Sign the petition to save lives!

EACH YEAR, over 30,000 people in the UK suffer an 'out-of-hospital' cardiac arrest — sadly, fewer than one in ten survive.

The JE3 Foundation is fighting for the introduction of 'Justin's Law' to make defibrillators mandatory in all health and sports facilities.

Scan the QR code to sign today. It costs nothing to save a life.

**SCAN CODE NOW! SIGN THE PETITION FOR JUSTIN'S LAW**

Mandatory AEDs in all health and sports facilities in the UK.



— DISCOVER MORE ONLINE —  
[je3foundation.com](http://je3foundation.com)

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MAY 2026

- Mon 4 Embark *Ambience* and depart London Tilbury
- Wed 6 St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly
- Thu 7 Brest, France
- Sat 9 Bordeaux (from Le Verdon), France
- Sun 10 Bilbao (from Getxo), Spain  
 Stretching along Spain's Basque coast is historic Getxo. Blending cultural richness with seaside charm, Getxo offers gorgeous promenade walks and the chance to indulge in traditional Basque cuisine in the town's famous Old Port
- Mon 11 Santander, Spain
- Tue 12 Gijon, Spain
- Wed 13 Santiago de Compostela (from El Ferrol), Spain
- Fri 15 Lisbon, Portugal
- Sat 16 Oporto (from Leixoes), Portugal  
 Day trips to Porto are a popular activity, but there are also quayside beaches and cafes to enjoy on either side of the Douro River
- Tue 19 Arrive in London Tilbury

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**Santander**  
 Though much of ancient Santander, Spain was lost to fire in the 1940s, the city is popular with tourists due to its bustling beaches, historic landmarks like the Cathedral of Santander, and rich local seafood from oceanside restaurants and market stalls.



**Gijon**  
 Gijon, on Spain's northern coast, unveils a sun-washed cityscape steeped in Asturian charm. Wander historic promenades, discover contemporary art, and embrace the understated beauty of this Spanish port town.



**Lisbon**  
 Portugal's bustling capital of Lisbon allures with its mix of Old World charm and seaside vibes. Lose yourself in the maze of narrow streets in the Alfama district, lunch atop the scenic overlook of Santa Catarina, and savour Lisbon's rich cultural tapestry.



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# Today's Weather

A mostly cloudy day across the UK, with rain in south-west Scotland and Northern Ireland. South Wales sees rain showers through the day.

Today's high	Today's low	Moon Phase	Sunrise	Sunset
16°	10°		07:03	16:24

## Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	11	R	3.4
Aberporth	16	C	12.1
Aberystwyth	17	DR	9.6
Aviemore	9	R	3.9
Belfast	14	R	2.0
Birmingham	17	C	8.3
Bournemouth	16	C	0.2
Bridlington	13	C	6.0
Bristol	16	C	4.1
Cardiff	15	SH	2.0
Cromer	16	F	0.0
Durham	15	R	6.8
Eastbourne	16	C	0.8
Edinburgh	13	R	6.8
Eskdalemuir	13	R	21.6
Glasgow	13	R	15.2
Holyhead	15	R	9.1
Hove	16	C	0.8
Hull	16	F	6.4
Huntingdon	16	F	0.4
Ipswich	15	F	0.0
Isle of Man	14	SH	11.5
Isle of Wight	16	C	0.0
Kinlochewe	12	R	11.2
Kirkwall	12	R	2.3
Leeds	15	DR	3.6
Lerwick	11	F	0.3
Leuchars	12	R	1.3
Lincoln	16	F	10.2
Liverpool	16	C	8.4
London	16	C	0.4
Manchester	16	C	5.8
Margate	16	DR	0.0
Milford Haven	16	C	15.3
Morecambe	16	SH	10.9
Newcastle	15	SH	6.6
Norwich	16	F	0.6
Nottingham	16	C	13.2
Okehampton	16	C	4.5
Oxford	16	C	0.6
Plymouth	16	C	4.7
Portland	15	C	0.6
Portsmouth	15	C	0.4
Prestwick	14	R	9.5
Rhyl	17	SH	8.2
Sheffield	16	C	6.2
Shrewsbury	16	C	7.0
Skegness	15	F	0.8
Southend	15	C	0.0
Stoke	16	C	9.6
Stornoway	11	R	5.0
Swansea	16	C	12.8
Tiree	12	R	7.8

## Global

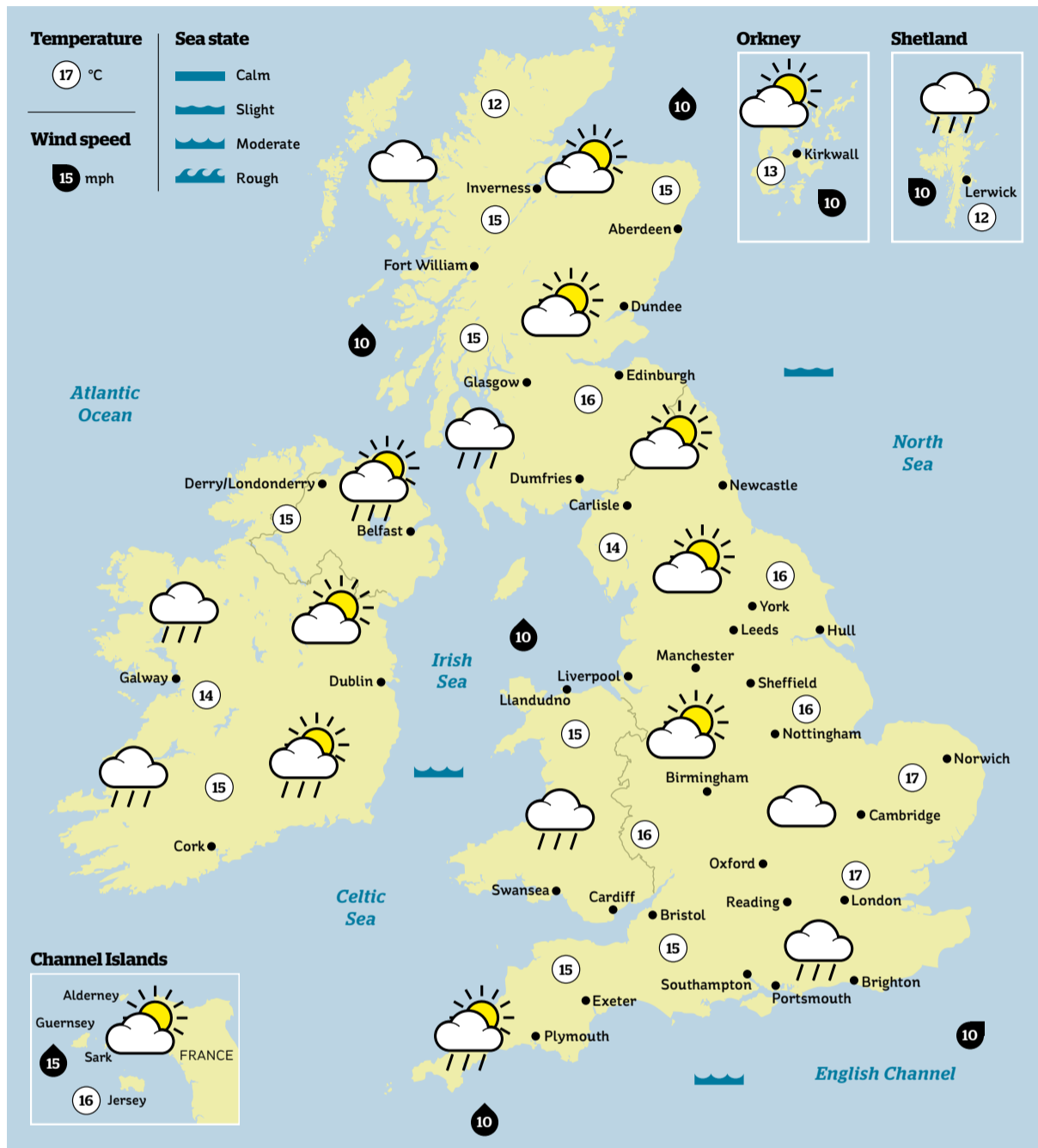
City	Temp (in °C)	Cond	City	Temp (in °C)	Cond
Abu Dhabi	32	S	Miami	27	F
Abuja	33	S	Milan	14	S
Alicante	21	F	Moscow	6	F
Amsterdam	14	F	Mumbai	30	S
Athens	19	TH	Munich	8	F
Bangkok	29	F	New York	14	S
Barcelona	19	SH	Nice	18	S
Beijing	13	S	Palma	22	S
Berlin	14	S	Paris	17	S
Brussels	18	F	Prague	6	F
Budapest	13	S	Reykjavik	6	C
Chicago	16	S	Rio	25	SH
Delhi	28	S	Rome	19	S
Dubai	33	S	Stockholm	13	C
Dublin	15	R	Strasbourg	11	S
Frankfurt	11	S	Sydney	24	S
Geneva	10	S	Tenerife	27	S
Helsinki	12	SH	Tokyo	15	S
Hong Kong	25	S	Toronto	13	S
Istanbul	18	C	Vancouver	12	S
Johannesburg	24	S	Vienna	12	S
Lisbon	19	F	Warsaw	12	S
Los Angeles	19	S	Washington	17	S
Madrid	16	SH	Wellington	17	F

Key: C=Cloudy, DR=Drizzle, F=Fair, FG=Fog, H=Hail, M=Mist, R=Rain, S=Sunny, SH=Showers, SL=Sleet, SN=Snow, SS=Sandstorm, TH=Thunderstorm

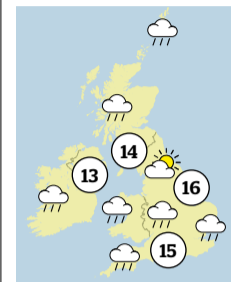
## Air Pollution Index

Air pollution levels Low (1) Very high (10) uk-air.defra.gov.uk

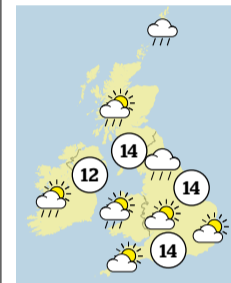
Region	Today	Tomorrow
Highlands	1	2
North East Scotland	1	1
Central Scotland	2	2
Scottish Borders	1	2
Northern Ireland	1	2
North West & Mersey	2	2
North East	2	1
Yorkshire & Humber	2	1
North Wales	2	2
West Midlands	2	1
East Midlands	2	1
South Wales	2	2
South West	2	2
South East	2	2
Eastern	2	1
Greater London	2	1



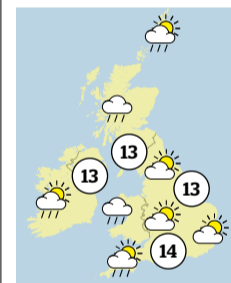
## Five-day outlook



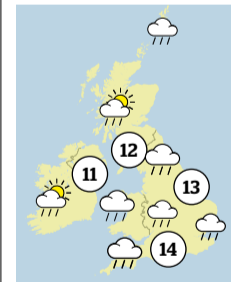
**FRIDAY** Rain in western areas, heavy showers in the south, cloudy with sunny spells in the north and east, chilly breezes in coastal parts.



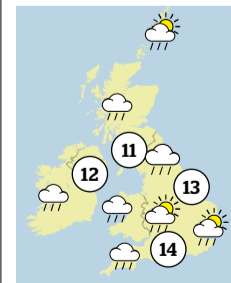
**SATURDAY** Northern regions will experience rain in areas, while southern regions see mostly cloudy skies with occasional sunny spells throughout.



**SUNDAY** Rain for western areas, cloudy with sunny spells in eastern regions, southern regions mostly dry, rain showers in northern regions.



**MONDAY** Widespread rain across the UK with southern regions experiencing heavier downpours and breezy conditions in the Channel Islands.



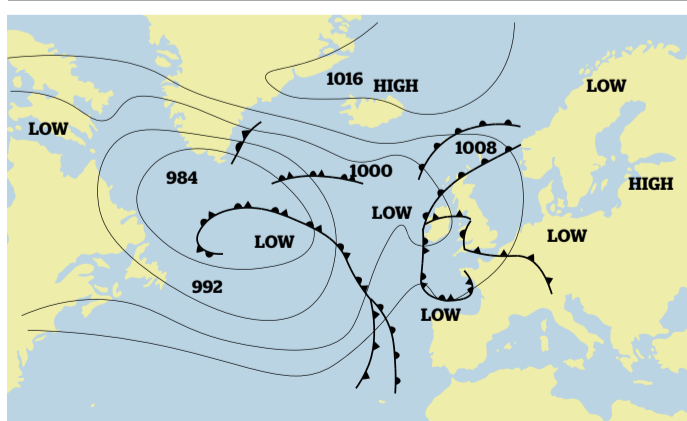
**TUESDAY** Rain across most regions, with some sunny spells in the south-east and Channel Islands. Cloudy elsewhere with occasional rain.

**GENERAL SITUATION** A low-pressure system will move across the United Kingdom today, bringing cloudy skies and rain in the morning across England and Wales, clearing by afternoon. A warm front will spread rain into Northern Ireland and western Scotland by evening, moving northwards overnight. Southern England and Wales may see some sunny spells develop through the afternoon, while the north-east will remain mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. **London, SE Eng, East Anglia, Channel Is:** The morning is expected to start cloudy with temperatures on the cool side. This overcast weather persists into the

afternoon with a threat of light rain in the most southern areas. By evening, skies remain mostly cloudy, but the most western areas may see sunny spells. Moderate southerly winds. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, light rain, breezy. Min temp: 13C. **Cen S England, SW England, Midlands, S Wales, N Wales:** The morning is expected to begin mostly cloudy across the region, with sunny spells breaking through, particularly in western areas. The afternoon will see cloud cover increase, showers moving into the south-west. By evening, conditions remain cloudy, with mild temperatures and gentle breezes.

Max temp: 16C. Tonight, light rain, breezy. Min temp: 11C. **SE Scotland, NE Eng, E Eng:** The morning is expected to begin cloudy across the area with temperatures mild. This overcast weather will persist into the afternoon, with a light threat of drizzle. By evening, skies will remain cloudy but dry, with gentle southerly winds keeping conditions stable throughout the day. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, light rain, breezy. Min temp: 12C. **NW Eng, SW Scotland, N Ireland, Republic of Ireland, IOM:** The morning is expected to start cloudy with rain in places. Through the afternoon, rain will linger, particularly in northern parts,

where it will be cooler. By evening, skies remain overcast, with rain easing into showers in the most western areas. Mild temperatures, with gentle southerly winds. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, light rain, breezy. Min temp: 10C. **NW Scotland, NE Scotland, W Isles, N Isles:** Today will be dull and damp with cloudy skies and cooler temperatures. The morning is forecast to begin with light rain in the west, which may persist into the afternoon. By evening, clouds will thicken in the north, with a chance of drizzle. Gentle southerly winds will prevail throughout the day. Max temp: 15C. Tonight, light rain expected. Min temp: 10C.



**SYNOPTIC PRESSURE** A broad area of low pressure lingers over the North Atlantic, edging towards western Scotland, while a ridge of high pressure builds from the south. A weak cold front progresses slowly across Northern Ireland and western Scotland, bringing showers. High pressure over southern England maintains the settled conditions.

HIGHS AND LOWS (Yesterday, up to 2pm)	HOURS OF DARKNESS
<b>Warmest:</b> Cambridge (Marshal Airport), Cambridgeshire, 17C	Aberdeen 16.12-07.34
<b>Colest:</b> Kinbrace, Sutherland, 2C	Birmingham 16.28-07.15
<b>Wettest:</b> Whitechurch, Pembrokeshire, 47.8mm	Bristol 16.34-07.14
<b>Sunniest:</b> Wittering, Cambridgeshire, 3.1hrs	Cardiff 16.36-07.16
	Glasgow 16.26-07.36
	Hull 16.18-07.13
	Inverness 16.17-07.43
	Liverpool 16.29-07.22
	London 16.24-07.05
	Manchester 16.26-07.19
	Stornoway 16.24-07.56
	Swansea 16.39-07.20
	York 16.20-07.16

RACING

CHELMSFORD CITY STANDARD

**5.45** JUDDMONTE EBF RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES (GBB/ GBBPLUS RACE) (CLASS 2) 2YO £30,000 added 1m

1	18	STARLIGHT TIME	R Varian 9 8	Rossa Ryan 16
2	1	TIMBER TWELVE (D)	M Bell 9 8	H Crouch 13
3	4	ASTRACORNUS	D Menuisier 9 4	Jack Doughty 4
4	53	COTAI LIGHTS	A Keatley 9 4	O McSweeney 8
5	53	DEVIL'S BRIGADE	E Dunlop 9 4	M Ghiani 5
6	6	ITICA	A Balding 9 4	C Hutchinson 6
7	6	TURKU S & E	Crisford 9 4	H Davies 14
8	54	ZARCO	Harry Eustace 9 4	G Wood 3
9	74	AL'S RIVER	James Horton 9 2	D E Hogan 9
10	8	KNIGHT OF GLORY	D Menuisier 9 2	J Leavy 15
11	5	TIMELY SALUTE	W Knight 9 2	L Morris 7
12	8	FAMILY VALUES	D Cunha 8 13	W Carson 12
13	6	ROOM FOURTEEN	J Fanshawe 8 13	J Peate 11
14	1	SPIRIT OF ATHENE	E Walker 8 13	K Shoemark 2
15	ANGEL BREEZE	Lemos Souza 8 11	R Hornyby 1	
16	ANNAHITA	Harry Charlton 8 11	Doubtful 10	

- 16 declared -

BETTING: 3-1 Timber Twelve, 7-2 Starlight Time, 10-1 Devil's Brigade, Itica, 12-1 Zarco, Room Fourteen, Knight Of Glory, Al's River, 14-1 others.

LUDLOW GOOD

**12.20** BRIGHT MAIZE 'INTRODUCTORY' HURDLE (GBB RACE) (CLASS 3) £12,000 added 2m 5f

1	1-1	FRESHERS WEEK (D)	C Longsdon 4 11 6	Lilly Pinchin
2	1/31-2	TIPTOPTIM (BF)	J Snowden 5 11 2	G Sheehan
3	322	HOPELESS DANCER	N & W Twiston-Davies 4 11 1	S Twiston-Davies

- 3 declared -

BETTING: 4-6 Tiptoptim, 3-1 Hopeless Dancer, 7-2 Freshers Week.

NEWBURY CHASE: GOOD, HURDLE: GOOD TO SOFT

**1.05** OLBG CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3) £17,500 added 2m

1	1/315-	ANDASHAN (D)	C Gordon 5 12 0	F Gordon
2	9433-2	BOWMORE	C Longsdon 7 12 0	D McConville (3)
3	1421-1	INSIDE MAN (D)	Mrs J Williams 5 12 0	Toby McCain-Mitchell
4	00FO/P	THE TIDE TURNS (D)	Stephen Allen 7 11 10	J Brace C
5	851/P	MEATLOAF	P Nicholls 6 11 9	B Bromley (3)
6	1447-3	MAITRE EN SCIENCE	Harry Derham 4 11 9	M Fox (7) T
7	161-	BELIEVITANDUCAN (CD)	A King 4 11 8	P Armson (3)
8	1313-	SUNRAY SHADOW (D)	D Skelton 6 11 8	T Durrell (3)
9	33583	VOCITO (D)	O Murphy 7 11 8	Aidan Weaver (7) T
10	14/22-	NOTKNOWINDA (D/BF)	D Skelton 8 11 7	Harry Atkins (6)
11	4147-5	CELTIC ART (D)	J Scott 8 11 5	C Bament (3) B
12	12111-	DOUBLE OBAN (D)	O Murphy 5 11 3	L Saunders (3)
13	9-3427	DOUGLAS DC (D)	A Carroll 7 10 10	F Mitchell

- 13 declared -

BETTING: 4-1 Believitanducan, 5-1 Double Oban, Inside Man, 13-2 Bowmore, 7-1 Sunray Shadow, 8-1 others.

**1.40** AGETUR UK 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN BUSINESS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 3) £12,000 added 2m

1	PP2- U2	ABERFELDY	S Hosie 5 11 4	R Dingle
2	51	ALBA CRUS	W Greatrex 4 11 4	J Bowen
3	P-64/63	BRIGHT LEGEND	Faye Bramley 5 11 4	R McLerron
4	24-4	CABALLERO CLIFF	R Stephens 4 11 4	C Gethings
5	2-1	CAPTAIN HUGO (D)	P Hobbs & J White 5 11 4	Sean Houlihan
6	2127	JOYAU ALLEN	P Nicholls 6 11 4	H Cobden
7	2/473-	KLUB DE REVE	Harry Derham 5 11 4	Paul O'Brien
8	14-	SINNATRA (D/BF)	D Skelton 5 11 4	H Skelton
9	15-	STORMING GEORGE	N King 5 11 4	J Quinlan
10	48	THIS SWAY	M Comley 4 11 4	F Mitchell (5)
11	2/98-	WEST HILL VERDE	Seamus Mullins 5 11 4	C Deutsch
12	31-	WILSTAR (D)	O Murphy 5 11 4	S Bowen

- 12 declared -

BETTING: 11-4 Wilstar, 4-1 Captain Hugo, Caballero Cliff, 9-2 Storming George, 5-1 Sinnatra, 10-1 Joyau Allen, 20-1 Bright Legend, 33-1 others.

**2.15** CSP MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) (CLASS 2) £20,000 added 2m

1	4310-	COUNTRY MOUSE	A Ralph 5 11 0	C Gethings
2	331-5	DELTA BLUES BELLE	D Skelton 5 11 0	T Durrell
3	41-6	HERON IN THE PARK (CD/BF)	T R George 5 11 0	H Cobden H
4	4-	HORNICA	B Pauling 5 11 0	K Woods H
5	6P	HYPERBOLE	O Murphy 5 11 0	K Brogan
6	1/119-	JACKIE HOBBS (D)	Harry Derham 5 11 0	Paul O'Brien
7	42-29	JUST A HEARTBEAT (BF)	H Fry 6 11 0	B Carver H,T
8	140-	KAPABILITY	A Honeyball 5 11 0	R Dingle
9	13/32-	KHRISMA (BF)	N Henderson 5 11 0	N De Boinville H
10	1-	POTTERSVILLE	R Curtis 6 11 0	S Bowen
11	3-	SHEEZER DANCER (BF)	D Skelton 4 11 0	H Skelton
12	1630-	ST IRENE (D)	Nick Scholfield 5 11 0	J Quinlan
13	2316-	STRONG RUN (D)	F O'Brien 6 11 0	J J Burke
14	1-	WATAMU (D)	E Lavelle 4 11 0	B R Jones

- 14 declared -

BETTING: 15-8 Khrisma, 7-2 Jackie Hobbs, 7-1 Heron In The Park, 8-1 Strong Run, Sheezer Dancer, 12-1 Watamu, Pottersville, 14-1 Hornica, 20-1 others.

**2.50** PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE) (CLASS 2) £22,500 added 3m

1	11311-	HAITI COULEURS (D)	R Curtis 8 12 0	S Bowen
2	14327-	ACT OF AUTHORITY (D/BF)	O Murphy 7 11 8	L Saunders (5)
3	1171-F	EAST INDIA EXPRESS (BF)	N Henderson 6 11 6	F Gordon (3)
4	P2625-	HITITI (D)	R Walford 8 11 3	H Kimber T
5	9/0PP-	EMAILANDY	P Nicholls 7 11 2	H Cobden C,T
6	38157-	SAMUEL SPADE (D)	B Pauling 6 11 1	B R Jones
7	64431-	THANKS FOR THE HELP	D Pipe 8 10 10	J Tudor C,T
8	25/41-	BILL BAXTER (D)	W Greatrex 9 10 9	J Bowen
9	6321P-	DOPPELGANGER (D)	R Hobson 9 10 8	C Maggs (5) C,T
10	-81373	LIHYAN	R Menzies 7 10 7	William Maggs (5) H
11	94-P21	TRANQUIL SEA (D)	D Skelton 5 10 6	H Skelton

- 11 declared -

BETTING: 10-3 East India Express, 9-2 Act Of Authority, 5-1 Tranquil Sea, 11-2 Haiti Couleurs, 6-1 Thanksforthehelp, 12-1 others.

**3.25** DAILY RACING BOOSTS AT BETVICTOR HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE) (CLASS 3) £20,000 added 2m 4f

1	12/95-	OUTLAW PETER (D)	P Nicholls 9 12 0	H Cobden T
2	/6116-	MARVEL DE CERISY (D)	C Williams 8 11 8	J Tudor T
3	5136-	LEADER IN THE PARK (CD/BF)	B Pauling 7 11 2	B R Jones
4	/6483-	LORD BADDESLEY (D/D)	A Honeyball 10 9 9	R Dingle T

- 4 declared -

BETTING: 15-8 Leader In The Park, 2-1 Outlaw Peter, 3-1 Marvel De Cerisy, 5-1 Lord Baddesley.

CRICKET

# 'This Australia are less settled than in any Ashes since the 2010-11 series'

Steven Finn had a major role 15 years ago and tells **Chris Stocks** it is time for a repeat

Steven Finn recalls the moment England knew they were going to win their last away Ashes series. It was the back end of day one of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne in 2010. Alastair Cook and Andrew Strauss were piling up an unbeaten century stand after Australia had been bowled out for 98. And the locals were exiting for the MCG in their droves. "It was mad, just bizarre," Finn recalls. "You could just see people filing out. It was like Watford fans in the 80th minute when we're 3-0 down. It was completely surreal but that was the moment when we sat there and thought 'We're doing this, we really are doing this'."

With the series locked at 1-1 after a dominant Australia win in the third Test at Perth, the pressure was on England. Yet they closed out the final two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney for a 3-1 series win. England have not won a single Test Down Under in 15 attempts since, losing 13. This winter feels different. It feels Ben Stokes' side have a live chance once the series starts in Perth on 21 November. So, what are the secrets? Finn, whose new book *The Ashes Files* chronicles his career through the prism of his battles against

Australia, is the perfect man to ask. As well as the 2010-11 success, he was part of the squads hammered 5-0 and 4-0 in 2013-14 and 2017-18. So, what do England need to do to finally find success?

Take advantage of Australian turbulence

Australia yesterday announced a 15-man squad for the first Test. But their XI is up in the air, with questions about who will open and the top six. Captain Pat Cummins (*below*) is injured. England can capitalise on that, as they did 15 years ago. "There was a lot of scrambling around," Finn says of that tour. "They didn't know who their spinner was, who their bowlers were. The batting was more settled but there was turbulence and that's happening now, they don't know how to fit players into an XI. Those question marks mean Australia are less settled than they have been in any Ashes since 2010-11."

Do not be bullied

"We were hard-nosed," Finn adds. "Australians respect people who play with their chests puffed out. It doesn't feel this is a team that will

Steven Finn enjoys shushing the home crowd during England's successful trip Down Under in 2010-11

I don't think the attitude of this England team will allow them to be bullied on this tour

let things spiral. They are going to go there and not allow themselves to be bullied. I don't think the attitude of this team will allow them to. England will push back and the Australian public will respect that."

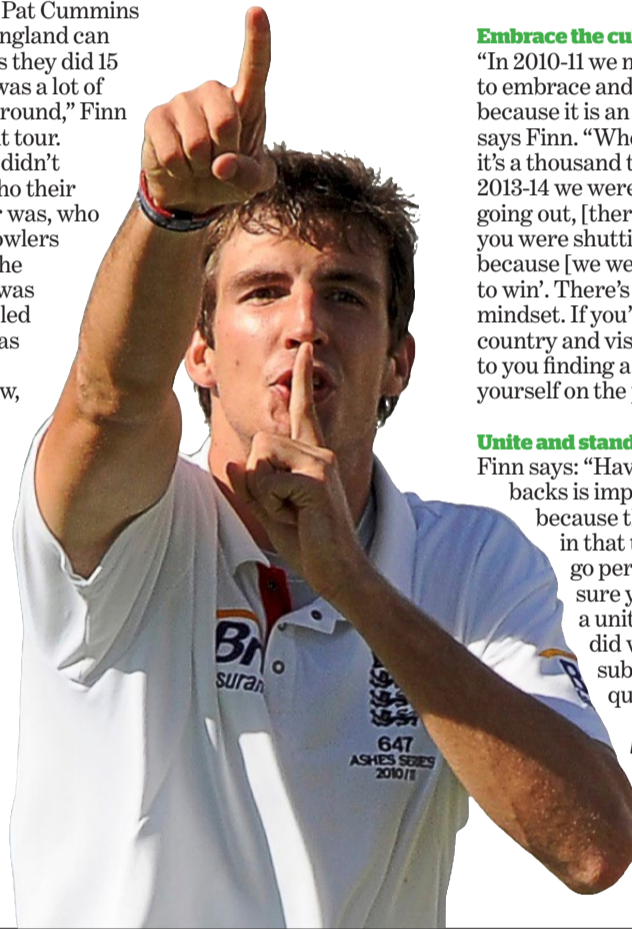
Embrace the culture and country

"In 2010-11 we made an effort to embrace and enjoy Australia because it is an amazing country," says Finn. "When you're winning it's a thousand times better. In 2013-14 we were told 'you're not going out, [there were] curfews, you were shutting yourselves away because [we were told] 'we're here to win'. There's a very different mindset. If you're embracing the country and visible, it lends itself to you finding a better version of yourself on the pitch as well."

Unite and stand up for each other

Finn says: "Having each other's backs is important in Australia because there will be players in that team who it doesn't go perfectly for. Making sure you are together as a unit is something we did well in 2010-11 and in subsequent tours not quite so well."

The Ashes Files: My Pride and Pain in Cricket's Most Intense Series by Steven Finn is out now (£25, hardback)



Results Service

FOOTBALL

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	4	4	0	0	14	3	12
Arsenal	4	4	0	0	11	0	12
Inter Milan	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Man City	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
PSG	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Newcastle	4	3	0	1	10	2	9
Real Madrid	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Liverpool	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Galatasaray	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Tottenham Hotspur	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Barcelona	4	2	1	1	12	7	7
Chelsea	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
Sporting	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Borussia Dortmund	4	2	1	1	13	11	7
Qarabag FK	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Atalanta	4	2	1	1	3	5	7
Atletico Madrid	4	2	0	2	10	9	6
PSV	4	1	2	1	9	7	5
Monaco	4	1	2	1	4	6	5
AE Pafos	4	1	2	1	2	5	5
Bayer Leverkusen	4	1	2	1	6	10	5
Club Brugge	4	1	1	2	8	10	4
Eintracht Frankfurt	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
Napoli	4	1	1	2	4	9	4
Marseille	4	1	0	3	6	5	3
Juventus	4	0	3	1	7	8	3
Athletic Bilbao	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Union Saint Gilloise	4	1	0	3	4	12	3
Bodo/Glimt	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Slavia Prague	4	0	2	2	2	8	2
Olympiacos	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Villarreal	4	0	1	3	2	6	1
Copenhagen	4	0	1	3	4	12	1
FC Kaifrat	4	0	1	3	2	11	1
Benfica	4	0	0	4	2	8	0
Ajax	4	0	0	4	1	14	0
AE Pafos (o)	1	Villarreal (o)	0				
Ajax (o)	0	Galatasaray (o)	3				
Benfica (o)	0	Bayer Leverkusen (o)	1				
Club Brugge (2)	3	Barcelona (1)	3				
Inter Milan (1)	2	FC Kaifrat (o)	1				

Man City (2)	4	Borussia Dortmund (o)	1
Foden 22, 57		Anton 72	
Haaland 29, Cherkir go			
Marseille (o)	0	Atalanta (o)	1
Newcastle (1)	2	Athletic Bilbao (o)	0
Burn 11			
Joelinton 4, 9			
Qarabag FK (2)	2	Chelsea (1)	2
Andrade 29		Estevao 16	
Jankovic 39 (pen)		Garnacho 53	
THE SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP			
Portsmouth (o)	0	Wrexham (o)	0
Preston North End (1)	2	Swansea (o)	1
QPR (o)	1	Southampton (o)	2
Sheff Wed (1)	1	Norwich (o)	1
RACING			
Chepstow - Good to soft			
3.00 1. PALACIO (D Johnston) 4-1	2. Southoftheborder		
11-1 3. The Winslow Boy 14-1	10 ran. 9-4 fav The		
Kemble Brewery (Fell), 8/1, 2L (S Thomas) Placepot:			
£18.60. Quadpot: £16.00. Place 6: £23.01. Place 5:			
£19.65			
Kempton - Standard			
5.00 1. WILD NATURE (C Rodriguez) 6-1	2. Huscal 17-2		
3. Metaverse 25-1	14 ran. 9-2 fav Arctic Dawn (8th)		
nk. nk. (E Bethell) 5-30 1. COUL ANGELO (R Havlin) 9-4	2.		
Heathcliff 5-1	3. Carbine Harvester 11-2		
6 ran. 11-8 fav Completely Random (4th), nk. nk. (M Appleby)			
Jackpot: Not won. pool of £6,793.77 carried over.			
Placepot: £91.80. Quadpot: £28.40. Place 6: £179.16.			
Place 5: £4,731			
Musselfburgh - Soft			
1.23 1. INDIA GOLD (S Gray) 40-1	2. Blakefell 5-4		
fav. 3. Top Lad 22-1	10 ran. 1/4L 1/4L (G Kelleway) 3-28		
1. GWEEORE (J Hart) 9-4	fav. 2. U Sure Do 3-1		
3. Monsieur Kodi 8-1	9 ran. shd. 1/4L (K Scott) Placepot:		
£54.70. Quadpot: £20.40. Place 6: £4,547. Place 5:			
£26.30			
TODAY'S FIXTURES			
(Football 7.45pm unless stated)			
FOOTBALL			
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE			
Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel-Aviv (8)			
Blackburn v Celtic (5.45)			
Midtjylland v Roma (8)			
Rangers v Roma (8)			
Sturm Graz v Nottingham Forest (5.45)			
Basel v FC SB (5.45)			
Bologna v Brann (8.0)			
Braga v Genk (8.0)			
Dinamo Zagreb v Celta Vigo (5.45)			
Ferencváros v Ludogorets (8.0)			
Malmö v Panathinaikos (5.45)			
Nice v Freiburg (5.45)			
PAOK v Young Boys (8.0)			
Plzen v Fenerbahce (8.0)			
Real Betis v Lyon (8.0)			
Red Bull Salzburg v Go Ahead Eagles (5.45)			
Red Star Belgrade v Lille (5.45)			
Stuttgart v Feyenoord (8.0)			
Utrecht v Porto (5.45)			
UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE			

Solihull Moors (2)	4	Truro City (o)	0
Sutton Utd (2)	2	Eastleigh (o)	1
Woking (o)	1	Southend (o)	1
York (3)	4	Gateshead (o)	0
RACING			
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Placepot: £91.80. Quadpot: £28.40. Place 6: £			



## RUGBY UNION SCOTLAND

## Cummings can't hide desire for All Blacks scalp

By Anthony Brown

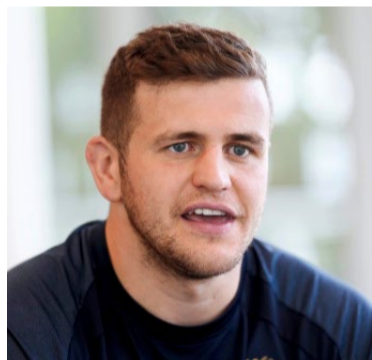
Scott Cummings believes a first-ever victory over New Zealand on Saturday would represent a significant shot in the arm for Scotland.

The Scots have never beaten the All Blacks in 32 meetings over the past 120 years, although Gregor Townsend's side did hold a 23-14 lead after an hour before losing 31-23 in the most recent clash in 2022.

Having pulled off some long-awaited away victories over England, France and Wales in recent years, Cummings hopes they can produce another landmark result against the most illustrious team in world rugby.

"We're obviously trying to grow as a team and as a squad, and I think it's about us trying to take a couple more of those big teams to the sword," said the second-rower.

"We've done it a couple of times to some of the Six Nations teams, but



Scott Cummings toured with the British and Irish Lions Down Under

when you look at South Africa, New Zealand, some of those powerhouses, we haven't quite got there.

"The last game against New Zealand three years ago, for example, we pushed them close but didn't get the result.

"It's definitely something we're focusing on as a team. It's a big game.

"These are the games you want to play in. Everyone is ready and has had this earmarked as one of those huge games.

"Whenever you play one of those top four or five teams in the world, it's going to be a big occasion at Murrayfield and I'm really excited for it."

The second-row made his first appearance for Scotland in almost a year in Saturday's 85-0 rout of the United States after missing the Six Nations through injury and the summer tour while on duty with the British and Irish Lions.

The 28-year-old, who has spent his whole career with Glasgow, said he learned "loads" with the Lions.

"It's probably the first time I've been in a really different environment," he said.

"Being in the Scottish system for my whole life, I've had similar coaches all the way through, we've always kind of played one way.

"To go into a completely different system and learn how that works, how other players view the game and learn things from them - the coaches and the players - there were hundreds of learnings over the summer.

"It was such a great experience and I've definitely taken a lot from it."

## WALES

## Rees-Zammit ready to restart rugby career after stint in NFL

By Phil Blanche

Louis Rees-Zammit is on course to win his fitness battle and make his long-awaited Wales return against Argentina.

The 24-year-old winger has not played for Wales for more than two years after switching to American football.

Rees-Zammit had spells with the Kansas City Chiefs and the Jacksonville Jaguars, although he did not play a competitive game in the NFL, and returned to rugby in August when signing for Bristol.

He has not played since damaging a toe against Saracens on 4 October but Wales assistant coach Danny Wilson gave a positive fitness update ahead of their Autumn Nations Series opener in Cardiff on Sunday.



"He's kind of in that progression right now," said Wilson, when asked if Rees-Zammit (left) could start against Argentina - the last team he lined up against in international colours in the 2023 World Cup quarter-final.

"He progressed last week and he's had a full training week this week. There are a few boxes to tick but he's moving in the right direction. "We're quite fortunate at the moment that with training last week and this, we've got a fit and healthy squad.

"The likes of him and some of the other names back in the squad gives us quite an exciting challenge in how best to select the team for the games moving forwards. He certainly fits that bill."

## ENGLAND



Cadan Murley, Marcus Smith and Manny Feyi-Waboso could line up against Fiji on Saturday  
GETTY



## The England back-three combination I would love to see against Fiji

Getting best out of Feyi-Waboso would reap huge dividend, writes **Hugh Godwin**

England assistant coach Kevin Sinfield has raised a few eyebrows by comparing the young wing Manny Feyi-Waboso to the great Jason Robinson, but whether or not you agree with the description, it would be good to see the national team making the most of his talent against Fiji.

To do so will take a combination of several factors, including a change in selection forced by injury, plus England's own ability or willingness to find their wings with orthodox play through the three-quarters, and less use of the high kicks seen in last Saturday's

25-7 win over Australia. The latter tactic does not play to Feyi-Waboso's strengths.

There is excitement around Feyi-Waboso, as Sinfield was happy to acknowledge, and it was shown by a dazzling run after 17 minutes of the Australia match that had Twickenham spectators buzzing, as if they were watching Robinson.

Feyi-Waboso swept past a handful of Wallabies as if they were statues, only to be let down by being unable to find a team-mate with a pass.

He then had a limited contribution of just five other touches of the ball, none of them definitive - making you cry out for England to get him involved more.

The good news for Feyi-Waboso's prospects of seeing more of the ball in his hands, and not via the air, is that Marcus Smith could be starting at full-back this weekend. Despite both having their England ambitions interrupted, Smith and Feyi-Waboso have achieved a stream of sizzling link-ups since the

He had Twickenham spectators buzzing, as if they were watching Jason Robinson

wing made his international debut in February last year.

Feyi-Waboso was injured for most of the second half of the season, while Smith has had a battle to get into the team in his favourite position of fly-half, and then spent the recent summer with the British & Irish Lions, not England.

Smith was left out of the 23 who beat the Australians, but full-back Freddie Steward did not train on Monday or Tuesday due to a hand injury, while the right wing Tom Roebeck was also sidelined on Tuesday with an ankle injury.

So Feyi-Waboso could be joined by Smith and one of Cadan Murley, Tommy Freeman or Henry Arundell on the other wing.

Smith's presence would probably



necessitate a greater carrying threat in midfield, and a return for Ollie Lawrence in place of Fraser Dingwall at No 12, or perhaps Freeman, who started at No 13 last weekend.

Feyi-Waboso prefers playing on the right wing but on Tuesday he hinted he could continue on the left, where Freeman appeared to have trouble locating him last Saturday.

Arundell has been playing on the left for Bath, but he has not represented England since the Chile pool match and Argentina third-placed game during the 2023 World Cup when, coincidentally, Smith was full-back on both occasions. England head coach Steve Borthwick (below) put little faith in Arundell during that World Cup, and the wing who turns 23 on Sunday spent the next two seasons away at Racing 92 in Paris. At Bath he has still been prone to awkward moments in defence.

As for Smith, he also started at No 15 against Fiji in the World Cup quarter-final won by England, and he finished it bandaged and bloodied and acclaimed by Sinfield among others for his bravery.

The highlight reel of his exciting combination with Feyi-Waboso includes Smith's interception breakaway against New Zealand to make a try for Feyi-Waboso at Twickenham last November.

Smith also made a try for Feyi-

**Former England captain and 2003 World Cup winner Lewis Moody has been touched by the "outpouring of love and support" which followed his motor neurone disease diagnosis.**

Waboso with a cross-kick on tour in New Zealand in the preceding summer, and another with a slick miss-pass away to Japan.

The mutual appreciation is a two-way street, too, thanks to Feyi-Waboso's electric break that helped create Smith's dramatic winning drop goal against Ireland at Twickenham in March 2024.

Fiji won at Twickenham in summer 2023, and this week they have all sorts of big hitters to choose from in the backs, including Jiuta Wainiqolo, Josua Tuisova and Kalaveti Ravouvou. And if they pick Caleb Muntz at fly-half, they will be capable of testing England with kicks.

All in all, a fascinating choice faces Borthwick and his new attack coach, Lee Blackett, and it would be fun to see a back three of Smith, Feyi-Waboso and Murley running at Fiji, with the centres Lawrence and Freeman bringing the beef.

And if that doesn't work, there remains the route-one option of George Ford or Fin Smith at fly-half.



## FOOTBALL

# Emery aiming to shut out political noise ahead of clash

By Jonathan Veal

Aston Villa boss Unai Emery was only focused on the football ahead of the politically charged Europa League clash with Maccabi Tel Aviv.

The league phase match at Villa Park has become a major political issue after the Israeli club's supporters were banned from attending due to fears for their safety.

The decision was made by Birmingham's Safety Advisory Group, with Villa having no involvement, but it sparked a parliamentary-level debate as Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer called it "wrong".

More than 700 police officers

will be deployed amid a huge security operation, which will involve mounted officers, police dogs and a drone unit.

Journalists were prevented from asking any non-football questions at Emery's pre-match press conference.



The Spaniard (left) said: "It's Europe and we are playing in Europe against very good teams."

"Firstly, it's about our respect for the Europa League, for the competition.

Secondly, it's about our respect for Maccabi Tel Aviv.

"How we are in the table is most important. The objective is to be in the top 24, but the first priority we can achieve to be in the top eight is better."

## CONFERENCE LEAGUE

# Glasner targets Alkmaar win to get back on track

» Continued from back page

won't happen. Again, we will be ready, whatever, however the fixture is."

Palace host AZ Alkmaar in their third Conference League clash this evening, a contest that could be key to their ambitions of finishing in the top eight of the league and earning an automatic berth in the last 16.

The Eagles opened their campaign with a 2-0 victory over Dynamo Kyiv, before suffering a 1-0 defeat at home to Cypriot side Larnaca.

Glasner will have Adam Wharton back at his disposal, but revealed the England midfielder was not "100 per cent" due to illness.

Chadi Riad will be in the matchday squad but is not expected to play.

The Moroccan defender is returning from a long-term anterior cruciate ligament-related injury, and has made just three appearances for Palace since signing last summer.

"There is never a must-win," added Glasner. "Yes, we want to win. We will do everything to win the game, but Alkmaar is a very experienced team, European football experienced, maybe not their age but they always qualify for European football."

"We will have to perform at a top level to get this win, and it would make it a little bit easier if we have the win for the following three games."

"But now it's really taking it step-by-step, game-by-game and showing the best performance."

## EUROPA LEAGUE

# Röhl still baffled by Trusty yellow after Butland incident

By Ronnie Esplin

Danny Röhl admits it is "difficult to understand" why Celtic defender Auston Trusty was not sent off for his challenge on Rangers goalkeeper Jack Butland on Sunday.

The Light Blues were trailing 1-0 in the Premier Sports Cup semi-final at Hampden Park and down to 10 men - Thelo Aasgaard dismissed by referee Nick Walsh for a high tackle on Anthony Ralston - when Trusty made contact with the prostrate Butland's head after he had gathered the ball.

Walsh showed only a yellow card to the Hoops defender to

widespread Rangers anger and, despite captain James Tavernier levelling to take the match to extra time, Celtic ran out 3-1 winners.

Röhl said: "I think we spoke about two situations - first, the handball with the yellow card or maybe the second yellow card, and then of course it was the kick against the head to Jack."

"There's always two sides, the refs are looking for the rules and we have our side, how we see something."

"For me, it doesn't matter how, if there's a kick against the head, then you have to be really careful what you are doing there. It's too difficult to understand."



## WALES



Craig Bellamy is concentrating on his role with the Welsh national side

# Bellamy not interested in Hoops post

By Phil Blanche

Craig Bellamy says Celtic "isn't on my radar" and insists being linked to the Parkhead post has made him more proud to be Welsh.

It has been reported that Wales boss Bellamy - who had a loan spell at Celtic in 2005 during his playing career - is among the potential candidates to succeed Brendan Rodgers following his resignation, with Martin O'Neill currently in interim charge of the Scottish champions.

"I can understand the links because I played there," Bellamy said at a press conference to announce his squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Liechtenstein and North Macedonia.

"I definitely understand the links, but I love what I'm doing at this present moment and I'm completely focused on what's to come."

"It looks like it's going to be a [World Cup] play-off in March, and that's what I'm focused on."

"I couldn't want anything more than I have at this present moment. That's where it lies with me."

## MANCHESTER UNITED

# Team rebuild is all about graft - not glamour

By Simon Peach

Director of football Jason Wilcox says Manchester United are building Ruben Amorim a selfless, hard-working team rather than trying to put "the Harlem Globetrotters together".

Amorim's new-look side sit eighth in the standings, but just two points behind second-placed Manchester City, after summer business that Wilcox (right) believes will help in their quest to return to the top.

"It is so important [to sign the right characters]," he told the *Inside Carrington* podcast.

"I think you have to bring players in that bring something different to the changing room."

"Whenever we bring in a player they have to want to improve"

"It's not about putting the Harlem Globetrotters together."





# Burn lights fuse as Toon passion too hot for Bilbao to handle

**NEWCASTLE UNITED**  
Burn 11, Joelinton 49

2

**ATHLETIC BILBAO**

0

**Mark Douglas**

NORTHERN FOOTBALL  
CORRESPONDENT  
AT ST JAMES' PARK



European nights under the St James' Park lights are rapidly becoming Newcastle United's comfort zone.

They may be wretched on the road in the Premier League but in Europe's elite competition they are starting to carry the look of serious contenders – at least on their own patch. Three wins from four sees them nestled in a top eight spot that would fast-track them into

the Champions League knock-out stages for the first time in the club's history. Forget the anxiety about domestic form, that would be some achievement.

This second successive St James' Park win was richly deserved. Athletic Bilbao arrived on Tyneside in a riot of colour and noise but their neat team was blown away by a Newcastle side that rediscovered the art of direct, incisive attacking play. The first test of a crucial week was passed with flying colours.

It was Dan Burn's night. Having called for the team to rediscover the art of "going ugly" before the game, he opened the scoring with a header of rare beauty and then delivered the sort of performance that should make him a shoo-in for England's World Cup squad.

Mentality-wise, he is a manager's dream. Burn has played half of this season in a left-back role that should be tailor-made to expose his limita-

tions at European level. But what he lacks in pace he more than makes up for in positional sense and discipline.

For all of that good stuff around the edges, it is his knack for scoring memorable and important goals that has etched him into Newcastle folklore. This one, though, was extra special as he peeled off the Athletic defenders to meet Kieran Trippier's beautifully delivered free-kick with a curving header that clipped the post as it beat Unai Simon.

Burn raced off in celebration, beating his chest and all of a sudden any tension evaporated. There has been plenty of soul searching since West Ham but whatever their problems in the Premier League they have a formidable starting XI, a manager who is proving himself at this rarefied level and a knack of responding to setbacks. It is those characteristics that should see them emerge from these testing times in decent shape.

Athletic, missing blue-riband

performers Inaki and Nico Williams, had their moments. They were neat and tidy in possession and nearly shocked St James' Park when Adama Boiro clattered the post with a thundering half-volley. But overall Newcastle's burgeoning centre-back pairing of Sven Botman and Malick Thiaw kept them under lock and key for most of this contest.

For the hosts, this competition is proving a relief from the goalscoring issues that they are struggling with domestically. Having missed a very presentable opportunity in the first half, Joelinton nodded home his third goal of the season from a clever Harvey Barnes cross just after the break to put Newcastle in a commanding position that they never looked like relinquishing.

If there was a dampener for Newcastle it came with a potentially serious injury for Anthony Gordon, who has been playing through the pain in recent weeks. Straining to connect with a volley, he collapsed to the turf clutching his hip and carried the wan look of a player who might be facing a few weeks on the sidelines as he trudged off in the first half.

In truth he'd not contributed a whole lot, continuing to confound with his form. Having been England's best player in the recent international break, his form has been patchy for his club and another fine cameo from Jacob Murphy suggests he might face a fight to reclaim his place if he's out for any significant period.

**Dan Burn's header puts Newcastle United 1-0 up at St James' Park last night** GETTY IMAGES

## Newcastle United



## Athletic Bilbao

**Substitutions:** Newcastle United Murphy (Gordon, 41), Hall (Burn, 65), Miley (Guimaraes, 66), Elanga (Barnes, 66), Ramsey (Woltemade, 83); Athletic Bilbao Sanchez (Jauregizar, 69), Serrano (Navarro, 69), Gorosabel (Areso, 78), Hierro (Gomez, 78), Ruiz de Galarreta (Rego, 80).

## Player of the match

**Dan Burn** A brilliant goal capped a performance of real authority from one of Howe's on-field lieutenants.

# Foden helps Haaland vanquish old friends as City look back to their best

**MANCHESTER CITY**  
Foden 22, 57, Haaland 29, Cherki 90

4

**BORUSSIA DORTMUND**  
Anton 72

1

By Simon Mullock

Erling Haaland revels in his reputation as a goal machine so much that when he scored last weekend he copied Peter Crouch's robot celebration. The reality is that there is nothing mechanical about the Manchester City striker.

The Norwegian got his customary goal as Pep Guardiola's men took another step towards booking their place in the last 16 of the Champions League and it only takes a glance at the forward's stats to make one wonder whether the 25-year-old is human. It is 18 goals for City, five in the Champions League, and 27 in 17 appearances for club and country in 2025-26.

But Guardiola's decision to hand Haaland the captain's armband for the visit of his former club illustrates that City's manager feels his No 9 is now a leader of men.

Haaland is shaking off the tag of being nothing more than a highly-efficient tap-in merchant as Guardiola has added more counter-attacking threat to his team.

Off the pitch, the striker has given the public a window into his private life by launching a YouTube channel. His willingness to laugh at his own extraordinary existence is refreshing.



Erling Haaland smashes in City's second goal against his former side REUTERS

Guardiola will also be pleased that Phil Foden offered further evidence that he is returning to his very best with two sumptuous strikes either side of Haaland's goal.

The Spaniard confirmed before the game that Rodri's bid for fitness has been delayed again and with Liverpool in town on Sunday, his team needed to produce a performance last night.

Guardiola prepared for the game by giving his players a day off and for the opening 15 minutes there was a sluggishness which prompted Dortmund to press aggressively.

After the Blues had gradually roused themselves, Foden twice tested Borussia Dortmund keeper Gregor Kobel before coming up third time lucky when Tijjani Reijnders found him in space 25 yards out and he caressed a shot in.

Seven minutes later, Haaland was in the right place when Jérémy Doku crossed low from the right and the striker swept the ball home emphatically for the clincher.

When Foden found the same low route past Kobel's right hand again after the break after working a yard of space from Doku's pass, there appeared no way back for a Dortmund team that had scored four goals in each of their first three Champions League games.

But after Waldemar Anton reduced the deficit by steering home a neat 72nd-minute finish, it needed a desperate block by John Stones to prevent Karim Adeyemi from really testing City's nerve.

It prompted Guardiola to retreat into a five-man defence by sending on another centre-back in Ruben Dias. Rayan Cherki was summoned

Santos for an awful miss from three yards. The Brazilian made amends moments later, picking out his international teammate Estevao, who cut in from the right and slipped the ball left-footed inside the near post.

Jorrel Hato was caught out for Qarabag's equaliser. He was out-muscled by winger Camilo Duran, who charged into the box and shot against the post. Marc Cucurella was slow reacting to the rebound and in front of him nipped Andrade, who volleyed in.

The teenage defender was at fault again minutes later, his handball conceding the penalty from which Jankovic made it 2-1.

Garnacho (left) came off the bench for the second half and quickly levelled. His initial cross towards Estevao was poor and easily cut out, but as the ball broke back to him he opted to do it all himself, zipping the ball past Mateusz Kochalski to ease Maresca's concerns.

Delap, also on at half-time for the visitors, looked to make up for lost time after his recent two-month spell out injured, getting ahead of his defender and sending a low shot a yard wide. Garnacho ought to have won it in added time but was denied by a wonderful save at close range by Kochalski.



## Substitute Garnacho saves Blues' blushes but hill gets steeper

**QARABAG**  
Andrade 29, Jankovic pen 39

2

**CHELSEA**  
Estevao 16, Garnacho 53

2

Chelsea's hopes of achieving direct passage to the last-16 of the Champions League received a blow in Qarabag.

An early goal by Estevao appeared to have put Chelsea on course for a routine win following their 2,500-mile journey to the edge of Europe. But things took a bad turn when Leandro Andrade hit a brilliant equaliser and Marko Jankovic then put the home side ahead from the spot six minutes before half-time.

It took a goal early in the second half from substitute Alejandro Garnacho to spare Chelsea's blushes in Azerbaijan, and it was hard to argue they deserved more.

With one defeat already in the

competition, there is little margin for error for Enzo Maresca's side between now and January if they are to finish in the top eight and avoid February's play-off round.

What they did not need was dropped points against a team which – according to Uefa seedings – are one of the weakest to have reached this stage, but Qarabag looked anything but the competition's minnows as they sought to keep their own strong start going.

Four minutes in, Romeo Lavia pulled up with what looked like a muscle injury and had to be replaced. The midfielder walked off the pitch unaided but visibly frustrated, with yet another disruption to his Chelsea career looking likely.

Moises Caicedo came on and lashed an early chance just over, then Tyrrique George – preferred at No 9 to Liam Delap – set up Andrey

### Football in brief

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

### Small rocket fires Preston to top four



Preston North End moved into the top four as Thierry Small's piledriver inspired a 2-1 victory at home to Swansea City.

The midfielder (above) sent a stunning effort into the far corner on eight minutes at Deepdale before Milutin Osmajic's second-half effort helped take them to fourth.

Sheffield Wednesday were denied a first home league win since April as Mathias Kvistgaard earned Norwich City a 1-1 draw at Hillsborough. Barry Bannan put the Owls ahead, who are on -4 points after a deduction for entering administration. Jay Robinson and Leo Scienza gave Southampton just their second maximum since August as they won 2-1 at QPR, as Wrexham held Portsmouth 0-0.

#### FIFA

### Peace Prize to help game promote unity



Fifa has announced the creation of a peace prize, which it plans to award at the draw for the World Cup on 5

December in Washington. The award, called the Fifa Peace Prize, will "recognize exceptional actions for peace," football's governing body said yesterday.

"In an increasingly unsettled and divided world, it's fundamental to recognise the outstanding contribution of those who work hard to end conflicts and bring people together in a spirit of peace," Fifa president Gianni Infantino (above) said.

Fifa said that the award, which Infantino will present next month, will then be bestowed annually "on behalf of fans from all around the world".

#### WOLVERHAMPTON WDRS

### No rush to appoint Pereira's successor



Wolverhampton Wanderers may not appoint Vitor Pereira's successor until the upcoming international break as the strugglers weigh up their options.

The Molineux outfit are rock bottom of the standings having mustered just two points from their opening 10 matches.

That wretched form led Wolves to sack head coach Pereira last Sunday, just 45 days after the Portuguese signed a new three-year deal with the club.

All eight of his backroom staff left, with director of professional football Domenico Teti following by mutual consent on Tuesday, and the winless club are currently weighing up their options. Former Benfica manager Rui Vitoria (above) has been linked with the role.

#### Manchester City



#### Borussia Dortmund

**Substitutions:** Manchester City Cherki (Doku, 79), Dias (Reijnders, 79), B Silva (Savinho, 79), Marmoush (Haaland, 86), Ait-Nouri (O'Reilly, 86); Borussia Dortmund Can (Bensebaini, 67), Gross (Sabitzer, 67), Chukwuemeka (Beier, 67), Bellingham (Guirassy, 67), F Silva (Adeyemi, 81).

#### Player of the match

**Phil Foden** Good news for club and country that the forward is back at the top of his game.

at the same time and he added the final touch in the closing exchanges when he ended a dashing run forward with a right-foot shot that flew in with the help of a deflection.

#### Qarabag

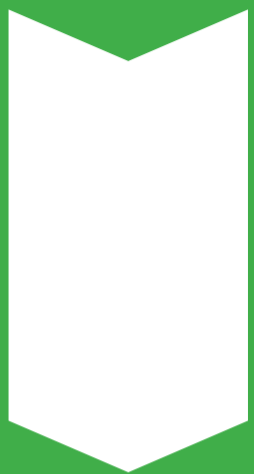


#### Chelsea

**Substitutions:** Qarabag Addai (Borges, 31), Bayramov (Andrade, 61), Akhundzade (Duran, 61), Bolt (Jafarguliyev, 75), Kashchuk (Zoubir, 75); Chelsea Caicedo (Lavia, 8), Fernandez (Santos, h-t), Garnacho (Gittens, h-t), Delap (George, h-t), Buonanotte (Pedro, 71).

#### Player of the match

**Estevao** Brazilian showed breadth of his talent by backing up goal with a display of tackling and dribbling.



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**HUGH GODWIN**  
The back-three combination I would love to see against Fiji



P50

**CRICKET**  
Steven Finn: How to win an Ashes series Down Under

## McIlroy: PGA chief wrote me a lovely apology

By Jim van Wijk

Rory McIlroy has revealed PGA of America chief executive Derek Sprague sent a personal apology for the abuse directed at him and his wife during Europe's Ryder Cup victory in New York.

Europe held off a stirring fightback from the United States at Bethpage Black, where the Americans had



gone into the final session 12-5 down before mounting a comeback in the singles, only to come up short.

Luke Donald's team – and McIlroy in particular – were on the end of some unsavoury abuse from a partisan crowd across the three days, with a beer tossed from the crowd hitting the hat of McIlroy's wife Erica. McIlroy (*above*), though, has

since received a "lovely letter" from Sprague looking to smooth things over.

"I got a lovely email from Derek Sprague apologising," McIlroy told BBC Sport as he prepared for the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

"Erica worked with Derek at the PGA of America back in the day, so we know Derek and his wife pretty well. He couldn't have been more gracious or apologetic and he wrote us a lovely letter, which we really appreciated."

## Dortmund demolition

Manchester City players celebrate Erling Haaland's strike, which added to Phil Foden's (top) opener in an easy victory

GETTY



### Foden & Haaland punish striker's former club, as Chelsea are held to a draw in Baku

**Manchester City 4-1 Borussia Dortmund**

PLUS >> QARABAG 2-2 CHELSEA | NEWCASTLE UNITED 2-0 ATHLETIC BILBAO | CHAMPIONSHIP P54-55

## We're trying the same as Arsenal, to avoid a festive fixture pile-up - Glasner

By Rachel Steinberg

Crystal Palace have urged the Premier League to reschedule next month's trip to Leeds United to help alleviate a congested calendar.

The Eagles' Carabao Cup quarter-final tie at Arsenal has been confirmed for 23 December, one of eight Palace matches in the final month of the year. The trip to the Emirates Stadium comes two days after

they are scheduled to travel to Elland Road, which itself is three days after their final Conference League match, at home to Finnish side KuPS.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta faces the same short turnaround and on Monday suggested the Gunners will seek to have their own 21 December



match, away at Everton, moved, presumably to one day earlier.

"We're trying the same thing [as] Arsenal," said Palace manager Oliver Glasner (*left*). "We're trying to move the Leeds game to Saturday, so that we have two days between these games. Let's see."

"We didn't get a response from the Premier League, just to have the same situation as Arsenal, if their game is moved."

The Carabao Cup tie was originally due to be played on 16/17 December, but that would have left Palace playing four games in eight days. Now, both teams are set to play two matches in three days, unless their requests are granted.

Glasner added: "I'm always talking about making mistakes as part of development, and the EFL and Premier League didn't solve this problem before the start of the season."

"They will learn from it, and I am pretty sure they will have the solution before the start of the season. Maybe they needed this experience to solve it and not to rely that this

>> Continued on page 53